

supervision, and management. His qualifications are in the fields of social work and community development. He was part of the original team at St Lukes, Bendigo, which initiated work to develop the strengths approach. He has carried this work forward with others at St Lukes and elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand through a range of innovations such as 'client-owned recording' and the development of a range of practices.



Qudsia Mehmood holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and a Masters degree in clinical psychology. She has worked extensively in radio and print journalism and with a number of non-government organisations including an organisation that provided legal aid and counseling at the Central Prison for Women. Since then Qudsia has tirelessly worked for the rights of women in her role as journalist, producing a number of radio programs for the series Meri Awaz Sunno (Hear My Voice), and various other series that focused on issues affecting the welfare of women. Topics under discussion have included water issues, the impact of recent earthquakes, dowry, domestic workers, sexual exploitation and domestic violence, rape, menopause, political involvement of women, trafficking and commercial sex workers. Qudsia currently works as a media trainer on HIV/AIDS for the UKS Research Centre.



Shri G.C. Mohanta holds a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Masters Degrees in Space Engineering & Rocketry and Business Administration. He is currently working as a scientist in the Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, where he holds the position of Director, Safety & Environmental Engineering. He has presented a number of papers at National & International Seminars and Symposiums.



Pratap C. Mohanty is a doctoral fellow at the Centre for International Trade and Development (CITD), School of International Studies (SIS) of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; and a Course Lecturer St Dyal Singh College of University of Delhi. Pratap researched and wrote on 'Environmental Concerns and Poverty Alleviation in Developing Countries: The Role of Non-Market Institutions' for his M.Phil degree. Pratap was recently invited to present his research papers at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology in collaboration with the National Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD) and Teagasc - Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority's Small-scale Forestry and Rural Development: The Intersection of Ecosystems, Economics and Society, in Ireland.



Chris Montgomery has worked in the field of intellectual disability for the last 17 years. For the last 9 of these years he has become known and respected both nationally and internationally for his work convening the annual *Sharing the Road* conference for disability support workers in Queensland. Currently he is volunteering with the Ethnic Community Councils of Queensland to assist with the development of strategies to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS amongst men from CALD backgrounds. Chris has worked as a direct support worker, a manager of support work and most recently in the development of statewide reporting systems. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role as Secretary of the Strength Based Strategies Conference 2006.



Gopala Krishna Murthy is the Director, Academy of Gandhian Studies located in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. He has his Master's degree from TATA Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India and has been a development practitioner for nearly two and half decades. As a development practitioner G.G.K. Murthy held positions in various outfits with an intention to professionalize the sector. During the tenure he had been coordinator, Gandhi Peace Centre till 1994. Apart from Monitoring NGOs and Management of Project cycles he was also in charge of the human potential at the National level for Gandhi Peace Centre. In the last decade he led studies being conducted on trafficking and the

impact of occupational migration amongst fisher folk in Andhra Pradesh. The key strength has been in networking of NGOs spread over different districts to work together on Child Trafficking and HIV/AIDS, Disaster Management and Natural Resource Management, and Migration. Gopala Krishna Murthy also initiated a grass root effort in 1984 under the name of 'Jagruti'. A team approach is practiced and the organization had been brought to the fore in the district.



Prof. Rita Noronha has been attached to the School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore since 1971. She completed her M.S.W. from the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai and her pre-doctoral programme from the Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai. Rita completed her Rural Social Leadership at SEARSOLIN, Philippines and acquired her Certificate in Social Development at the Coady International Institute, Canada. Rita has undertaken short term programmes on structural analysis of Indian Society, Human Relations Training, Production of Indigenous materials for social work education and gender sensitization. Rita is engaged in the

practice of facilitating organizations of marginalized women and social action interventions that ensure their rights.



Humira Noorestani graduated with a BA in International Relations from the American University in Washington DC. Following her first visit to Afghanistan where she witnessed 25 years of brutality in the streets of Kabul, Humira started Ariana Outreach which aims to provide programs that improve the living conditions in rural areas of Afghanistan, shed light on the beautiful culture of Afghanistan and build partnerships between Afghans and Americans. Humira also created The Afghan and American Sisterhood Award. Ariana Outreach has also brought together 50 Afghans and non-Afghans whose essays will be published in a book on Afghanistan.