

Vijay Mahajan

Vijay Mahajan, born 1954, is a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D), 1970-75, a post-graduate of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), 1979-81, and was a mid-career fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, USA, 1988-89, where he studied economic development policy.

After IIT-D, Vijay worked in Philips as a marketing executive for four years. Soon after graduating from IIM-A in 1981, Vijay started working in the rural development field in Bihar, the poorest state of eastern India. In 1983, he established an NGO, PRADAN which works with over 120,000 poor households, promoting livelihoods and community institutions.

In 1996, Vijay set up BASIX as a “new generation livelihood promotion institution”. Till March 2008, BASIX had helped support the livelihoods of over a million poor households in the agriculture, allied and non-farm sectors by extending micro-credit worth over Rs 1200 crore (US\$300 million). BASIX goes well beyond micro-credit to offer a “triad” of livelihood promotion services including savings and insurance services, agricultural/business development services and institutional development services to rural producers and their groups. See more at www.basixindia.com

Vijay was a member of the Raghuram Rajan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, chaired by Prof and also of the Rangarajan Committee on Financial Inclusion. He is a member of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) and the Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods. He serves on the Boards of ASSEFA, Gram Vikas, ARAVALI, DSC and the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), and on the Executive Committee of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a global microfinance body.

In 2002, Vijay was selected as one of the 60 “Outstanding Social Entrepreneurs” at the World Economic Forum (WEF), Davos. In 2003, Vijay was conferred the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the IIT, Delhi.