

WINNERS OF NATIONAL GOLD KARMAVEER CHAKRA 2014 - 15

Mr. GK Swamy

Mr. Swamy is a very well known name not only in Dehradun but in the entire country. He is the founder of a unique school - Purkal Youth Development Society, this school was started for the underprivileged people and it began under a cowshed when Mr. Swamy and his wife Mrs. Chinni Swamy decided to do something for the poor people living in the village Purkul. Now they possess a fully furnished building and they have affiliation from the CBSE board to conduct classes till 12th std. Mr. Swamy provides free education to all his students which also includes their meals and stationary. His wife Mrs. Chinni Swami has done exceptional work to provide employment to the women living in the village. She is running Stree Shakti which provides engagement and employment to the women while their children study in Purkal Youth Development Learning Academy. Only the have-nots of the society are able to get admission in this school. Apart from excellent English medium education, the students of this school also get opportunities to participate in international youth exchange programs, where they get chance to visit and interact with students and people from different countries. Most students of the school are very well behaved and are great role models for the society.

Mr. Popuri Purnachandra Rao

A champion of underprivileged children and fund-raiser extraordinaire, Popuri Purnachandra Rao is founder-secretary of the Guntur (Andhra Pradesh)-based NICE (Needy Illiterate Children Education) Society (estb. 2002), which runs a free-of-charge residential English-medium school in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh for 140 boys, 70 percent of whom are orphans, and a similar boarding school with 60 girl children. Although promoting a free school for orphans was a lifelong dream, it became reality only after he worked for 12 years and saved the amount required to start the school. Over the past decade, Purnachandra Rao has single-handedly raised over Rs.6 crore to fund the NICE schools for boys and girls. The 25,000 sq.ft school comprises ten classrooms, a library, science and maths labs and a sports ground, apart from separate hostels.

Mrs. Shukla Bose

Former chief executive of Resort Condominiums India (the country's first holiday time share company), Shukla Bose quit the corporate world at the peak of her career to promote the Parikrma Humanity Foundation (PHF) in 2003 to offer quality education to slum children in Bangalore. Currently, PHF runs four free-of-charge English-medium K-12 schools and one junior college with an aggregate enrolment of 1,600 students. Over the past decade, Parikrma has enabled 146 slum children to enter university and placed 52 alumni in well-paid jobs. All Parikrma learning centres provide free tuition, uniforms, stationery, textbooks and nutritive meals and diet supplements to children. For her extraordinary fund-raising capabilities and her project conceptualisation and implementation skills and determination to provide employment-oriented English-medium education to bottom-of-the-pyramid children, we are proud to unanimously confer the Gold Karmaveer Chakra upon Shukla Bose, an unrelenting champion of quality education for all.



Mrs. Neelima Sharma

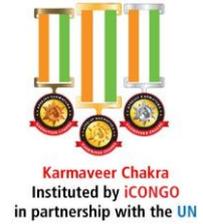
Neelima is the founder of Saksham Bal Vikas Sanstha (Saksham). Saksham is a charitable organization committed to providing education – academic and vocational, to the underprivileged children. They run a school in Gurgaon, educating over 230 students, from ages 4 to 18. The school is run free of cost to the children. Under her guidance Saksham arranged various camps for the Parents of these under privileged children. The parents included daily wage laborers, vegetable sellers, masons, etc. The attendance, feedback and learning at these camps were phenomenal. The camps organized imparted financial knowledge, informed and educated them about savings, insurance, and other financial products. Information imparted at the camps included Aadhaar related information, Jan-Dhan Yojana, Affordable Insurance covers like Personal Accidents, Mediclaim, simple life covers, saving products, etc. She has also worked with various colleges to get interns who would then guide and further educate the parents of children having finance related queries.

Mr. Jagdish Kumar Goddanti

Mr. Jagdish has formed the organization ‘Telgu Network people living with HIV/AIDS’ in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS who need care and support services is continuously increasing in Andhra Pradesh. Given the chronic but clinically manageable nature of HIV and the number of new infections, demand for care and support at institutional, community and family levels will only increase in the foreseeable future. A family of 7 members in 2003 has spread to 2.5 lakhs today. The organization provides free lifelong nutrition & educational support for 1000 infected families of Guntur district. 3000 women living with HIV/AIDS are roped in to support groups and every month they are holding support group meetings. Mutual sharing, learning and up gradation of knowledge levels, information of available services /resources are some of the activities in the agenda. 500 people living with HIV/AIDS are employed in different projects directly and indirectly their families are leading dignified quality of life.

