

# CONTRIBUTORS' BIONOTES

# Contributors

**Aishwarya Bellam** is an organisational psychologist and an HR professional, currently pursuing her PhD at the London School of Economics (LSE). An alumna of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and the Department of Applied Psychology at the University of Mumbai, she has previously worked with Indian Hotel Corporation Limited - the Taj Group.

**Braj Bhushan** received his Ph.D in Neuropsychology from BRAB University, India. He is currently the Pavitar Joneja Chair Professor of Psychology in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur. He is also the Dean of Administration and Officiating Registrar at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He is a Chartered Psychologist of the British Psychological Society and a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, USA, and the British Psychological Society. His research interests include Cognitive Neuropsychology, Assessment, and Trauma Psychology.

**Aishe Debnath** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Mumbai. She has received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Anthropology from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and a Master's degree in Psychology with a specialization in Industrial-Organizational Psychology.

**Avinash De Sousa** is a Consultant Psychiatrist and Founder Trustee of Desousa Foundation, an organisation that works in the area of mental health awareness across all sectors. He is one of the few psychiatrists that has an MPhil in Psychology and an MBA in Human Resource Development. He has over 850 publications in various national and international journals and juggles his time between clinical research, academic teaching in Psychology and Psychiatry and a private practice.

**Ayushi Kenia** is a final year postgraduate student pursuing MSc in Clinical Psychology at CHRIST (Deemed to be University). Her academic interests lie in topics such as Anxiety-related disorders, eating disorders, the Emotional health of women with PCOS, and Adolescent and young adult mental health well-being, among a few others. Apart from this, she enjoys writing semi-fiction and academic articles, is an artist who loves creating abstract collages and is a nature-lover. She aspires to practice as a Clinical Psychologist in India.

**Kumar Ketkar** is a former journalist. He is a member of parliament. He has been awarded with several prestigious awards like Padmashri, Indian Affairs Journalist of the Decade in 2018 and Maharashtra Foundation (USA) lifetime achievement award in 2014. He has authored several books in Marathi and English. He started his journalistic career with The Economic Times, has worked with The Observer, Maharashtra Times and was the Chief Editor of the reputed Marathi newspaper Loksatta.

**Neeta Khandpekar** is a professor in the Department of History, University of Mumbai. She is also a D. Litt. from the University of Sambalpur, Odisha. Her area of research interests includes Modern/ Maritime History and Christian Missionary History. She was the coordinator of the Gandhian Studies Center for many years. She has to her credit research paper publications, book publications and also successfully completed minor and major research projects. She is also a recipient of many awards and was deputed as ICCR Chair Professor at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand in 2018.

**Amrish Kohli** is an Assistant Professor at Government Medical College Kathua with an experience of seven years of teaching the MBBS students; Nodal officer of various National Health programs like NVHCP, NQAS, NVBDCP etc. He has an MD in Microbiology from SKIMS, Soura. His research expertise is on Tuberculosis as a disease entity. Dr. Kohli is a recipient of the Governor's award of excellence. Dr. Kohli is a motivational speaker and has been a resource person for doctors and health professionals in various training programs. He is also a passionate poet and an amateur singer.

**Manisha Kohli** is currently serving as the Principal of Government Degree College, Bani. She has headed several departments of Psychology in various government degree colleges of Jammu & Kashmir. Her areas of research are positive- psychology, mental health and conflict. She runs a clinic and is a member of many national and

international psychological groups. Dr. Kohli is a philanthropist, social worker and provides live TV counselling as part of community services. She is the recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Nirmala Deshpande Award by the Gandhian Global Family, Rotary District Governor's Award of Excellence in 2021 and the prestigious Indian Youth ICON Award in 2023 presented by International Council for Education, Research and Training (ICERT).

**Ajoy Konar** has over 39 years of experience in personnel selection and assessment. With a PhD in Applied Psychology, he has been associated with the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection from 1982 to 2022. His areas of interest and expertise are Psychometrics, Statistics, Organisational Psychology, and Group Dynamics. He has been actively involved in the design of tools and methods to enhance assessment such as automated scoring and item generation. He has been a key figure in successfully conceptualising and implementing a Common Recruitment Process for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

**Upneet Lalli** is a psychologist, heading the training and research wing of the Institute of Correctional Administration, Chandigarh. She holds a doctorate in Psychology and a degree in law from Punjab University, Chandigarh. She has more than two decades of experience in designing, conducting and organizing training programmes for mid and senior rank prison officers, police officers. She has also been associated with policy making related to prisons, custodial justice, and gender justice at a state and national level. A qualified lawyer, criminologist, and human rights advocate, she has a passion for training and developing human resources in organisations.

**Anjali Majumdar** was a UGC Senior Research Fellow (SRF) at the Department of Applied Psychology & Counselling Center, University of Mumbai (UDAP) when she completed her PhD. She has published in international peer-reviewed journals like Business Perspectives and Research and the British Journal of Guidance and Counselling, and has also contributed to the Sage volume of Eminent Indian Psychologists: 100 Years of Psychology in India. Currently, she is working as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore. Her areas of interest include Positive Psychology, Work Engagement, HR Analytics, Humour at Workplace.

