



GeriCaRe

(Geriatric Care and Research Organisation)

Confers

Bipin Bihari Dhal

with

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Panini Samman – 2021



Bipin Bihari Dhal (b 1932) belongs to Bodua, a tiny village in Jajpur district in Odisha, India.

Mr Dhal has been a teacher all his life, providing holistic, humanistic and value-based teaching not only for his students in classrooms but for fellow beings in the community.

He is one of the founders of *Yajneswar* School in his remote village which caters to the educational needs of local young children who otherwise had to cross massive rivers to access school elsewhere. As a philanthropic person he has helped many poor students for their studies, often having them in his home as family members.

He follows the principles of Gandhian thought of 'simple living and high thinking'. He has taken up social service as the motto of his life, and has been associated with many organisations related to literature, culture and spirituality. His service for community started early with participation of India's freedom movement and later arranging support for fellow-countrymen during days of war and struggle.

He has been a cultural ambassador for his community arranging social and religious functions such as drama, '*melan*', '*pala*' and '*jajna*'. He is the founder of '*Naam Mandir*', a centre promoting spiritual discussion for common people, especially for elderly. The centre also provides shelter to needy older adults. He is a district level member of The Indian National Trust for the Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). His efforts have improved the sociocultural values in his community.

He supports '*Sovaneeya Andolan*' for promoting higher civility in society. His help as a member of '*Nishap*' has been highly sought and appreciated by his local community, where as one of the member of a small team of respected individuals they solve disputes and issues in the villages amicably, without these being escalated to long-drawn costly court-cases.

Interesting as it sounds, he has penned an anthology of poems '*Jibanayan*' which was published in 2018; and he is working on another book '*Sukti, Suman Sambhar*' which highlights moral and ethical values of life.

He has been felicitated by various organisations over the years; some of them include: *Chalaghar Sahitya Sansad*, and *Bhasha Sanskruti Parisad*. He has received '*Seva Ratna Samman, 2007*' and '*Guru Shrestha Samman, 2018*', besides many others.

GeriCaRe (Geriatric Care and Research Organisation) is privileged to honour Shri Bipin Bihari Dhal with **the Panini Samman, 2021**.