

Mr. Abhimanyu Singh had his schooling at the Mayo College, Ajmer from 1958-68. He graduated with Honors in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi in 1971 and attained the first rank in Master's in History from Delhi University in 1973. Mr. Singh joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1974 and was assigned to the State of Rajasthan. He spent a year as a Hubert H. Humphrey fellow under the Fulbright program at Pittsburgh University, USA (1986-87).

On deputation to the Government of India, Mr. Singh worked for a decade in the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the Department of Education as Director of Higher Education (1987-92) and Joint Secretary, Elementary Education (1995-2000). He represented India on the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver. Mr. Singh served as Education Secretary in Rajasthan (1992-95) when he led mass literacy campaigns and community-based rural education projects (Shiksha Karmi & Lok Jumbish).

He chaired the Global Drafting Committee at the World Education Forum at Dakar in 2000. He joined UNESCO in April 2001 to lead and coordinate the Education for All (EFA) movement. Mr. Singh was Director of UNESCO's office in Nigeria (2006) and Director of the UNESCO office in Beijing (2008), the first Indian to head a UN agency there, with responsibilities for China, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia and North Korea. After completing his service with UNESCO in December 2014, he returned to India and was invited by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to be Team Leader of four Joint Review Missions on Education for All (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and Mid-Day Meals. He was awarded a research fellowship at the University of Tokyo by the Japan Foundation to study Education 2030. In May 2016 he was invited to Chair the Foundation for Education and Development, Jaipur.