

Dr. Arunkumar Manubhai Dave

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development-2002

Born: 26th January, 1950

Post Graduate in Chemistry Ph.D., University Dept. of Chemistry

Hailing from a very respected family of freedom fighters wedded to Gandhian thought and philosophy, Dr. Arunkumar Manubhai Dave is the Founder President of the Lokbharati Community Science Centre, the objective of which is to take science to the doors of the common man as well as to students of rural and urban schools. To achieve this purpose, for the last 25 years the Centre has held several science fairs, seminars and workshops for teachers, farmers, social workers, housewives and also for laymen. Since 1972, he has also been teaching as a professor of Science and Ecology in a residential Institute of Rural Higher Education, Lokbharati, Sanosara.

Dr. Dave is a great communicator. Through Gujarati Science monthly VIGNANDARSHAN and other media he has spread knowledge about science and scientific technology by writing articles, delivering radio talks, planning programmes for public bodies, and by writing regular scripts for serials, plays etc.

Through the Lokbharati Community Science Centre, Dr. Dave has been propagating a human approach to science by bringing harmony among education, science and technology and their application in every day life. Some of these technologies include Solar Cookers, Bio-gas Plants, Smokeless Choolhas, Wind Mills, Solar Stills, Hot Water System, Solar Photovoltaic Lights and new irrigation methods.

Through his initiative and with the help of the Gujarat Energy Development Agency, he has provided energy saving devices worth over Rs. 10 lacs for poor rural families. With a view to popularising science and scientific technology, he has science and scientific technology, he has exhibited 150 video cassettes, 1000 colour slides on various scientific subjects. In addition, he has published various booklets on several important subjects including Non-conventional sources of Energy, Green House Effect, Acid Rain, Story of Missiles, Organic Farming etc.

He has been successful in obtaining financial assistance from State Governments, Government of India, various Institutions and individuals and he has ensured that these amounts have been spent for useful purposes including Village Adoption Scheme, setting up of Energy Park, Child Centred Innovative Science Programmes, Transfer of Technology, Water Resource Development Projects etc.

Dr. Dave is actively working with the "Field Study Council, U.K." a world famous Institute working on environment and "Children Earth Funds Society" of USA working on problem of energy in the children.

