

Anshu Gupta (Goonj)

Popularly known as the Clothing Man is the Founder of Goonj, an Indian based nonprofit. One of India's leading social entrepreneurs Anshu brings to the table an instinctive empathy and connect with people, moving the focus from the giver's pride to receiver's dignity in development work. Asia's Noble, the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay award 2015, conferred on him credited him for 'his creative vision in transforming the culture of giving in India, his enterprising leadership in treating cloth as a sustainable development resource for the poor, and in reminding the world that true giving always respects and preserves human dignity'.

Anshu has done his Mass communications twice and his masters in Economics. He left a corporate job in 1998 and founded GOONJ with a mission to make clothing a matter of concern and to bring it among the list of subjects for the development sector. Today Goonj is a pan India movement dealing with more than 3000 tons of material annually, reaching out to parts of 21 states of India. Goonj reaches urban underutilized material to far flung village communities, using it as a motivating resource for rural communities to address their own development issues like education, sanitation, women's health, water conservation etc. with their own wisdom and resources. Goonj has garnered many international awards like World Bank's Development Marketplace award and NASA's recognition, Anshu won recognition as an Ashoka and Schwab Fellow. A member of the Humanitarian Crisis Council of the World Economic Forum Anshu has also been listed as one of India's top social entrepreneurs by Forbes Magazine and Fast Company. He lives in Delhi NCR with his wife Meenakshi, Co-founder of Goonj and their teenage daughter. For more information go to www.goonj.org