

CV of Bharat Dogra (August 2019)

Summary

Bharat Dogra is a 63 year old journalist and author who has written for 43 years in English and Hindi from the perspective of peace, environment protection, justice and equality, women's rights, livelihoods protection, democracy and alternative development paradigm. He has covered several social movements such as the Chipko movement, Narmada movement, anti-liquor efforts and RTI movement extensively. About 9000 articles and 380 booklets and books written by him have been published in English and Hindi . He has written at various times for various leading newspapers and journals in English and Hindi. His writings have been recognized in the form of awards and fellowships. He has made a special effort to write on some regions such as Uttarakhand and the Himalayan region and Bundelkhand region.

He has been involved closely with several peaceful social and environmental movements.

He was Convener of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information in its initial phase. He was Board Member and for some time the Chairperson of a big program in Delhi for homeless persons AshrayAdhikar. He was Chairperson for several years of Jan Hith Trust which provided fellowships for social workers.

Currently he is also Convener of Save the Earth Now Campaign with its SED Demand (demand for universal declaration of 2020-30 as the decade for saving earth). To provide the base for this campaign he has written four books on peace and environment recently including Planet in Peril, Protecting Earth for Children and Earth without Borders (plus a book on Hindi on these issues). His book on high relevance of Gandhiji's message for 21st century is under print.

Along with his wife Madhu Dogra he helped to set up several community libraries.

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More details

- Date of Birth : April 3, 1956
- Brief Description : A journalist and author who has been involved with several social movements and initiatives
- Publications : About 9000 articles and reports in various newspapers and journals including some of the most prestigious publications in India and abroad, mainly on development, environment, human rights and social reform issues in English and Hindi (nearly 5000 in Hindi and 4000 in English). Over 400 articles published in 2016 . A special concern of these writings is to search for alternative development paradigm based on equality, justice, peace, compassion and environment protection.
- Nearly 280 books and booklets in English and Hindi (plus about 100 which are out of print) including 'One Decade To Protect Life', 'Another Path Exists- Outlining An Alternative Society', 'Food Security in India- Alternative Policies and People's Initiatives', The Encyclopedia of Development Environment and Welfare' (in English and Hindi), 'Creating A Happier World', 'What Our Children Will Inherit', 'Protective Role of Humankind', 'India-Hope and Despair', 'Earth History and the Next Century', '14 Crucial Questions About GM Crops', 'Rastey Aur Bhi Hain (Hindi)', 'Dharti Ka Itihas Va Agle Sau Varsh,', 'Vikas Va Parayavaran Ka Vishvakosh', 'Kathin Daur Mein Ummeed (Hindi Poems)' and 'Kaisa Vikas Kiska Vikas (Hindi)'. Also a series of biographies on freedom fighters, social reformers, activists etc. including Frontier Gandhi, Sundarlal Bahuguna and others.
- Books
- on survival crisis : Protecting Earth for Children - Crucial Role of Next Decade - **Social Change Papers**
Earth Without Borders - One World for Protecting All
Survival Crisis - Planet in Peril - People's Response Only Way Forward - **Vitasta**
Dharti Ki Raksha Ke Liye Nirnayak Hoga Agle Dashak
One Decade to Protect Life- Justice, Equality and Peace Based Path for Resolving Urgent Survival Issues.
Earth History And The Next Century (Including A Plan To Link Reduction of GHG Emissions With Meeting The Basic Needs of All).
- Fellowships : Fellowship at the Institute of Social Sciences, N. Delhi. Some short-term fellowships for writing on development and environment issues with CSE and others .

- Editing : A features and articles service called NFS-India since 1985 (in English and Hindi).
- Radio : Radio talks and programs on FM Gold and other stations of All India Radio. Also some work with Community Radio.
- Web-site : www.bharatdogra.in
- Awards : Award for Overall Achievements
 Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award presented by the President of India for overall achievements in Hindi Journalism
- Rural Reporting
Statesman Awards for Rural Reporting (Thrice)
 - Environment Journalism
Cushrow Irani Award for Environment Journalism
 - Financial Reporting
Sachin Choudhary Award for Financial Reporting
 - Reporting on Food and Agriculture IAAS-FAO Award for reporting on food and agriculture
 - Reporting on Women in Rural Decentralisation
Sarojini Naidu Award for Reporting on Women in Rural Decentralisation
 - Labour Reporting
Ganeshshankar Vidyarthi Award, Chattisgarh for Labour Reporting
 - For Best Monthly Report (Thrice)
Grassroots Journal Award for best monthly report.
 - Social Movements and Alternatives
Award given by Gandhian organizations at Gandhi Peace Foundation on alternative development paths.
Rajendra Mathur Award - Given by Bihar Government for Hindi Journalism
Sanskriti Award
 - Human Rights Reporting
PUCL Award
- Other Work : Chairperson (Honorary), Jan Hith Trust for 15 years, 2002-early 2017.
- Taught journalism at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications, The Times of India's School of Social Journalism and elsewhere.
 - Mentor for Delhi University Research Project.

- Published several short stories and poems in Hindi and prepared poem-posters.
- Campaigned on behalf on several people's movements.
- Consultancy and evaluation work for UNDP, Action Aid, Oxfam, Water Aid, etc.
- Involvement in several social initiatives.
- Former Convener of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI).
- Press clippings service on highly relevant issues
- Helped to set-up many small-scale community libraries.

