

Shri Kashinath Trivedi

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Work-1995

Shri Kashinath Trivedi who is 90 years old started as a teacher and after coming in contact with Gandhiji in 1925 he joined the Sabarmati Ashram as co-editor in Hindi Navjivan. He moved to Wardha in 1935 and was Hindi teacher, Secretary and Principal of Mahila Ashram at Wardha till 1939. In 1941 he became involved in Nai Talim work and on 12th September 1942, he was arrested by the British Government and imprisoned for 25 months.

He agitated for people's rights and responsible government in the princely state of Barwani, in 1947 and he worked actively to establish communal harmony following the communal riots after independence. He was appointed the first Education Minister of Madhya Bharat.

For 70 years Shri Trivedi had dedicated himself to the promotion and propagation of Gandhiji's constructive programme. Popularly known as "Gandhi of Nimar" he has guided and inspired a whole generation of Gandhian and Sarvodaya workers and institutions in Madhya Pradesh.

The Gram Bharati Ashram established by him in Tavlai, a village in the Adivasi region of Dhar District of Madhya Pradesh has been involved in developing a Gandhian, decentralized, village-oriented, self-sufficient community and has made an important contribution to the development of the region through its activities in education of tribal school children, khadi and agricultural work.

In his tenure as Secretary/Chairperson of M.P. Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, M.P. Sarvodaya Mandal, M.P. Bhoodan Yagnya Board, and other institutions involved in rural development and constructive work in Madhya Pradesh, he guided, organized and conducted voluntary constructive activities and trained constructive and Sarvodaya workers. The journals 'Bhoomi-Kranti' and 'Shatabdi Sandesh' edited and published by him were the main means of propagating and communicating the Sarvodaya ideology to workers and to the public in M.P. during the peak days of the Bhoodan movement.

Shri Trivedi has made an important contribution in adding to and enriching Hindi literature about Gandhian Philosophy, Sarvodaya, Child Education and Social Development by his translation of over 125 books from Gujarati to Hindi. Through his translations, some of the major works of Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and Shri Gijubhai Badheka, became available to the Hindi world.

The first movement to protest against and to raise the environment and rehabilitation problems related to the proposed building of the Narmada dam was started by Shri Kashinath Trivedi, by organizing Narmada Ghai Nirman Samiti. He continues to provide inspiration and guidance to the Narmada Bachao Andolan workers.

Shri Trivedi has made a very good contribution in awakening social awareness about issues related to Children's Rights and Dignity of the Child. He banned the practice of giving physical punishment in all government schools when he became the Education Minister of Madhya Bharat and propagated the Nai Talim. He has written profusely on Child Education.

Shri Trivedi has been honoured with numerous awards including 'Sahitya Chakravarti' , 'Sahitya Vachaspati' of Hindi Sammelan, and the 'Balamitra Gold Medal'