



MR. SIDDHARAJ DHADDA

Recipient of the Award in the Field of Constructive Work - 2002

Born: February 12, 1909

Master of Arts, Bachelor of Laws (L.L.B)

A complete believer in the philosophy of constructive movement propounded by Mahatma Gandhi, Siddharaj Dhadda is one of those exceptional individuals who practices what he preaches. In his own life style, he has imbibed the tenets of the constructive movement on important matters like Basic Education, use of Khadi & Village Industries products, removal of orthodoxy in marriages, equal importance to physical and other work, encouraging household ladies to take up social work.

Since 1942 when he pledged to devote the remaining years of his life for social and constructive activities, Siddharaj Dhadda has actively worked for the constructive movement by associating himself with important committees, contributing articles to papers and promoting as well as editing the first Hindi Daily newspaper "Lokvani" In Rajasthan.

In 1946, Siddharaj Dhadda was simultaneously appointed Industry & Commerce Minister of the Rajasthan Government and the Chairman of the Rajasthan Village Industries Board. But in 1957 he resigned from the Congress party and joined the Sarvodaya Movement. For a very long time under the inspiration and direction of Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Jayaprakash Narayan, he engaged himself in Sarvodaya activities, Bhoodan and Khadi & Village Industry movement. In addition, he actively participated in relief activities, Harijan Seva, Naturopathy, Rashtra Bhasha, Go-seva, Prohibition, Communal Unity, National Integration etc. Dhadda believes in the supreme importance of people's power for such activities and for the successful working on democracy. His emphasis on development is on the "Man" and in the economic and political level development through decentralisation with a village as a unit.

Dhadda's achievements in constructive movement are considerable. These include training for livelihood of the weaker sections of society, ladies, scheduled castes and tribes in spinning & weaving, painting and printing. As a result several people have obtained remunerative employment, larger incomes and better education. Technology has also been inducted by the use of new tools and instruments to increase efficiency and income. This has brought a change in the lives of the weaker sections of the population and developed their self-confidence.

In the field of rural development, several tanks and nala bunding programmes have been undertaken with a view to increasing the supply of water through conservation of rain in the villages of Bhavanipura, Salarampura, Dhar, Govindpura. In the 7 villages of Devakinan-danpura, Kriparampura, Badmahavatan, Burtia and Dani, irrigation wells have been dug. For 14 Gramdan villages a total village development plan has been prepared.

A plan for providing employment opportunities for the vulnerable sections has been prepared and 73 houses and community dwellings have been constructed. 63 villages have been benefited by this scheme. In several villages about 200 shouchalayas (toilets) have been constructed. About 100 families are taking advantage of preparing compost manure.

Dhadda's outstanding achievement has been the development of large number of constructive workers who have been inspired by his personal example, his active economic support and ideological guidance.

He has been a shining example of total commitment and endeavour whether as a Constructive Worker, an office bearer of Constructive and Social organisations, as an aggressive opposer of the Emergency, as a holder of political and ministerial office and as a totally dedicated follower and practitioner of Gandhian teaching and philosophy.

No wonder Jayaprakash Narayan chose him as his sole companion among numerous Gandhians for accompanying him for a world tour for pacifism and harmony. Siddharaj Dhadda today represents a living link between pacifists and non-violent activists of the whole world.

