



Dr. Kamal Kar

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Professional Summary: Dr. Kamal Kar is a renowned international development specialist in rural development and natural resources and a prolific social entrepreneur who has taken the challenge of ending open defecation head on in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Dr. Kar pioneered the **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach** in Bangladesh in 1999-2000. The CLTS methodology is based on a no-subsidy policy and is rooted in a model of community empowerment and mobilization. The approach has radically transformed the global sanitation policy focus from toilet construction to the process of collective behaviour change. It has been incorporated within the sanitation policies of over 35 countries and has spread to more than 66 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. CLTS has been institutionalized within the sanitation policies of major sanitation agencies including UNICEF, WSSCC (GSF), Plan International, World Bank, WaterAid, World Vision, SNV among others and due to these efforts over 40 million people are now living in open defecation free (ODF) environment.

He has pioneered a number of innovative approaches in natural resources management and low cost appropriate technologies in farming. He has worked extensively in poverty reduction and empowerment. He has worked in gender analysis and social development. Kar has contributed substantially in rights based approach, including expertise in conducting contextual analysis and developing evidence based advocacy programme, facilitating campaign for social for social inclusion, facilitating rights analysis in developing country strategic plan, and maintaining higher level networking for advocacy. For more than two decades, he worked in the development of participatory development approaches.

Over the last 18 years, Dr. Kar has played an instrumental role in the spread of CLTS globally by providing capacity building, policy advice and process support to national governments and international agencies like WSP, DFID, UNICEF, WSSCC, Irish Aid, WHO, Plan International, Water Aid, CARE and many more. After introducing the approach in Asia, Kar introduced the approach in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2006. He took the approach to West Africa in 2007..

The ‘Handbook and the Trainers Guide on CLTS’ authored by Dr. Kar has been translated into more than sixteen different languages. Additionally, he has written several practice papers on

CLTS. He is an Honorary Associate at the **Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, UK**. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the **Institute of Water Policy of the LKY School of Public Policy of National University of Singapore**. The prestigious Foreign Policy Magazine of Washington DC selected Dr. Kar as one of the **Top Hundred Global Thinkers of the World** in 2010. The Asian Development Bank declared Dr. Kar as the **Water Champion of 2011**. He also received the **Sarpathi Sanitation Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015** by World Waternet, Netherland Water Partnership at Amsterdam as recognition for his stellar work in the sanitation sector spanning continents, governments and communities.