

Kelvinator
GR8! Women
AWARDS 2007



Chairperson, Akshara Foundation,
Bargalore

Rohini Nilekani

“Thank you first *Aaitula*. Nobody can get Awards on their own, everybody works with other people to get any recognition they do so family and friends thank you. I would like to say it is wonderful to see FLO and GR8! and other organisations dedicating themselves to the tragedy of the female child. It's of course a personal tragedy when a baby girl is murdered but it is also a national tragedy. We have a demographic advantage what we call the demographic dividend, let's not turn it into a demographic disaster. If you are willing to hear the silent scream surely we can turn it into a smile. Let's begin with our hearts, lets give all children education, water, health and equal opportunity in this country and then we can watch what India's capable of...”

Rohini Nilekani started as a writer. She worked as a journalist for several years writing for many for leading publications such as Sunday and India Today. Her first novel, a medical thriller called *STILLBORN* was published by Penguin Books.

For the past eight years, however, Rohini Nilekani has been actively involved with several non-profit organizations. As a committed philanthropist, she funds projects focussed in the areas of water, education, health, ecology, microfinance etc

She is Founder-Chairperson, ARGHYAM, a public charitable trust

she has personally donated Rs 100 crores to. She is also Chairperson, Akshara Foundation, Karnataka. Akshara is part of the nationwide Pratham network of initiatives to ensure elementary education.

She is Founder-Chairperson, Pratham Books, a non-profit publishing house set up to create high quality, low cost books for children. Since 2004, Pratham Books has published 150 new titles and distributed 2.5 million books in ten Indian languages, mostly to underserved children across the country.

She is Director, Sanghamithra Rural Financial Services, an MFI (Micro Finance Institution) lending to the poor. She funded its urban programme, then the largest such initiative for the urban poor in India.

She is also on the Boards of the Public Health Foundation of India. She has been appointed member of the Union Government's National Core Group on Urban Poverty, as also of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council, Union Ministry of Water Resurces.



Rohini receives the Award from Producer-Director Karan Johar.