“Every child is important to me irrespective of their economic and social milieu. They are the future. Education for me is the only catalyst which will lead to upward socio-economic mobility”

- Inderjit Khurana

The Inderjit Khurana National Award is instituted in the year 2015 to encourage the organizations/individuals committed to change the society.

Address for correspondence:
RUCHIKA SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION [RSSO]
3731-A, Sriram Nagar, Samantarapur, Old Town, Bhubaneswar- 2, Odisha (India)
E-mail: rssobbs@hotmail.com, www.ruchika.org
**THE MEANING AND THE PURPOSE OF THE AWARD**

- It seeks to support individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contribution in the fields of education and welfare of underprivileged children and other similar empowerment works for the underprivileged.
- It is a memorial to the life work and the determination of Late Mrs. Inderjit Khurana who dedicated her life to the service of marginalized sections of society, particularly the children of Urban Poor.
- It seeks to incarnate a noble contribution to the deprived children irrespective of gender, caste, religion, nationality, language and the like.

**QUALIFICATION OF THE NOMINEE**

- An organisation/ individual who has worked for relevant meritorious service anywhere in India and contributed in the concerned field for not less than ten (10) years.
- An organization/ individual who have sought to resolve illiteracy, child labour, trafficking, hunger, child abuse etc. which destroy the basic rights of children in oppressive social structures.

**BASIC REGULATIONS**

- Candidates for the Award must receive a nomination / recommendation in accordance with the official form.
- Departments of any State Govt., the Central Govt., and any non Govt. institution dealing with Children and Women Welfare, Vice Chancellor of Universities can recommend.
- The Application form can be downloaded from the organisation’s official website.
- The adjudicating committee will take into account the nominee’s activities in the welfare and uplift of unprivileged and underprivileged children.
- Candidates for the Award must respond conscientiously to scrutiny by the adjudication committee in terms of interview, request of additional documentation, questions etc. If any distortion of the truth is discovered in the submissions then the Adjudicating Committee reserves the right either to reject the nomination / cancellation of the award. The winner is expected to attend the award ceremony and the accompanying events.
THE AWARD ADJUDICATING COMMITTEE

The committee consists of 5 members: The Secretary of the sponsoring organization i.e. RSSO, a retired administrator of the rank of the Principal Secretary of a state, a retired Administrative Officer of the Govt. of India, a retired member of the Judiciary not below the rank of a Honorable Justice of the High Court, and a retired Vice-Chancellor of an University.

TIME TABLE FOR THE AWARD

♦ Final date for submission of Application: October 15, 2019
♦ Decision and informing the winner: November 5, 2019

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF MRS. INDERJIT KHURANA

Mrs. Inderjit Khurana (24th Nov. 1936 - 26 Oct. 2010), the founder of Ruchika Social Service Organisation was an educationist par excellence. A visionary activist, she epitomized what is noble and dedicated her life to the service of marginalized sections of society, particularly the children of Urban poor. She has pioneered non-formal educational centres in the Railway Platforms in the year 1985, when it was conspicuous by its absence in the state of Odisha. The Innovative methodology, child friendly environment, the dynamism and determination of the founder attracted a constant flow of visitors from different walks of life, who helped her to give shape to the values she cherished. Mrs. Khurana, fondly called as 'Mama' had a charismatic as well as Magnetic Personality and obtained the warmest love and regard even from critics. Though she attributes her success to providence, yet she believed in her soul force and did it all on her own strength. In her maiden adventure, she was ably supported by her husband Lt. Col. S.S. Khurana, who guided the organisation in administrative and financial management. Her lifelong contribution to the cause of unprivileged children has been widely recognized and has been honoured with:

♦ The World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Children (WCPRC) in 2006;
♦ World of Children Award for Human Enrichment in 2007;
♦ National Award from the Ministry of Human Resources Development for children welfare in 2004;
♦ National Award from Chinta O Chetana, recognized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
♦ Derozio Award from ICSE in 2005.
♦ The Nehru Children's Museum, Kolkata has awarded her for her welfare work with children in 1987
♦ Outlook Magazine selected her as one of the 50 Personalities in India who have contributed to bring a change in the society
♦ She was one of the life time Associate Member of Ashoka-Innovators for Public
♦ UNICEF has made a film on the Platform School - “Blossoms in the Dust” 1986
♦ American Public Broadcasting Services has made a documentary film “New Heroes” on the works of Mrs. Khurana as one of the 10 best innovative social workers in the world in 2005.
Application Format
For the 5th Inderjit Khurana National Award 2019
(on empowerment of the underprivileged children)

1. Name of the Applicant/ Organization:
2. Date of birth/ Registration No. :
3. Complete Address:
4. Contact details:
   a. Phone:
   b. Mobile:
   c. E-mail :
5. Activities for which Applicant is applying for this Award (in 200 words):
6. Past achievements, innovative/ special works (if any):
7. How is your work different from others?
8. Awards and recognitions received (if any):
9. How the Award money will be spent?
10. Any reference the Applicant wishes to cite:
11. Any other information would you like to share:
12. Name of the Nominating Authority/ Person:
   Designation:
   Address with contact No. & e-mail:
   Signature with Seal:

Date:                                Signature of the Applicant

* All the fields are mandatory to be filled.
** Please attach the copies of certificates, reports, photos etc. in Annexure.