

**Geeta Dharmarajan** is a writer, editor, educator and the Executive Director of Katha, a [nonprofit organisation](#) that she founded in 1988. Her work focuses on education, especially of children from poor families. Her innovative, award-winning work is geared to uniting India's different language communities. She views translation as a means of fostering unity, reinforcing diversity and offering the illiterate, equity and the opportunity to participate in lifelong learning. Her efforts to further education and reduce poverty have brought change and introduced the joy of reading to 8 million women and children in slums and tribal villages

Dharmarajan's professional editorial experience that began with *Target*, a children's magazine, and continued with *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, the award-winning alumni magazine of the [University of Pennsylvania](#). Geeta's published works include more than 30 [children's books](#) and over 450 individual pieces in magazines and newspapers in India and abroad. Her major activities include the institution of the Katha Awards for Literary Excellence, and curating the Katha Festivals and utsavs that bring literature to the public. These create meeting places for writers, translators, scholars, critics, storytellers and contemporary artists and community activists. Geeta led the writers workshop initiative for the central Board of Secondary Education, with partnerships established in 500 schools in India

The Government of India awarded her the civilian honour of [Padma Shri](#) in 2012.