



MR. DHARAMPAL SAINI

Recipient of the Award in the Field of Constructive Work - 2021

Born: June 24, 1930

A courageous and humble worker, Dharampal Saini spent his childhood in Dhar and Saharanpur. His days were spent in Dhar under the strict discipline of his father and while playing and being pampered by his grandmother in Saharanpur. His mother, a silent and hardworking but courageous woman. The support of home and friends remained faithful. In class VIII, Saini got the opportunity to read Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda. One day, he took a spontaneous resolution that he will not do a government job, he will not get married and he will serve the country. On the first day at Inter College Dhar, a passionate teacher of Dharampal Saini said in his first talk that today I will teach the balance sheet of lifestyle and not business. The first Bhoodan discourse of Pochampally (Telangana) by Vinobaji was read to him by the same teacher. Saini went to the village with him to discuss the views of Gandhiji and Vinobaji on community prayer, cleanliness, education and freedom struggle. He got immersed into the ideas and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba Bhava and Swami Vivekananda.

Sainiji joined a school in Rupa Kheda village where Nai Talim was going on. A teacher during the day, shramdaan on a student's farm in the evening and in the night prayer and discourse started among the youth and elders of the village. Saini also started education among women. There was a buzzword of the power of Swaraj, devotion to democracy and Gandhiji's self-reliance in the village. A spinning class was also being conducted in the school and oil units also started in the village.

The development of the village without any government assistance, the discussion of development, shramdan etc. made Sainiji everyone's 'bhaisaheb'. In 1960, there was information about Vinobaji coming to Indore. Sainiji reached Indore on the invitation of his friends, seeking his companionship and also meeting him. With Vinobaji's discourses, an atmosphere of spiritual energy was created there. The Satyagraha to remove indecent posters as cleanliness campaign was also carried out under the instructions of Vinobaji. Sainiji also got the opportunity to become the first Satyagrahi, representing the youth.

From Rupa Kheda to Machla and from there Harijan Sevak Sangh in Indore became the area of life and work of Sainiji. As an activist for the prevention of untouchability and organizer of the state's Drug Ban Committee he was involved in the rallies/padyatras camps, conferences as well as in writing and organizing them independently. The experience of the padyatras led to social and economic upliftment.

During the period from 1962 to 1970 Saini was engaged in constructive work. Then, Sainiji got an opportunity to work as the principal of Panchayati Raj Training School.

He also got opportunity to get trained as a Shanti Sena volunteer (peacekeeping force) under the guidance of Narayanbhai Desai at Jayprakash Narayan's village Sokhdevara Asharam.

From 1970 to 1974, as the official convenor of Bhil Sevak Sangh in the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh, Sainiji developed the new generation with new ideas and original values by the light of

education from Ashram schools. It was inspiring for Sainji to know the impact of Vinobaji's arrival thoughts and the changes that were brought in the village by its people during the Madhya Pradesh Bhoodan Yagna programs during 1975 to 1976.

The year 1976 is the most important year in the life for Dharampal Sainiji. When Mata Rukhmani Sewa Sansthan was established with the blessings of Acharya Vinoba Bhave on the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of Vinobaji's mother.

The work commenced at Dimrapal village of Bastar district as its centre. Girl education was brought to lime light and practice. When Maitri Devo Bhava and Sant Devo Bhava were added to the prayer of the ashram, the faith, caste greetings and conduct of the students created a charismatic effect in their homes, which continued to spread the faith in the ashram from the neighbourhood of the house to the village. Today 2500 boys and girls living in about 600 villages study in 37 ashrams whose thoughts, conduct, ability, quality and employment provide a economic and social development. Sainiji got the support of the ashrams and people and introduced children to new forms of development through sports, yoga, shramdan, cleanliness campaign, use of toilets etc., making education inclusive. His goal was the same that through education, new ideas and work get their approval from the public. Girls were given opportunity to travel out of Bastar to experience a new life.

Gradually the children of the Sansthan started participating in athletics, volleyball competitions etc. and when they started getting awards, a new self-respect emerged in themselves and in the minds of the people.

When the children of the house started speaking to the family members, it became easy to reach the ideology of the nation from homes to villages and villages to the society.

In the Haat Bazaar of Bastar, Saini has also made significant and successful efforts to reduce malpractice and to support fair price of forest produce.

The Tamarind Movement of Bastar was the district collector's vision. Bastar is the international market for tamarind. The tamarind sold for one or two rupees started selling for around Rs. 30-35 a kilo. Upon processing, it fetched Rs 50-60 per kg. In the Tamarind Movement, the Sansthan not only supported this business process, but also contributed to the expansion through awareness and skills of education. This is the great economic movement of Bastar. With this trade, shops started opening from village to village and tribal community started becoming traders of village shops. Educated youth also joined the development process. With this movement there was rapid growth and expansion of self-help groups along with fair pricing and growth in forest produce.

The Sansthan also actively participated in the 'Indravati Bacho' movement and contributed in effective ways for organizing it with the support of 65 local communities.

With regards to the maoist issues prevailing in the region, Dharampal Saini strongly believes that it can be resolved by educational development in Bastar, public infrastructure development, healthcare, agriculture and forest produce businesses thus leading to propagation of peace and brotherhood following Gandhian ideologies.

Sansthan by the way of educating the new generation has been propagating the philosophy of 'Sarvajan Hitay, Sarvajan Sukhay' in rural families and society.

Under the dedicated and passionate leadership of Shri Dharampal Saini, the Sansthan's activities has gained acceptance of and encouragement from the people of the region.

Awards & Recognitions:

Institutional

1983: First prize for Women and Child Welfare, Government of India

2004 – 2005: Pandit Ravishankar Shukl Award, Government of Chhattisgarh for Social and Educational activities

Individual

1992: Padmashree for Social Service

1995: Prestigious Award of Gyanyogi Youth Forum for Gandhian Studies

2012: Man of the Year Award, The Week Magazine

2013: Amazing Indian Educator of India, by Times Now

Contact details:

Mr. Dharampal Saini

Founder, Mata Rukhmani Sewa Sansthan

Vinoba village, Dimrapal, District Bastar,

Bikhand Lokapal– 494001

Chhatisgarh, India

M: +919479208234; 9407993954

E: sainidharampal360@gmail.com; satyendrasinghdablu@gmail.com

