

DHAN Foundation wins the India NGO Award, 2009



DHAN (Development of Human Action) Foundation, an NGO based in Madurai was awarded the India NGO award, 2009 by Mr. Mukul Wasnik, Honourable Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. The award was conferred on 17th September, 2010 at the award ceremony organized at New Delhi.

DHAN Foundation has been working since 1997 to make significant changes in the livelihood of the poor through building scalable, cost effective and sustainable innovations for self-reliance. The Foundation is currently working with nearly eight lakhs poor families of poor women, small and marginal farmers, traditional artisans, fishermen and other marginal communities, in rural, urban, tribal and coastal contexts, across 12 states in the country.

Over 200 entries were there for the NGO Awards 2009. All the entries were put through a stringent three level selection process and one organization in each budget category (small, medium and large) per region were finally shortlisted as Regional Awardee. These Regional Awardees were presented to a jury panel who selects the NGO of the Year in each category. The jury included Mr. Ajay Mehta, CEO of National Foundation for India; Mr. Arun Maira, member of the Planning Commission; Mr. Pradeep Gupta, Chairman of CyberMedia Group; Ms. Rohini Nilekeni, Chairperson and founder of Arghyam and Mr. Rowland Roome, Chief Executive of the Aga Khan Foundation, India. The jury visited the territory of work of various NGOs and assessed their performance on various parameters from services to finances.

DHAN Foundation won the award under large NGO category. Other recipients of the award are: Calcutta Rescue and India Foundation for the Arts (both joint awardees in Medium category) and The Salaam Baalak Trust (Small category). The categories have been made on the basis of the annual budget of the organisation.

Speaking at the award ceremony Mr. Ashvin Dayal, Managing Director, Asia Rockefeller Foundation said "The awards are an innovative mechanism to promote professional and ethical standards in India's nonprofit sector by recognizing NGOs for their outstanding practice, achievements, and financial sustainability. By encouraging an accountable and effective nonprofit sector, the India NGO awards contribute to an enabling environment in which philanthropic resources are deployed more effectively and efficiently for greater impact".

"If the people working in the social sector enter politics, they will be able to transform the lives of a large number of people," said Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Mukul Wasnik. "These NGOs are working silently in the country and an award like this gives them the recognition they truly deserve. Problems like female foeticide, illiteracy and unemployment could be addressed more effectively if these NGOs start working closely with the government," he added.

The India NGO awards were instituted by The Resource Alliance, an international not-for-profit organization in partnership with The Rockefeller Foundation, with an aim to advance the country's non-profit sectors by promoting financial and organisational sustainability. The awards are instituted to honour nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) adhering to good standards and practices in resource mobilisation, accountability and transparency thus also setting examples for other players in the nonprofit sector too.

