



WEBINAR ON

DAAN UTSAV - "THE JOY OF GIVING WEEK"

Daan Utsav is India's festival of giving. Launched in 2009, the festival is celebrated every year from October 2 to 8. The practice of *Daan* means the voluntary giving of help to those in need, is a humanitarian act. We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas we are connected and what we do affects the entire world. When we do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity. As humans, we need to be a little more compassionate towards others rather than being concerned with our personal profit and benefit.

By doing Daan and showing generosity, we begin to understand and to acknowledge the fact that we are interdependent in a respectful and supportive way. Daan is the act of giving money, goods or time to the unfortunate. There are crores of people who are not privileged enough to even have a shelter over their head. They do not have dreams in their eyes. They face the harsh reality of life to struggle hard each and every moment to have food at least two times a day. Doing Daan allows you to see life from someone else's perspective—their struggles and hardships, their triumphs and strengths. It is a privilege to be a witness to another's life. And in being one, you gain appreciation and gratitude for your own life. The Act of Giving is the gift that keeps on giving back to the giver. So, whenever we get an opportunity, we must donate whatever is in our hands starting from giving smiles, volunteering services, or to donating money. To celebrate the Act of giving, our country observe Daan Utsav as India's biggest Festival of Giving during which people come together and perform acts of kindness by giving their time, material or money in interesting ways to any causes of their choice.

Each one of us has our own limitations. But spreading happiness gives a next level satisfaction. Our small act of kindness can bring a smile on otherwise grief-stricken face. Let's treat those who are in need with respect and dignity and make them feel valued. From auto rickshaw drivers to CEOs, school children to celebrities, homemakers to opinion leaders and media personnel, millions of people from all walks of life come together during this week to give their time, money, resources, or skills back to society in an unprecedented manner that is awe-inspiring. They do this by creating or participating in events of their choice.

This festival is being celebrated in different parts of Odisha since it started. Schools like Sai International School, different DAV Public Schools, DPS School Dhenkanal, Central schools of different locations even few Government schools celebrated in their way they deemed fit, children of Euro Kid (play school) of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar celebrated in a very different way.

Students from Colleges and Universities of the state gave a good time for this noble cause and celebrated it with unbounded fun and joy with underprivileged.

Employees from Corporates, Industries and Business houses did their bit of giving in various ways like wish tree, BastraSamman, Shramdaan and Blood Donation etc furthering the cause of this noble initiative.

Auto Association of Bhubaneswar took elderly people to Puri for Jagannath Darshan and last year spared time with destitute ladies for Lingaraj Darshan where Dalma Restaurant provided food and Monalisa Mohanty provided sarees to all. Monalisa is also organising Daan Utsav in her society every year and is distributing new clothes to all maids, drivers, security staffs, including their children. It has become a ritual for her.

The weeklong festival is not limited to cities, it has spread to smaller towns and villages also. Places like Badamba, Daspalla, Puri and Bari are celebrating it at a larger scale with the involvement of nearby villages. They offer new clothes, blankets, shoes, notebooks and snacks and beverage for children. Few people voluntarily offer free food, water, tea etc for all gathered at the festival. Children perform at stage, film for children screened, young donate blood and even elderly of Daspalla collected few lakhs of rupees and purchased a new van for carrying body after death and donate for public use.

Villagers of Badabarsing are continuously organizing this festival with much more interest like a mini fest where few volunteers connected to hundreds of donors for large scale offerings and distributing them to thousands of elderly people and children. Sometimes receivers also gave their bit of giving to complete the cycle.

NGOs who are major drivers of the festival and donors have their regular plans for every year to graduate the spirit of the festival to the next level. Bakul Foundation which started and grown along with this festival setup a library in 2019 and now have more than 30 libraries in the state. It has so far successfully distributed lakhs of books and volunteered so many hours of youth across the nation. PICUC, Adhikar, Aaina, CYSD, SOCH, YCDA like more civil society organizations involve people, institutions and corporates in various activities on this occasion of noble giving festival.

Truly this festival is a noble gift to the mankind. It added values to life and makes living much easier with being compassionate to each other and striking distinction never experienced before.

To spread this festival in Odisha we are planning a webinar on 1st October 4-6 pm.

President MSF – Sri Santosh Mishra welcomed the guests and the participants and said that it's a very positive idea started by some young minds in the year 2009 in India. There's no intention of spending a high amount of money & celebrate, but to serve the poor. There's a requirement of a beautiful mind & a beautiful mind-set. He beautifully explained of how Daan doesn't only limits itself to donation of money but it also includes the donation of one's time, sympathy or even one's precious smile to lessen the other's misery to an extent.

