

## A Benevolent Freedom Fighter and Jamnalal Bajaj Awardee 'Ajnya'

*Gadadhar Sarangi  
Bibhuti Bhusana Acharya*

**S**hri Biswanath Pattnaik who is known as the Gandhi of Koraput has made his life a success through a lot of obstacles and struggles. His educational qualification is up to class 8th. His native village is Kumarada, Digapahandi. He has served as a non-formal teacher for a few years. He was highly inspired by B. Satyanarayan Reddy, former Governor of Orissa, Pyarimohan Mohapatra, Rajya Sabha M.P., Dr. Sujata Acharya, Reader at Cochin, Kerala and Giridhari Gomango, Different newspapers and journals of Odisha have published his activities through interviews and features. Print Media as well as electronic media have very often brought him to limelight. He has been awarded Jamnalal Bajaj Award. He has identified himself as a great patriarch of a lot of members.

Though he is a bachelor and a Sannyasi, he was the parent of a lot of Orphan children. He has given hope to many hopeless and helpless persons. He has established many children's homes, Kanyashram, Short Stay Homes for destitute women and old age Homes. He has opened High



Schools for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind children. His way is long from Bari to Kujendri form Kujendri to Kalahandi and from Kalahandi to Kandhamal. He has been able to provide free education to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children of undivided districts of Phulbani,

Koraput, Kalahandi and Ganjam. He has also made efforts for the education of women. He has inspired all his followers to keep up with the Gandhian Philosophy and ideals of Vinova and Jayaprakash. He has become "Gramadan Sardar" by distributing land to the landless. He has spread and expanded the Basic Education among people. He has covered a vast area on foot. He has set free the innocent Adivasis from the exploitation of the money lenders. He stands in the Character of Jagannath in the novel of Gopinath Mohanty. He

has been imprisoned twice and has been behind the bars for more than 3 years for taking active part in the freedom movement. He has spent some time with Laxman Naik in Koraput jail. He was kept under police supervision for a long time. He has not recommended his name for Political



Prisoner's stipend although his name is in the Selection Board for stipend. His favourite Bhajan is "God take me there where people are in tears". His favorite prayer is "Work is Worship, follow the right path and break the walls that stand against making the real man". Shri Subash Chandra Mishra of Koraput has been awarded by Orissa Sahitya Academy for his work on the life of Shri Biswanath Ajyana while Abhaya Mahapatra has been honoured for his writing "Way to the forest". Dr. Bhubanmohan Pattnaik, the pleader of the tribal has come in contact with Sir to solve the native problems. Mohammad Baji of Nawarangpur is a co-worker of Sir. He is the Chief Editor of the Banabasi Magazine, which reflects the tone of the Adivasi. His life is simple and real. He has given up taking salt in his food since the death of Gopabandhu Choudhury. He has settled many inter-caste marriages.

He always puts on Khadar. He speaks about Gandhi. His knowledge is as high as Himalayas and personality is as clean as dew drop. He has escaped many plots of assassinations.

His Economy is strange. He setup "Banabasi Seva Samiti" in 1972 at Balliguda (Kandhamal) with a capital of five thousand only (just as Gopabandhu started The Samaja).

Now its activities are widespread. It is the oldest voluntary organization in Kandhamal district. He has travelled a lot on foot in Odisha in the company of mother Ramadevi, Malati Choudhury and others. He is associated with many Social Service organizations. He is also the pioneer and advisor of many. He has started his 'Padjatra' on the 2nd October 2008, the International Non-violence day, at Baliguda in the wake of the communal riot in Kandhamal district.

His life, thoughts, and philosophy in the present materialistic world are praiseworthy. He

likes to embrace death without being a burden to any body. He wants to lose himself in isolation and hopes to be of some use in the new life. He has announced an annual prize of Rs.25000/- (Twenty five thousand) each for illustrative example in social service one for men and the other for women's as Acharya Harihar Gopabandhu Choudhury Smarak Samman and Maa Rama Devi Malati Choudhury Smarak Samman respectively.

His work to remove untouchability from society is beyond description. He is far away from honour, award and prize. He never fails to accomplish any work how so ever difficult it may be. He is affectionate to all restrictive of caste, creed and religion. "Service to Mankind is Service to God" is his motto. He picks up any one in difficulty to his Samiti.

He has shown the light of education to many orphans. He has opened residential schools for the meritorious students. His dreams are to introduce technical, medical and management education free of cost bringing about a change in the fields of Tribal education. He is of the opinion that a university should be setup for Adivasi culture, language and literature. We congratulate and warmly welcome him as he is conferred with Doctorate Degree on the completion of 150 years of freedom movement. This is our highest regards for him.

### **Eventful life of Biswanath Pattnaik**

**Birth : 11.11.1916**

**Place of birth : Kumarada (Digapahandi)**

**Father: Upendra Pattnaik**

**Mother : Indumati**

Came in contact at Puri with Acharya Harihar, Stayed at Kujendri (Koraput, busy in Bhudan

work; a life long bachelor, Established Banabasi Seva Samiti, Associated with different organizations and volunteers starting from the Car festival at Puri to Kumbhamela at Alahabad.

### **Chief Editor : The Banabasi**

And awarded Honors : Justice Rajendra Das Award, Indian Tribal Sevaka Sangh Award, Saral Prize, Pradyumna Bal Award, Radhanath Award, Adivasi Mahavidyalaya, Balliguda N.S.S. Award, Sarbodaya Sevak Award, Jammalal Bajaj Award for constructive work - 2008 with a cash prize of five lakh rupees.

Jammalal Bajaj Foundation citation says - Shri Pattnaik is a dedicated, constructive Gandhian social worker, freedom fighter and Survodaya leader. He has spent his life for the well-being of poor tribals and rural people. He

takes a simple diet, wears Khadi clothes and leads a simple life. He likes to pray with children every morning and evening. He is a bachelor.

Shri Pattnaik received Best Social Worker Award from the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi, in 1995 & 1996. He also received the Justice Rajkishore Das Award in 1996-97, and the 23rd Sarala Award for outstanding contribution in the field of social work for the year 2002. He received the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhabana Award-2003 by outstanding dedicated social service.

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Gadadhar Sarangi and Bibhuti Bhusana Acharya,  
Banabasi Seva Samiti, Balliguda, Kandhamal, Odisha.