

Priyanka Singh is a Social changemaker, an army wife and a mother of a 13 months old toddler. She has done her Masters in Human Ecology from Ambedkar University Delhi (2013-15). Her MA thesis focused on Investigating Community Based Conservation alternatives in Great Himalayan National Park (Tirthan Valley) where she closely worked with local communities and specifically women groups to investigate how the alternative provided by the state helped the communities to alleviate from poverty and be less dependent on forests. For the love of working with local communities, she made a choice to work in a social organisation after completing Masters in 2015. She started to work with Aadharshila Shiksha Samiti located near Kuno wildlife sanctuary, district Sheopur of Madhya Pradesh. She joined there as an HR Manager holding responsibility of managing their High School and 20 primary schools for Sahariya Tribal Children. Her work was all administration related but she loved teaching so continued with teaching Social Science, Maths and English to the students. This made her develop a close relationship with the school children specifically young girls. They would sit together in the free periods and share about lives, our day to day problems and seek support from each other. This was a calling for her. She realised that young women lack these safe spaces where they could talk freely and seek support from their peer without any fear of judgement. She also realised that there is so much of fear around women venturing out solo but in her case, all the best experiences of life happened when she started going out and meeting like minded people. This made her decide that she wanted to create such spaces for women by providing travel programs. With this social venture idea, I applied to kanthari International Institute for social change based in Trivandrum, Kerala. I got selected for their 7 months leadership training program that made me to quit my work with Adharshila Shikha Samiti after completing 2.5 years with them in 2018. She completed this training program in Trivandrum in December 2018. She did her first travel project as her organization BAYA- Be As You Are where we (13 people) covered South India in 19 days.

