



Dr Gursharan Dhanjal, MA, MPhil, PhD from Delhi University, is an expert in development economics. His academic research pertains to strategic affairs and nuclear diplomacy.

He is Vice Chairman, SKOCH Group. He is also Editor of *INCLUSION*—a quarterly publication that focuses on inclusive growth related areas – social, digital and financial inclusion (<https://inclusion.in/>).

He has over 25 years of work experience ranging from academics to research and business journalism to consulting. He started his career as an Assistant Professor and taught Political Science at Delhi University for six years before joining Asia Business News (India). He also worked for CNBC, Star News and BBC during the late 90s. He spent nearly six years in business journalism.

At SKOCH (<https://skoch.in/>) he has led various research projects, impact assessments and field studies in the areas of governance, MSMEs, women empowerment, entitlements, rights, sanitation, urban development, social inclusion, health, financial inclusion and so on. This includes national flagship schemes like MGNREGA, PMGSY, PMAY, PMMY, JNNURM, Smart Cities, Ayushman Bharat to mention a few. He engages with the central government, state governments, municipalities and the district. SKOCH State of Governance Index (<https://ratings.skoch.in/2023/09/18/skoch-state-of-governance-index-jan-jun-2023/>) is being published annually since 2003 under his supervision and guidance.

This measures the outcome-based governance across all levels of the federalism.

SKOCH is a Centre of Excellence with Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). This is an online portal that documents best practices in Tribal Affairs and Tribal Development from across the country. Dr Dhanjal has been leading this since inception (<https://knowledge.tribal.gov.in/>).

His current research pertains to ESG, digital transformation, sustainability, CSR, tariff barriers, financial deepening, financial inclusion, multidimensional poverty, credit gap, digital India, global indices, ratings and employment.

A prolific writer, Dr Dhanjal has contributed over 200 columns in leading national dailies including *The Hindustan Times*, *The Times of India*, *The Financial Express* and *The Pioneer*. He has published research papers in several journals of repute in addition to authoring following widely acclaimed books:

1. *Tarapur: The Politics of Nuclear Age*
2. *Infrastructure and Governance*

He has contributed numerous papers that have been published in various books, as follows:

1. *Modi's Odyssey: Digital India, Developed India*
2. *Growth and Governance: Essays in Honour of Nandan Nilekani*
3. *An Agenda for India's Growth: Essays in Honour of P Chidambaram*
4. *Policymaking for Indian Planning: Essays in Honour of Montek Singh Ahluwalia*
5. *Building from the Bottom: Infrastructure and Poverty Alleviation*
6. *India 2030: A Socio-economic Paradigm*

He has widely travelled to cover almost all the states at the block and village level to do impact assessment and document the outcomes of governance. This includes, for

example, Namchi in Sikkim, Majuli in Assam, Sundergarh and Kalahandi in Odisha, Gurdaspur in Punjab, Salt Pans in Gujarat, East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, Mori in Uttarkhand and so on. In all, he has spent over 40,000 hours travelling to rural India so far covering the length and breadth of the country

(<https://skoch.in/knowledge/andhra-pradesh/>).

Given his expertise he is invited by the Government of India to sit on various committees. He was member of the Working Group on ICT in Higher Education

constituted by Planning Commission for the 12th Five Year Plan. He is a regular speaker at various public fora and institutions including IIT-Delhi and Delhi University where he is also a visiting faculty.

He is an Evaluator and Member, Course Preparation Committee for Master's and Undergraduate Programme, School of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) wherein he has extensively contributed, written the courses and published.