As a volunteer of Daan Utsav, Sri Bipin Mohanty started by saying that he wants Daan Utsav to reach each & every houses of the country. He also stated that this celebration is not restricted to a single caste or religion but is for everyone to observe. Mr. Mohanty took the help of the quote "Charity begins at home" to encourage the parents to imbibe the values & habit of charity in young kids. While saying so, he took examples of real life incidents of how kids gets influenced so easily by the idea of charity and they do it so happily. In the course of speaking, he also informed everyone that Odisha is the first state where the Daan Utsav reached villages & Badabaan is the first village in India to celebrate Daan Utsav.

Smt Subharee Das raised her concern about the topic of Daan Utsav not being discussed & debated as much as it should be which has led to people being unaware of such a celebration. She said that a lot of advertising & publicity is required to be done by the NGOs who celebrate this noble festival for a week to make the concept known to each & every person of our society. She also stated that the Daan we do has to be selfless without any expectations of even a blessing from the person at the receiving end. The Daan shouldn't be of what is excess with us, it should rather be of what the other person needs. She ended by saying that there's no shortage of money, there's lack of attitude and that attitude has to be built.

Media Journalist Itishree Nayak of News 7 sent a video message. She reminded everyone that the culture of Daan in India goes back to ages. But with time, we have forgotten our culture that we used to practice since several hundred years. The "Joy of Giving Week" is now celebrated to remind us of the rich culture that India celebrated for years. Ms. Nayak also shared a personal experience of her father advising her once that if the right hand does the charity, then the left hand must never know about it. She also requested all the viewers not to keep the celebration restricted to the week, but to make it a habit in one's day today life.

Govind Das, Secretary Gramuthhan started by sharing something that was taught to him by his parents at home from a very young age, It said "*You get how much you give & you must give how much u get*" & he has practiced the same throughout his life. He also said that it is very important for the giver to feel the sense of satisfaction that will again encourage him to even give more. He talked about the three Ms that is important in Daan, those are – Message, Material & Money. He also added that the celebration of this Daan Utsav has built a bridge between the giver & the receiver. At the end, he requested all the participants to take the responsibility to motivate others to participate in this beautiful initiative.

Sudarshan Chhotray, a Senior Journalist said that Daan Utsav is a celebration of Philanthropy. He dedicated this year's Daan Utsav to all the Philanthropist & volunteers who supported lacs of Migrant Laborers during the lockdown phase in country because of the pandemic. Mr. Chhotray gave a completely new definition to Daan by saying, it would be better for people to donate skills and resources to the needy ones so that they can utilize the same throughout their lives to earn their livelihood.

Kedareswar Chaudhry, who's the CEO of Darabar Sahitya Sansad began by saying how he was being taught to do charity since his childhood and said that his parents from the very beginning had made it clear that no one would ever go from their house empty handed. He stated that it's very important for people to do Daan because it helps in reducing the distress of the people who are suffering because of poverty and struggling for even food for two times a day. Then he informed how his organisation for the 30 last years is busy helping the people in needs during the time of natural calamities in Odisha. He ended by saying that there's a capacity in this society to do charity, therefore, to make it a culture Daan Utsav is celebrated across the country.

