

# Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR) and WHEELS Global Foundation Join Forces to Foster Academic and Research Cooperation



Ahmedabad, January 14, 2025 — Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad, and WHEELS Global Foundation (WGF) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a collaborative framework for academic and research cooperation. The MoU was signed by Dr. Nisha Pandey, Director of GIDR, and Dr. Raj Shah, Chairman of WGF Health Council, during an event at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay.

This partnership aims to leverage the strengths of both institutions to address critical developmental challenges and improve societal outcomes through research, capacity building, and innovative solutions. Under this MoU, GIDR and WGF will jointly undertake initiatives in the following domains:

- **Water, Health, and Energy:** Development of scalable and cost-effective solutions for efficient resource management.
- **Education and Livelihood:** Promoting sustainable practices and empowering communities through skill development and knowledge sharing.
- **Healthcare Initiatives:** Focused research on mental health, maternity health, women's health, telehealth, and reducing infant mortality using technology-enabled interventions.
- **Sustainability of Tribal Populations:** Supporting tribal communities with evidence-based strategies to improve their quality of life and ensure sustainable development.

#### **Commitment to Sustainability and Social Impact**

The collaboration is designed to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and create long-term impact through community-driven and scalable solutions. A joint follow-up committee will monitor the execution of the MoU and provide strategic direction for its successful implementation.

Dr. Nisha Pandey, Director of GIDR, stated, *“This MoU marks a significant milestone in our commitment to fostering impactful research and development. By collaborating with WGF, we aim to address critical societal challenges and create sustainable solutions that benefit underserved communities.”*

Dr. Raj Shah, Chairman of the WGF Health Council, added, *“WGF is dedicated to advancing innovation and social impact. This partnership with GIDR is a step forward in our mission to deliver technology-enabled, scalable solutions that transform lives and promote global sustainability.”*

This partnership is a testament to the potential of academic and research institutions joining hands to drive meaningful change.