

Smt. Phoolbasan Yadav

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Uplift and Welfare of Women and Children-2008

Born: 5th December, 1969

7th Pass

Smt. Phoolbasan Yadav comes from a very humble background. At the age of 10, she was married to a Yadav boy engaged in cattle grazing. She belongs to the B.P.L. category (below poverty line). The Govt. had declared a scheme for Women Empowerment by forming women self help groups. In her village, this self-help group collected money by motivating women and started a cattle rearing scheme. Smt. Phoolbasan took part in it. She formed the 'Pragya Mahila Samooh', 'Kiraya Bhandar', 'Bazar Theka' and ration shops. By adopting these measures of economic growth, they improved their economic condition.

She and her group members have been provided 900 crore rupees from 'NABARD' for different women's groups of Rajnandgaon District, for self employment. 'NABARD' Raipur and New Delhi felicitated her at the hands of the Union Finance Minister of the Government of India.

The women self-help groups (WSHG) in the district play a very important role. They participate in health programmes such as pulse polio, nutrition such as: Bal Bhoj to young children in the schools and anganwadis, education of children through enrolment and regular attendance especially for girl children. They also try to prevent early marriages. This is a voluntary effort encouraged by the district administration. Smt. Phoolbasan came in the limelight when she participated in the "Mahila Olympic" organized by the district administration and won the 1st prize in the "cycle race".

She contributed significantly to the literacy campaign in the district. She won the Maa Bamleshwari Award for Save the Water programme, at the hands of the State Minister. She became a source of inspiration for thousands of women in the district. Her leadership skills, politeness, dedication to work and inspiring personality has made the programmes a grand success in the district.

In the year 2004-05, the Chhattisgarh Government awarded to her the "Mini Mata Samman" (cash award of Rs. 1 lakh). She has adopted 35 SC/ST children and they have been provided better education from the cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh that she got from the Chhattisgarh Government. She forgot the pain of being illiterate and unable to educate her kids. Now, she has become a 'Sparkling Star'.

Smt. Phoolbasan made a very significant contribution to empower women through 19,000 women's groups and 2325 adolescent girls' groups. There has been complete prohibition of alcohol in 625 villages, 2800 children have been adopted through various women groups and 570 child marriages have been stopped.

The women's groups of the district are conducting the Mid Day Meal programme in 1741 primary schools and are also making arrangements for "Bal Bhoj" in 4225 Centres, running 211 fixed price shops. Smt. Phoolbasan Yadav aspires to motivate all the women and make them more powerful. She wants to make the women aware of their rights and duties and especially make the tribal women independent and improve their economic status.

Since 2001 in the rural areas, 7201 WSHG through 90191 women deposited more than 6.68 crore rupees through their small savings which is not an easy task. Smt. Phoolbasan has, by involving WSHG through various beneficial schemes of the government, ensured economic progress of the women folk.

Presently, 19780 women from 1540 WSHG are running various businesses. Smt Phoolbasan has contributed significantly to make the women self-sufficient and to avail prestigious positions in society. Her social work not only attracted the attention of the government but also encouraged small savings of crores of rupees. Her contribution was acknowledged by the government, administration, and organizations such as banks etc. through various awards and recognition. Smt. Phoolbasan organized the oppressed, un-organized and exploited women for economic upliftment.

Smt. Phoolbasan received the National Award for Best Performance sponsored by NABARD. The Government of Chhattisgarh honoured her with the "Mini Mata Samman" and District Administration conferred the "Maa Bamleshwari" Award for the years 2001,2002,2003. Smt. Phoolobasan also received the Award for Women Empowerment from the Union Bank of India, Mumbai.

