

Brief Profile

NEERAJ DOSHI

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Neeraj Doshi has decade long exposure and work experience in water conservation, sustainable development and social entrepreneurship space. Before founding RAINWATER, he was heading Artha Initiative in India, a social investment advisory, which invests in social enterprises in water management, agriculture, small-scale renewable energy, and SMEs that provide livelihood for the rural poor. He traveled extensively to many villages and cities in India to identify investment opportunities and provide mentorship to many fledgling social businesses. Presently, he is engaged as entrepreneur, advisor and mentor to many social enterprises besides pursuing his passion for water conservation and documentary photography. (www.lensforchange.org)

Passionate about all things water, Neeraj has set up a **water management practice – Research, Advocacy & Innovation in WATER (RAIN WATER)** to provide visionary solutions to water scarcity challenges in both urban and industrial settings. In addition to developing commercial solutions such as smart rainwater harvesting, water recycling, water auditing, foot operated faucet, etc., it focuses on finding long terms sustainable solutions, which are alternate to current exploitative development regimes. The water management practice works in policy, media and education spaces to create “water revolution”. RAIN Water has developed customized educational and awareness programs for schools and institutions alike. It has recently launched first of its kind water walk. Through story telling, Through story telling medium, this walk explains the engineering marvel of the water collection system at Jaigarh fort to not only share our collective water wisdom but also to learn from our past to inform our present and future.

Together with few friends, Neeraj has set up an **incubator** in Jaipur to design / incubate innovative products and ideas for societal impact. Current ideas/products under incubation will address water stress, malnutrition and climate change when launched successfully. One of the first business ideas under incubation aims to tackle malnutrition in both urban rich and poor through development of nutritive foods made from local cereals. Recognizing the need for quick scale up, awareness and education programs have been made integral to the Incubator to address enormous challenges of hunger, poverty, climate change, resource depletion, etc. As thought leader, Neeraj speaks regularly at various venues on the need of disruptive innovation and the need to look locally to address unique challenges that faces India. As an educator, who firmly believes that new only happens when old is questioned, he encourages students to ask questions and seek answers not in the books but life around them. He is helping many local institutions through curriculum design in creative entrepreneurship, water management, innovation, etc.

He regularly **advises social enterprise initiatives** in diverse areas including new product design, rural energy distribution, craft and non-craft livelihood initiatives, corporate social responsibility, ecotourism, and income generation to resettle communities affected from infrastructural projects. Neeraj has guided Frontier Markets, EcoMantra, Rickshaw Bank, CSR India, Environics Trust and Corporate Value Management among others to scale up their

activities through strategic and mentoring support. He has also advised Asia Venture Philanthropy Network, a new initiative, to develop venture philanthropy movement in India.

Giving in to his own entrepreneurial spirits, Neeraj recently started a social initiative with his wife in Jaipur. Aptly named, **The Happy Store** retails handcrafted, organic & natural lifestyle and home décor products from livelihood projects and artisan clusters across the country. In addition, The Happy Store is also a space for creative expression through various mediums including photo/art exhibits, Workshops, talks and discussions to bring about social and environmental change.

Before moving to India, Neeraj worked as Research Analyst at The Small Scale Sustainable Infrastructure Development Fund (S3IDF) in Cambridge, USA. S3IDF fosters pro-poor, pro-environment small-scale infrastructure services with financing and technical assistance for electricity, water, sanitation and other infrastructure (eg. transport and telecommunications) necessary for poverty alleviation in a way that minimizes environmental impact.

Neeraj holds two masters degree, one in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University with focus in International Environment Resource Policy, Development Economics and Sustainable Energy Policy and other in Business Management from Devi Ahilya University, India.