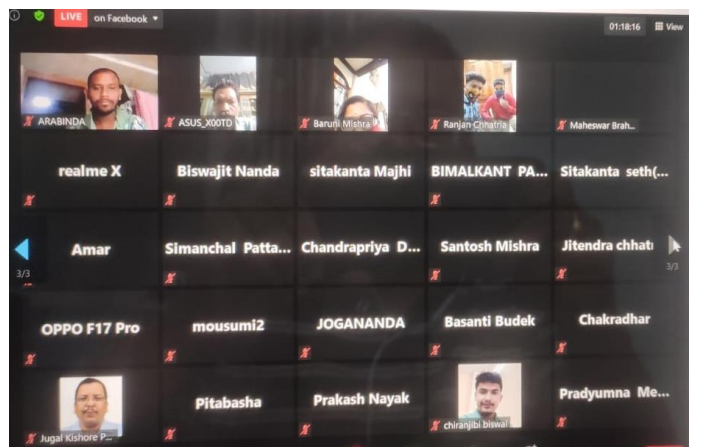
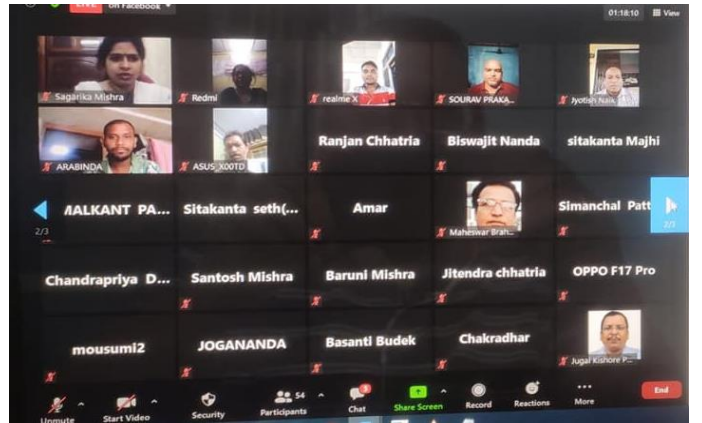
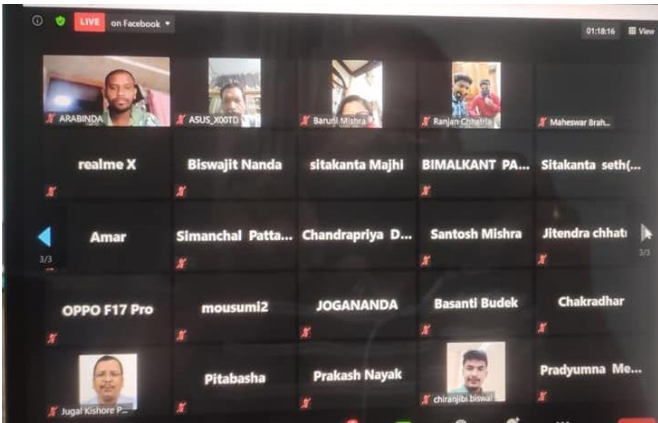
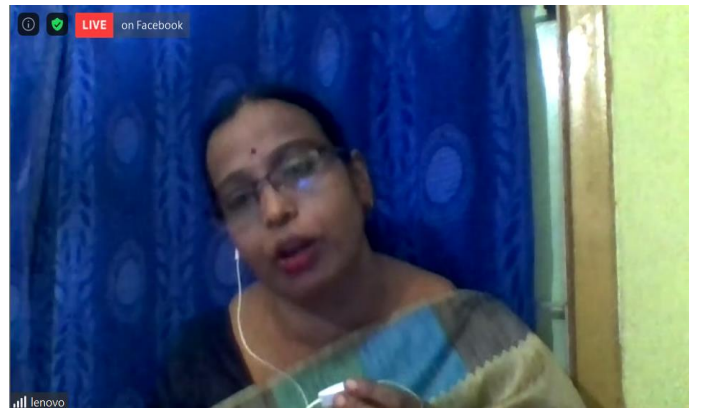
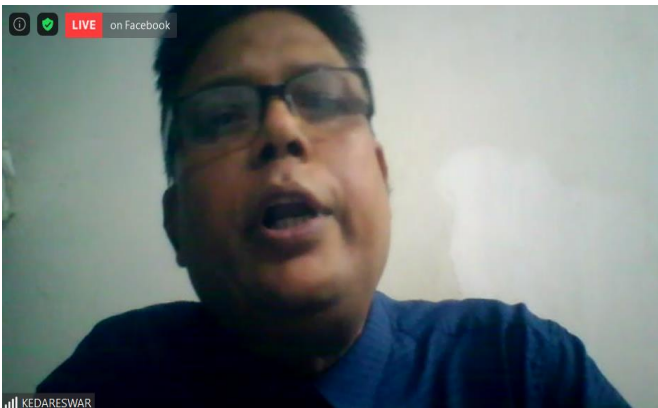
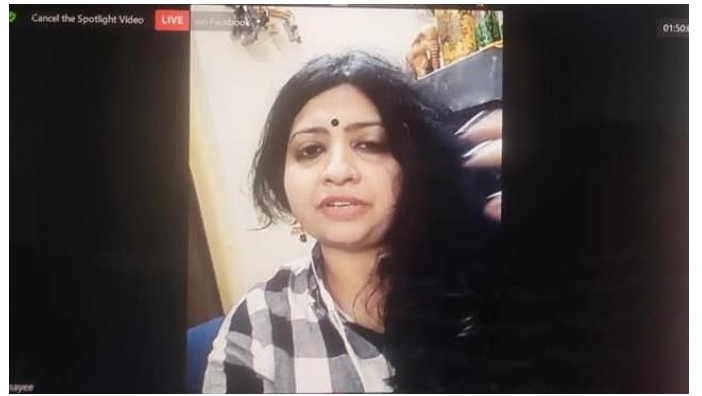
Chinmayee: said that Charity or Daan is the foundation of the Indian culture, therefore it's not a new concept. Though she's associated with an organisation that is related to kids, they always try to imbibe the virtue and goodness of charity in those kids. She stated that it's very important to convey this to the next generation to continue this noble cause.

