

NAPSWI LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2020

(To a professional social work practitioner who made distinct contribution in any specific area of practice)

Mr. Sunil Deshpande



Mr. Deshpande, a person with excellent academic credentials including BSW & MSW, is an alumnus of Nagpur University. He is a professional with an exceptional distinction has worked closely with the government departments as well as within the government set up and has the capability and competence to provide a strong visible leadership to the programmes he anchors. He devoted his life in researching, innovating and developing of different aspects of science regarding bamboo handicraft, plantation and construction. There after he achieved the title “Venu Putra”. Mr. Deshpande possesses an overall working experience of more than three decades in diverse areas in which primarily 32 years of working experience with Bamboo Handicraft and Bamboo Construction (since 1988);

AproopNirman-Bamboo Handicraft Designing Development (1988-89); Vikas Bharti-Trainer and Coordinator for Bamboo Handicraft Development (1989-91) with BirjiyaAsur Tribe and Traditional Artisan in Bishanpur, Jharkhand; Resource person of Bamboo technology at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Initialization I.I.T Delhi (2003); Bamboo Consultant for more than 20 NGOs.

He held many key positions such as - founder member-Samoorna Bamboo Design, Nagpur (2020); Board Member, Bhartiya Livelihood Foundation, New Delhi (2019); Committee Member, Maharashtra Bamboo Board, Mumbai (2017-20); Study Committee Member in developing policies for Bamboo sector (2017); Founder, Gram GyanPeeth (2016) and many other organizations. Mr. Deshpande conducted and participated in a number of research projects on a wide range of issues such as -HunarKhojYatra, sponsored by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi; Gram Gyanpeeth, Melghat, Maharashtra; and Gram Gyanpeeth, Madhya Pradesh. He has trained more than 10,000 SC/ST/Other youth in bamboo handicraft & housing, besides playing key role in bringing out order to give 1500 bamboo to each artisan family, drafting a new bamboo policy for Maharashtra, constructing more than 1700 affordable bamboo houses out of which 742 in Kuchchh, Gujarat earthquake affected region and developing bamboo rakhi designs.

Mr Deshpande is recipient of the Adivsi Sevak Puraskar, Nashik, Government of Maharashtra (2017); Dr. Babasaheb Samaj Bhusan Puraskar, Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra (2015), Maharaja Agrasen Puraskar, Bhopal, Government of Madhya Pradesh (2015) and many others recognition from Government and other agencies. He has highlighted various issues regarding bamboo handicrafts and artisans by writing articles and books. His writings have been published in various newspapers, reports, books etc.