Mr. Prakash Lokhande

Prakash was trained by the Art of living as a volunteer. He was trained by the organization in various capabilities like development works in villages, selfless seva for the village and for the nation. He was provided with the information education and the communication materials. In total he was capacitated by the organization as a youth leader. After he became the youth leader and the faculty he capacitated many youths as youth leaders those who are working in their own village. There are 4 beggar’s homes in Ahmednagar, each beggar home has 80-90 inmates. Prakash and team under the banner of Art of living has reached and taught them the skills development programs and personality development programs. He has touched around 400 inmates in these 4 beggar’s home in Ahmednagar. 150 youngsters from these inmates have undergone Art of living’s youth leadership training program. 12 inmates have been 100% rehabilitated. The Organisation has promised to give jobs to the physically fit, young beggars, at Rs 6,000 per month, after they complete their imprisonment. The handicap beggars are entitled to get a pension of Rs 1,000 per month from the Government. The Art of living team helped them to get it. Today more than 60 beggars are earning well and living a gracious life under his guidance.



Mr. Nagraj Gangolli

Nagraj has over 12 years of experience in the field of social service and reformation across various areas of service including rehabilitation, training, counselling and community development. He has constructed more than 180 toilets and still work is in progress for constructing more toilets. He has trained and built team of many volunteers/ workers to carry out services undertaken which paved way for formation Divine Karnataka Project (DKP) team. DKP has been working currently in 80 slums and 150 villages in northern districts of Karnataka. The vision is to empower these communities across these areas and build self-reliant and self-sustaining growth socially and economically. Nagaraj has taught various programs of Art of living to 1200+ inmates, 12 of them have become the trainers and train other co-inmates in the jails of Karnataka. He has also planted more than a lakh of tree in the districts of Raichur and Koppal. He has conducted awareness camps and Programs on the Environment, Global warning, Medical Camps and awareness programs on the food and nutritional values. He has also undertaken Water conservation project at Lakshmipura village in Karnataka. He has rejuvenated two rivers benefitting more than 160+ villages through Kumudvathi river and 49 villages benefitting by Vedavathi river. He has been working on the injection wells to preserve the water. More than 20 wells have been done and still work to build more wells is in progress.

Ms. Smita Bharti

Having lived through a difficult life personally, Smita now works to give voice to many who yet struggle for their sense of self and right to their body through the medium of theatre and film. She is a seasoned creative educator on subjects ranging from Equality, Gender, Peace and Conflict Resolution to Sexuality and Leadership. She uses theatre to develop emotional competencies and correlates them to personal, relational and professional enhancement of both, the overall quality of life and performance within the work place and helps people arrive at action points that lead to sustainable peace building. She has worked extensively with survivors of domestic violence and child sexual abuse, using storytelling and theatre as the medium of interaction. She has also worked in prisons with under trials and convicts. Her ability to rise from the ashes, create a life of meaning for herself and use the learning from her own sorrow to benefit others is what makes her a true Woman of the Elements.

Ms. Laila Saein

Laila Saein, a journalist and teacher chose to work for the underprivileged children/ youth in Wayanad. Laila works selflessly to support minorities, tribes and farmers. She founded the ambitious project Leadership Village YLP in 2009, to identify and train potential leaders. She established a Living Library for the children and youth and regularly volunteers her time there. Laila actively participated in the Literacy program of Kerala to make the state 100 percent literate during 1990s. She also introduced the Peace Gong children's newspaper to Kerala. She founded Wayanad Shishu Panchayat and represented India in the International Human Rights Conference, Taiwan, 2013. TOASMASTERS International awarded her for leadership and education. To inspire innovations among students she started the annual Back Benchers conference in 2014. She works for AFRC to impart life skills and media studies. Considering her volunteering and services to society Laila's story was included in the UN book on volunteering.



Mr. Prakash HM

Prakash, born to farmers Halappa & Janki in Alursiddapur in Coorg, had to walk 4 kms to the nearest school. Reading about the brighter world outside, in his high school, he had a dream to get a school in his village which had neither bus service nor even a cycle. Poverty forced him to drop PU studies and work as a lorry cleaner. Later he came to Bangalore and joined Buoyancee as an office boy where he studied English as he learnt driving. He became a driver carting Buoyancee staff and decided to become a staff which motivated him to learn Calligraphy. After nearly 10 years, he headed Calligraphy dept. and started his own institute. He became a consultant to Times of India NIE and later to Deccan Herald. He was interviewed by TV channels and also was covered by the news. Prakash finally decided to leave behind his lucrative and people centric jobs and went back to his village where he started his School Sai Education which today has over 200 students from his village. His school has now classes till 7th and if things go well he wants to open a college too. He motivates the youth in his village and is also the youth president conducting various projects to empower them.