



DR. S. G. SUSHEELAMMA



Dr. S. G. Susheelamma is a distinguished social worker and Founder-President of Sumangali Seva Ashrama, Bengaluru. For over five decades, she has dedicated her life to the service of abandoned children, distressed women, tribal communities, senior citizens, and the urban poor. Affectionately known as "Amma," she is widely respected for building one of Karnataka's earliest integrated grassroots welfare institutions, providing shelter, education, healthcare, livelihood training, and rehabilitation to marginalized communities. Known for her profound, self-sacrificing compassion, she remains a global symbol of mercy and humanitarian service.

2. Born on 24th May 1939 in Karnataka, Dr. Susheelamma began her career in social service before voluntarily leaving employment to devote herself to social service. In 1975, she established Sumangali Seva Ashrama with the objective of providing holistic care and longterm support to vulnerable sections of society. Starting with limited resources, she built the institution through sustained community participation and personal commitment.

3. Under Dr. Susheelamma's leadership, the Ashrama has established multiple welfare initiatives including Premananda Makkala Kuteera, a residential hostel for orphaned and abandoned girls, Basavananda Higher Primary School, Sumangali Seva Ashrama Girls' High School, and Kanmani Kindergarten providing free education to children from economically weaker families, Sowharda, a short-stay home for women in crisis, Punyakoti Vanaprasthashrama for the care of elderly women, primary health center for urban poor, and a free polyclinic offering primary healthcare and mental health support. Thousands of beneficiaries have received shelter, education, medical care, counseling, and vocational training through these initiatives.

4. Dr. Susheelamma has also implemented extensive rural development and women empowerment programmes across Karnataka, including adult literacy campaigns, formation of self-help groups and Mahila Mandals, vocational and entrepreneurship training, microcredit initiatives, and Panchayat leadership development. She has worked closely with tribal communities such as the Iruligas and kurubas through sustainable agriculture and livelihood projects, and spearheaded the Vrikshamahadasoha environmental movement which has resulted in the plantation of over forty lakh saplings across the State. She has further served on numerous governmental and institutional committees addressing literacy, women's welfare, workplace safety, and community development.

5. Dr. Susheelamma is the recipient of three national and three state honours including the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Award, National Award for Child Welfare, Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh Award, Basashree Award, Kittur Rani Chennamma Award, Devraj Urs Award, Lakshmi N. Menon Award for Literacy, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Award, and multiple recognitions for lifetime contribution to social service. She has received Honorable Doctorate Award given by Karnataka State Akka Mahadevi Women's University, Vijayapura.