Education : B.A, Hons. (Economics), Delhi University.

More details on Writings

- Continuing and consistent writing on development and environment for 43 years from 1976 onwards in English and Hindi. Writings translated in many languages in India and other countries.
- Overall perspective of these writings has been justice and equality at all levels, environment protection and peace.
- Total of around 9000 articles have been published in leading newspapers and magazines in India, also some smaller newspapers and journals, feature services, on-line portals as well as some prestigious journals abroad.
- Nearly 380 books and booklets in English and Hindi have been published, (about 100 are out of print), out of which more than half are on development and environment issues.
- Poems and short-stories on development and environment issues, lectures and educational courses, role of mentor for Delhi University and other students for studying and writing on these issues.
- Reported extensively on several social and environmental movements including the movement of iron ore miners and other workers in Chattisgarh identified with Niyogi Ji, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Various phases of movements to save Himalayan rivers, Chipko Movement, Appiko Movement, land reform movement identified with Ekta Parishad, MKSS and Right to Information Movement, women- led anti-liquor movements as well as other movements of farmers, workers and other weaker sections including homeless persons. Several leading activists and leaders of these movements have expressed appreciation of the role played by this writer , particularly in helping movements in difficult times. Several times the writer spent his own meager financial resources to prepare booklets and other literature to help social movements . In the course of the Right to Information Movement the writer was also the first convener of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information and edited a Hindi journal on this issue. In the course of covering these movements the writer faced a lot of risks and victimization .
- Repeated reporting on natural disaster affected people including those affected by landslides, floods, earthquakes, cyclones , lightning and drought. Also a lot of writing on better disaster-preparedness.

- Took a lead in early reporting on climate change related issues , particularly in Hindi. Wrote several articles and reports in Hindi and English on climate change , mitigation and adaptation as well as improving resilience of communities. Also wrote a lot on renewable sources of energy.
- As it became clearer that climate change is only of several survival threatening and existential environmental problems I wrote four books in English and Hindi with focus on this issue while the fifth one is under publication.
- Made regional studies of vulnerable areas like Bundelkhand, Garhwal etc.
- From the beginning I opposed the chemical-intensive, ecologically harmful and costly farm strategy and wrote over three hundred articles and several booklets regarding the need to replace this with eco-friendly farming, self-reliant, low-cost technology suitable for small farmers. This led to my isolation in the initial stage but I never gave up my stand.
- From the very beginning I very strongly opposed the GM technology and wrote several hundred articles, several books and booklets to oppose this. I also played a key role in an international conference on this issue and addressed several groups of farmers and panchayat leaders to explain the technical issues in a simple manner.
- I interviewed and reported on several leading farm scientists who had been victimized for standing up for the real concerns of farmers. Visited several research institutes and exposed the wrong doings there.
- I opposed distorted policies in animal husbandry and dairy development and gave the concept of 'greater green revolution' to show how the mistakes made in the case of agriculture were being repeated in the context of dairying, fisheries, horticulture as well.
- I reviewed budgets year after year to reveal how areas important for farmers and weaker sections were getting less resources and how opportunities to raise adequate resources for them were being missed.
- I visited areas from where encouraging reports of constructive work in farming more suitable for small farmers and ecological protection, water conservation , protection of bio-diversity, mobilization of weaker sections etc. were being received and reported on these.
- I repeatedly took a stand that landless farm workers deserve special attention and I always worked to keep alive the issue of land-reforms and land redistribution in India at a time this was being increasingly neglected by the government.
- I reported on forests from the perspective of environment protection and livelihoods, while pointing out also the several distortions in official policies from this perspective. I reported a lot on people living near forests and tribal communities.
- I reported on the devastation caused by indiscriminate mining practices in Doon Valley, Jharkhand , Rajasthan, Odisha and elsewhere and wrote about the need for alternative mining policies. I also reported about problems of mining workers, particularly iron-ore workers.
- I reported a lot on protection of rivers and the problems created by several badly planned dam projects.

- I reported a lot on workers, particularly unorganized sector workers with special emphasis on construction workers, domestic workers and sanitation workers, farm workers, NREGA workers and forest workers.
- I reported on problems of several artisans particularly weavers, khadi and handloom sectors, wood-carving artisans and several other crafts persons.
- I took special care to report on vulnerable groups including scheduled castes and tribes, minorities, nomadic and semi-nomadic groups etc.
- I emphasized coverage of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food security in my writings including articles and field-reports.
- Social sectors like health and education, water and sanitation were well covered in my writings. I brought out booklets on many critical health issues while also contributing to Hindi adaption of Rural Health Atlas. I am helping to bring out a quarterly update on water and sanitation.
- I wrote a lot on local self-government and panchayati raj, including a monthly column that continued for almost three years in English and Hindi.
- I reported time and again on slum evictions, problems of slums and resettlement colonies as well as of homeless people. I was associated with efforts to mobilize and help homeless people as Chairperson as well as board member.
- I devoted a lot of time and effort to evolving an alternative paradigm of development, including writing several articles plus books on this important issue in English and Hindi.