**Ayesha Martin** is presently an Associate Professor at the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection. She has a Masters in Industrial Psychology and is presently pursuing her Ph.D. in Psychology. Her areas of interest include Psychological Testing, Group Dynamics and Assessment. She has 17 years of experience in the development of various selection tools for competency assessment and conduct of simulation exercises to assess group dynamics for various public sector organisations.

**Sombala Ningthoujam** is presently Associate Professor at the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection. She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Psychology and has 16 years of experience in research and teaching at the Institute of Management and IBS, Gurgaon. She is a recognised research guide and has over thirty research publications to her credit. She has successfully completed a major ICSSR Research Project as Principal Investigator. She has been on the Editorial Board of International Journal of Behavioural Sciences and Book Reviewer for South Asian Journal of Management. She has conducted numerous Management and FDPs and has organised several national and international conferences and workshops. Her areas of interest include Social Psychology, Organisational Behaviour, Positive Psychology, Assessment, Research Methods and Data Analysis.

**Deepti Puranik** is a psychologist with 20 years of experience. She has completed her doctoral studies from University of Mumbai and has worked on numerous sensitive crime cases and have stood as an expert witness in the courts. She has eighteen research publications to her credit and has also been invited as a guest speaker in various universities and institutes of national importance. Her prior job roles have been as a Scientific Officer and Assistant Director in the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories, Assistant Director with Helik Advisory Limited and Assistant Professor with Amity University, Mumbai. Currently she is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, Sunandan Divatia School of Science, NMIMS- Deemed to be University.

**Archana Raghavan** is a mental health researcher who primarily studies behavioural economics and psychotherapy outcomes. She also practices as a psychotherapist. She graduated with a Masters from Tata Institute of Social Sciences and has worked

in various research labs such as Social Psychology Research Lab, Middlesex University, International Attachment Network and National Institute of Mental health & Neurosciences, NIMHANS. Her interests include behavioural sciences, the impact of culture, therapy and community on mental health and development of social policies through interdisciplinary approaches such as business anthropology, culture and media.

**Upasana Saraf** is a clinical psychologist in Mumbai and has been heading the Human Resources Department for five schools under the Bombay Cambridge Gurukul since 1995. She has conducted more than a 1000 training programmes and workshops for students, parents, counsellors and teachers on topics related to life skills, interpersonal relationships, safety and developing child sensitive environment at school and home.

**Arushi Sharma** is an Assistant Professor at Gujarat National Law University, Silvassa Campus. She has completed her Ph.D. from the Department of English, University of Mumbai. She is a trained educator and has B.Ed. degree to her credit. She has presented papers at national and international conferences and has many publications in University Grant Commission (UGC) approved and UGC care-listed journals. She is a content writer for the Institute of Distance and Open Learning, University of Mumbai (IDOL) for various courses in Business Communication and American Literature. She is an Assistant Editor of Sambhasan, interdisciplinary humanities online journal of the University of Mumbai. She was a trainer for functional proficiency and professional proficiency course conducted by the Department of English, University of Mumbai. She is a poet too.

**Praveen Kumari Singh** is currently an Additional Secretary in the Central Vigilance Commission. During her 30 years journey as a civil servant, she has acquired vital and rich cross-functional experience in many core areas of governance, administration, vigilance, gender justice, management, and has associated herself with the formulation and implementation of key policy initiatives. She is a unique combination of being a bureaucrat and an academic. She is committed to the causes of sustainable development, and empowerment of rural communities especially youth, women and children.

**Sarita Sood** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, University of Jammu. Dr. Sood was a gold medalist when she completed her Master's in Psychology. She has published in several national and international journals and has presented papers at national and international conferences. She has received two best paper awards. She is also involved in conducting training and workshops for employees, teachers, and students. Her areas of training include Stress Management, Skills Development, Counselling and Communication Skills, Motivation Skills, and Behaviour Change.

**Tanvi Upadhyay** has completed her M.A. (Hons) in English Literature from Mumbai University. She has A2 and B2 level certificates in French language. At present, she is a research intern at O.P. Jindal University. She is a freelance content writer. Beyond academics, Tanvi is known for their philanthropic efforts and community engagement.

**Amita Valmiki** is Associate Professor and Head, Department of Philosophy, Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), University of Mumbai. She is also a visiting faculty at the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Theories, Bonn University, Germany. She has been awarded the post-doctoral research fellowship twice. She has published a book titled *Mystical Worlds: Social, Spiritual and Secular*; co-edited a book titled, *100 Years of Indian Cinema: Issues and Challenges in Retrospection* along with research papers in books and journals. She was the recipient of the Principal Shivajirao Bhosale Best Teacher Award in Philosophy in 2021.