Rojaleen Bhuyan: She started with a quote – *"Giving is the Master key for Success"*. She also brought in notice of how Mahashakti Foundation is indulged in Daan for the last 16 years and how much satisfaction it gives after touching the lives of these people. She spoke on how sharing our stuffs multiple our joy and there need not be an Awareness campaign for people to join in this virtuous cause, instead a motivational campaign is required for people to realize the sense of contentment that charity gives.

Ms. Sushrita Rath hosted the entire session and proposed the vote of thanks to wrap up the webinar.

IMAGE GALLERY:





AGENDA

Dt.: 01 October 2020

Time: 04:00 PM to 06:00PM

Welcome Note & Context Setting	Sri Sudarshan Chhotray Senior Journalist Director - Focus Odisha Foundation
Lead Presentation	Sri Bipin Mohanty Social Activist Volunteer - Daan Utsav
Guest Speakers	Sri Govind Dash Secretary Gram Utthan Sri K Chudhury CEO - Darabar Sahitya Sansad Sri Santosh Mishra President Mahashakti Foundation
Guest Speakers	Smt Subhashree Das Director Institute of Social Development Smt Chinmayee Panda Secretary Ankur Foundation Smt Rojaleen Bhuyan Vice President Mahashakti Foundation
Moderator	Sri Sudarshan Chhotray
Host	Ms. Sushrita Rath

PANELISTS:



Sri Bipin Mohanty

Sri Mohanty, after working for different corporates and institutions on Sales and Marketing, focused on communication (both print and digital). He started his own venture, MMA Information Systems in 1999 and started publication of a tabloid 'Twin City+'. For the last few years he has been working independently for the publications of 'Welcome to Odisha' district wise books. He continues to support corporates, institutions and industries on communication for development in Documentary film making & website making. Sri Mohanty is a volunteer of "Daan Utsav" since its inception and also zonal partner of Design for Change World Contest.



Sri Govind Chandra Dash

Sri Dash is the Founder and Member Secretary of Gram-Utthan. He earned a master degree in social work. He is also a senior ex-employ of Gram-Vikas for over 3 decades. He has worked as a development practitioner specializing in poverty, microfinance, livelihood programs and social security for rural communities in Odisha. Sri Dash leads the programs of overall leadership and administration functions at GU and is also in charge of strategic oversight, fund raising and internal capacity building of the GU team.



Sri Kedareswar Choudhury

Sri Choudhury is the Secretary cum CEO of "Darabar Sahitya Sansad", a promising local social Organization in coastal Odisha. He has handled projects on SHG(Self Help Group) & micro Finance, IGP (Income Generation Programme) for women, Youth Mobilization, TRYSEM (Training of rural youth for self-employment) & REDP(Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme) to name a few. Sri Choudhary has also attended Market Exposure in Handicrafts (Autumn Fair) in Birmingham-UK, International Leadership & Volunteers Programme at Washington DC & Regional workshop in Disaster Management in Dhaka-Bangladesh.



Sri Santosh Mishra

Sri Mishra, a retired OAS is the President of the leading livelihood development organisation of Odisha - Mahashakti Foundation. He has more than 40 years of experience in the field of rural development & SHG Bank linkage program. He has served as ASO Tahasildar, Block Development Officer in different Blocks of Odisha. Currently, he is heading the formidable Board of Mahashakti Foundation.



Smt Chinmayee Panda

Smt Panda is an eminent social activist and Founder of Ankur Foundation, an NGO that works for child welfare, anti-corruption, conducts plantation drives & bring awareness among masses about various social issues. She has been dedicated to this cause for over a decade, & is a well-known face in many events that highlights the cause of socially backward children & women.



Smt Rojaleen Bhuyan

Smt Bhuyan is the Vice President of a leading charitable trust named - Mahashakti Foundation. She is a Development Practitioner for over a decade and has a vast experience in the field of program operations in livelihood development and microfinance.



Smt Subhashree Das

Smt Das is the Director of ISD, an NGO based in Odisha. She is a front line women activist working to empower the women at all levels to have the rights and entitlements creating a space for their socio-economic, political & cultural status. She leads a state level campaign for policy advocacy addressing the key issues of women in terms of marriage, property rights, domestic violence, legal aid etc.



Sri Sudarshan Chhotray

Mr. Chhotray is a Journalist since 1993 who has worked with leading Media houses in the Country. He started his career with BLITZ Mumbai and has worked for Humanscape, India Today, Tehelka, India Insight, Outlook, The Wire, News18 Network & International Publications like The New Humanitarian etc. As a first Generation TV Journalist he has worked in Ajira Odisha, Aankhon Dekhi, Aaj Tak and ETC NEWS.

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