

Leading with Dignity: Transforming Poverty Response at the Individual, Community and Policy levels

In our pursuit of inclusive growth, we must consider the roles played by every actor in this ecosystem: from the non-profits and changemakers, to the innovators enabling efficient and effective interventions; from the spiritual resource groups to the beneficiaries we strive to propel on a path of growth and development.

At the Brahma Kumaris, we contribute to this ecosystem by enabling stakeholders dealing with policy, reinforcing deeper spiritual intent to create sustainable communities and nurturing individuals with values that empower them to make their most significant contributions while upholding the dignity of everyone involved.

We draw upon our experience of grassroots efforts to encourage policy makers to include interventions that build upon the innate ability and strength of every individual for truly long-term sustainable change. We implore them to design policies that nurture a supportive environment, one that catalyzes individuals and communities to find their own solutions, thereby reinforcing their dignity and power.

From our community engagement through the Rajrishi Villages project in India, we're inspired by how small, positive changes reinforce the strength and confidence of the community in their ability to tackle larger challenges and return to a life of dignity, self-worth, and prosperity. We believe this model is ready to be replicated in a community near you and we would love nothing more than to share our lessons and collaborate with partners.

The Brahma Kumaris offer platforms like BeeZone and HappyDotes that inspire and soothe the minds of individuals from all walks of life. Our Digital Wellness pilot programme educates young folks on the mindful, moderate, and responsible use of technology. We reaffirm our guiding principles, embodied in the "SOUL" framework, *to make a positive, sustainable impact in the field*:

- S, for Source: What guides our actions is the awareness that we're all the children of one God.
- O, for Outlook: Our mindset as we engage with the community is that we are one global family. This familial outlook compels us to look out for each other.
- U, for Unlimited: Our role is to serve the world in an unlimited way, without bias.
- L, for Love: At the heart of any program or policy is unconditional love.

Thanks very much for your time. I wish you all a peaceful and purposeful day.