

### *Citation for Sister Jyoti Rosamma*

Sister Jyoti is a staff nurse and member of the Roman Catholic Congregation Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (SMMI). For the last 40 years, she has worked with and campaigned on behalf of marginalized people. She made use of her nursing skills and knowledge of human function and behaviour, especially for thousands of poor, marginalized and uncared-for people. She challenged the inhuman treatment meted out to Dalit people by money lenders and the land lords who exploit poor people and take advantage of them at every level, dividing families and clans.

Sister Jyoti's charismatic nature enables her to get alongside the daily lives of vulnerable people and raises their consciousness of social and political inequalities, rights, duties, talents and potentialities and the urgent need for unity and good organization. Thus, today the situation has changed.

Sister Jyoti started a micro-credit co-operative bank with a few women and 10 Rupees per person per month, paying minimal interest. Now more than 2000 women are using the facility, as well as about 450 children in groups and also some men and young people. They are now free of exploitation by the rich, women are safe, there is unity among families and villages, people help each other and land lords have left. There are enough funds for children's education, for treatments and for marriages. The people own the bank with 3,300,000 Rupees available for internal loans among the shareholders and for income-generating activities. Women have been trained to make washing detergents, candles and incense sticks for sale.

Sister Jyoti taught yoga, counselling and reflexology, acupuncture, making and using different tonics, massage oils and other herbal preparations as 'drugless therapies' to enable people to handle many of their illnesses and avoid the misuse and costs of allopathic drugs.

Sister Jyoti is currently the convener of the Forum for Justice and Peace (Bihar unit) for religious men and women. There are forums in every diocese in India, forming the new generation of their adherents in the effects of globalization on marginalized people and how they relate to issues of human dignity, freedom and equality as citizens of their country.

Sister Jyoti works in some 40 villages with the help of other Sisters and colleagues. She is well known in the district, and in 2013, she was awarded by the Bihar government for her service to the poorest and most neglected people by helping them to regain their human rights and dignity. The Bihar Voluntary Association awarded her for creating the best community organizations. She has many more dreams to put into practice, though she is aware that she is 69 years old and has fragile health, but is strong enough to liberate thousands more people. She sleeps very little but always has time for her prayers, which, she believes, is the secret of all her work.