

## Workshop Facilitator Profile

Nilesh Nimkar is a founder trustee and director of QUALITY EDUCATION SUPPORT TRUST (QUEST, [www.quest.org.in](http://www.quest.org.in)) and has over two decades of field as well as organizational experience in early childhood education, elementary education, teacher's training and capacity building and curriculum development. He has designed various pioneering educational programmes for children as well as teachers. The early childhood education programme designed by him at the preschool level for rural Anganwadis has drawn accolade from experts and educationists. He was part of the team of experts involved in the development of 'Aakar', the Early Childhood Education curriculum for the Anganwadis in Maharashtra by State Council for Educational Research & Training, Unicef and Government of Maharashtra. He has authored "Majhi Anganwadi" a series of books for implementation of ECE. He is the author of 'Maze Pustak' and 'Maze Ganit', books contextualized for the specific needs of children from disadvantaged communities to teach early literacy and mathematics from pre-primary to grade 2. He conceptualized long-term online courses in pedagogy of language literacy and mathematics. A team of resource persons mentored by him are successfully implementing these courses across Maharashtra.

His research interests are Pedagogy of Elementary Mathematics and Language. He has been part of several research teams. Through all these initiatives, his work has reached out to over 60,000 children in the age group of 3 - 12 years, in Maharashtra. Mr. Nimkar is a receiver of many prestigious awards such as K.R. Joshi Foundation Award for outstanding Social Service to Tribal Children; 2011 Maharashtra Foundation Award for Social Activities for Youth and Children and Seva Gaurav Puraskar-2013 by Sheth Chimanlal Govindas Memorial Trust. Recently he won the Extraordinary Early Childhood Education Leadership Award by Education World magazine. Through his long and illustrious career, Mr. Nimkar has been tirelessly working to design and implement contextual and research oriented solutions in the field education.

