

Tulasi R. Joshi, Ph.D.

An Educator, Social Worker and Philanthropist

Dr. Tulasi R. Joshi, in spite of being born and raised in Bajhang, one of the most remote and poorest districts of Nepal where he and his class mates had to copy chapters of high school textbooks, read under the pine kindling light at night, teach lower class students during day because of lack of teachers, collect grains with school friends during the harvest time so as to buy school supplies by selling them, write on discarded used Nepali papers, and study Nepali and geography for the SLC exam mostly at night and in the morning under the dedicated 10th grade educated Indian teacher Ram Datta Awasthi, was able to pursue his education. Without the dedication of this teacher and help of Bajhngi king Ram J.B. Singh and his son Om J.B. Singh, the SLC (Board certified 10th grade) education of Joshi and others in Bajhang would not have been possible at that time over 60 years ago. He had to travel 15 days to reach Kathmandu for taking the high school board exam (11 days on foot, 1 day by bus and 3 days by train in India). Now it takes only 2 days to travel from Bajhang to Kathmandu. In spite of these hardships, he excelled in education and received a gold medal from the King of Nepal in 1963. While he was doing his undergraduate and graduate studies in Kathmandu, he taught geography to support himself in Kathmandu. Later, his dedication and commitment for education earned him Masters and Ph.D. degrees from prestigious American universities.

He distinguished himself not only in education, but also in social services and charitable works mostly for the benefits of Nepal. As a result he received many recognitions and honors in Nepal and America that included a gold medal from the king of Nepal, recognitions by three governors of West Virginia, the prestigious Cyrus R Vance award of West Virginia Department of Education, USA, several recognitions and honors from Association of Nepal in the Americas (ANA), outstanding service award from Fairmont State University and the long standing service recognition honor by the Association of American Geographers (the largest international professional organization of geographers) for long dedicated service for the profession, perhaps only Nepali in America to receive such a recognition from a professional organization. Dr. Joshi was presented the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award last year, August 31, 2018 at the Nepali Convention 2018 in Chicago.

Dr. Joshi's contribution for the benefit of Nepali students is particularly noteworthy. He established scholarship programs (ANA Bajhang Scholarship, ANA-Tulasi and Marilyn Joshi Scholarship at Fairmont State University and International Scholarship at Fairmont State University) that benefited about 20 students from Bajhang for their higher education in Nepal, and over 40 Nepali students for their undergraduate education at Fairmont State University, West Virginia, USA. Total benefits from these scholarship programs



Honoring of Dr JTulasi R. Joshi by the Chief Minister of the Far West Province of Nepal Trilochan Bhatta (3rd from left) with the presentation of a plaque of felicitations and wrapping a shawl around him on behalf of National Tulasiram Secondary School (Dr. Tulasi R. Joshi 2nd from left) on the occasion of the welcome ceremony arranged by the School for Dr. Joshi (February 21, 2019) who donated 7 million rupees (about US \$70,000) to the School and his name Tulasiram was added to the School's name calling it National Tulasiram Secondary School. First from left is Mrs. Marilyn Joshi.

at Fairmont State University could be over US \$1,000,000.

In the beginning of this year he travelled to Nepal with his family members (wife, daughter and grandson), and made charitable donations for educational, religious and social organizations from his personal funds. He established scholarship programs at 3 schools donating over 1200,000 rupees each, made substantial donations to 9 educational, social and religious organizations in the amount of ranging from 41,000 rupees to 7,000,000 rupees. As a result, he and his family members were felicitated by these organizations in Bajhang and Dhangadhi with warm welcome ceremonies, and National Secondary School that received the donation of 7 million rupees added Dr. Joshi's name to its name calling it National Tulasiram Secondary School (Shree Rastriya Tulasiram Madhyavik Vidhyalaya). Because of his giving nature, PaschimToday, the prominent newspaper of Dhangadhi has called him hero of giving (Dan Bir).

His motto with exemplary works is: "Make as much money as you can, save as much money as you can and give for charities as much money as you can."

Dr. Joshi was inspired with cooperation by his wife Marilyn Joshi in a number of ways to pursue these works especially for the education of Nepali students.

ANA is very proud of Dr. Joshi as his efforts are exemplary to accomplish the mission of ANA especially in empowering Nepali students through education. Dr. Joshi is a life member and Advisor of ANA. He also was a former Treasurer and Communication Director of ANA.

