

## Shova Received Late Man Bahadur and Ishwori Gahatraj Award



Kathmandu, 11 May 2013- Shova Magrati, a hard working Dalit girl currently studying masters degree in English at Tribhuvan University has been awarded with [Late Sri Man Bahadur and Srimati Ishwori Gahatraj Award](#) for 2069. The ceremony was held at Kupondol, Lalitpur on 10 May, 2013. This is a one-time-only scholarship award established by senior veterinary scientist, public health expert and Prof. Dr. Drona P. Rasali in loving memory of his maternal grandparents. The purpose of this award is to honor the talent and potential of next generation of leaders to encourage them for scholarly studies of Dalit issues in future. Last year, he sponsored Late Damber Singh and Seti Rasali Scholarship Award for master's level student in the field of Sociology and Anthropology in memory of his grandparents.

The award consists of letter of appreciation along with the cash sum of NPR. 10,000. Chief Guest educationist Prof. Dr. Bidhyanath Koirala handed over the award to Shova Magrati. The cash prize was given away by the PDRC president Kamala Hemchuri. The representatives of the Dalit sister organization of major political parties, Dalit NGO leaders and the relatives of the Dr. Rasali were present in the ceremony. Shova briefly shared her struggle and also added she will continue working hard to achieve the objective of the award. Prior to her remarks, PDRC executive board member Pompa Sunar highlighted background and objectives of award.

Speaking on the program, chief guest Dr. Koirala extended a very special thanks to Dr. Rasali for establishing this award. Recalling the vision of the PDRC founder Birendra Biswakarma, Dr. Koirala highlighted the need of abolishing untouchability and also stressed that the traditional skills of Dalit need to be conserved and modernized. He encouraged others to follow the footsteps of Dr. Rasali saying that this is by far the best way to remember the people who contributed for one's education in the past.

Om Prakash V K, one of the relatives of Dr. Rasali, emphasized the role played by Late Man Bahadur and Ishwori Gahatraj in providing education to Dr. Rasali. He also highlighted the academic brilliance of Dr. Rasali throughout his academic career. Similarly, Samata Foundation chairperson Padam Sundas appreciated Dr. Rasali's commitment to his roots. He further added, "One of the tendencies of being too successful is that we are likely to forget where that success came from. Nevertheless, Dr. Rasali has been contributing for the upliftment of this community without being conceited."

Speaking on the ceremony, Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO) president Chakraman Biswakarma talked about the lack of enthusiasm among Dalit youths. He also stressed that this tendency very often leave us behind in our education and career endeavors. Dalit Welfare Association (DWA) president Moti Lal Nepali also said that the education should be linked to students' understanding of the world around them. He further argues that Dalit youths must understand the relationship between the education and the consciousness we carry out into the world. Similarly, NNDSWO president Bhakta Biswakarma said that Dr. Rasali is the role model not only for Dalits, but for all. FEDO president Durga Sob expressed her commitment to provide further assistance to Shova in her further education.

The ceremony was also filled with an agile speech from Maoist leader Ranendra Baraili for whom the awareness and education should go together. He further urged students to be more critical and analytical. In her final remarks, PDRC president Kamala Hemchuri pointed out that despite the opportunities available; our youths lack relevant skills and competencies. She further requested the need of directing our collective efforts towards building the capacity of Dalit youths.

The program was conducted by D. B. Bishwakarma, Research and Advocacy Officer at PDRC.