

Shri. G. V. Subba Rao

**Recipient of the Award for Outstanding
Contribution in the field of Constructive Work - 2013**

Born: May 23, 1934

Shri. G. V. Subba Rao who is the President of the Gramdhan Nirman Samithi, since his childhood days has been involved in Gandhian activities alongwith with his father who was associated with the freedom movement and the Socialist Party. As a student leader Shri Subba Rao was very active in associating students with social work based on Gandhi-Vinoba's ideologies.

Shri Subba Rao joined the Bhoodan Movement of Acharya Vinoba Bhave. In 1954, he was asked by the Hyderabad State Bhoodan Yagna Samiti to work in Nagarkurnool area of Mahabubnagar District, in collecting Bhoodan from the landlords and distributing to the landless people in the same village. In the year 1956, Vinobaji toured (*padyatra*) for 30 days in the Mahabubnagar district. He worked tirelessly for the Bhoodan movement. Shri. Subba Rao collected 20,000 acres in Mahabubnagar and 12,000 acres of land in Hyderabad in bhoodan. He met every donor and distributed land according to the donor's selection and personally got land transfer patta from the government to the receiver of the donation. People recognize him as `Bhoodan Subbarao'.

The Bhoodan movement gradually involved the Gramdan Movement and the concept of Gram Swaraj was initiated which led 35 villages declared as Gramdan villages. Shri. Subba Rao also worked to form the Sarvodaya Gramdan Co-operatives Societies in three villages. Work on restoration of the lakes, building roads and digging common well for agricultural use and activities related to sanitation and hygiene, were carried out.

In 1964, he set up Kasturba Memorial Harijan Girls Hostel in Nagarkurnool which led to the upliftment and education of dalit girls.

Shri. Subba Rao worked for prohibition of the arrack and toddy drinking habits among the people of the region especially those belonging to the labour class; and made them take an oath voluntarily. This became a mass movement with participation of nearly ten thousand people joining this awareness rally in 1983.

After Bhoodan work, Khadi production was the first activity which Shri Subba Rao had undertaken to facilitate employment of villagers as spinners and weavers. He specialized in khadi towels and blankets which have become popular even in other States. Shri Subba Rao's khadi activity is associated with the KVIC only for certification and not for subsidy. His work has been recognised through several awards. Gramdan Nirman Samithi set up Ambar Charkha units and weaving centres. Shri Subba Rao participated in Khadi exhibitions to promote sale of khadi.

To train and empower the unemployed youth, Gramdhan Nirman Samithi, under the guidance of Shri Subba Rao, initiated book binding and tailoring programs during 1993-1996.

Shri. Subba Rao also implemented the Sheep Development Programme in 1993 and Rural Sanitation Programme in 1996 supported by CAPART. The Programmes benefitted seven villages of Nagarkurnool.

Books in Telugu have been published through State Sarvodaya Mandal to propagate the philosophy of Gandhi.

In 1991, "Sarvodaya Challenged Children Residential School" was set up for the physically handicapped and hearing impaired children. Currently there are 60 students -31 boys and 29 girls. This program is supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The school has helped the children to be self sufficient with self confidence and self respect. Most of them belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Quite a few students have brought laurels to the school.

Shri G. V. Subba Rao organized and formed Market Hamali Trade Union in the Nagarkurnool town and campaigned for workers' rights. He has been proactively involved in Goseva, Padayatras and conducting youth camps in the region.

Shri. Subba Rao worked for twelve years as a General Secretary of A. P. Sarvodaya Mandal. He was elected as a State Sarvodaya Mandal President in 2003. Shri Subba Rao was honoured with the Acharya Vinoba Award in 2000, Loknayak Jayprakash Narayan Award in 2002 and Harijan Sevak Award in 2005.

He was proactive in organizing the All India Nature Cure Conference in 2010, worked in flood affected areas in 2009 and organized the Youth Cycle Yatra for Economic Equality in 2010 in Andhra Pradesh.

Through such a wide spectrum of initiatives and programmes among almost all classes of people, and because of his personal touch and involvement, Shri. Subba Rao has made a difference to the lives of the people he has served. He is a unique combination of a Constructive Worker and a Satyagrahi. He truly is a functioning and living disciple of Gandhi.

Contact details:

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