

13th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2015

Mr Javed. Ahmad Tak, Founder Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, received this award in recognition of his organisation's pioneering work in rehabilitating disabled children affected by the disturbed situation in that area.



Mr. Javed Ahmad Tak after receiving the 13th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh & Shri Kapil Sibal

14th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2016

Mr. Arman Ali, Director, Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training for Multiple Disability, Guwahati, Assam, received this award for his pioneering work for empowerment of children with disabilities by providing them with avenues for a holistic development.



Mr. Arman Ali receiving the 14th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh & Shri. Kapil Sibal

15th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2017

Late Dr. Arun Mukherjee, Founder Director "Udaan for the Disabled", New Delhi, received this award for his pioneering work in training and early medical intervention of children suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome etc.



Dr. Arun Mukherjee receiving the 15th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh & Mr. Kapil Sibal

16th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2018

Mr. Sudeep Goyal, Chief Functionary, "Asha Ka Jharna", Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, received this award for his exemplary work in providing services to the not so abled children through three schools.



Mr. Sudeep Goyal, Chief Functionary, Asha Ka Jharna, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, receiving the XVI AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award from Dr. Karan Singh & Shri Kapil Sibal

17th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2019

Ms. Neelam Jolly, Founder & Chairperson of "Vishwas", Gurugram, Haryana, received this award for the exemplary work of her organisation in providing services to about 2.5 lakh under-privileged persons.



Ms. Neelam Jolly receiving the 17th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh and Shri Kapil Sibal

18th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2020

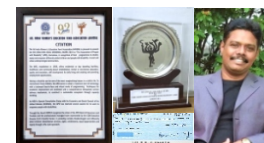
Mr. K. Nageswara Rao, Trustee and Chief Functionary Kasinadhuni Durgamba Butchaiah Trust, KDB Trust, Andhra Pradesh, received this award in recognition of the Trust's services in alleviating the difficulties of the differently abled children in rural areas, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Shri K. Nageswara Rao with the Nina Sibal Memorial Award

19th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2021

Dr. N.S. Senthil Kumar, Executive Director, "Association of People with Disability (APD)", Bengaluru, Karnataka, received this award in recognition of the Association's services to equip and empower children & adults in rural and urban Karnataka suffering from a range of disabilities especially during the pandemic.



Dr. N.S. Senthil Kumar, Executive Director, APD with the XIX Nina Sibal Award 2021

20th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2022

Dr Kuldeep Singh, Deputy Executive Director, Kiran Society, Madhopur, Varanasi, was awarded the **20th AIWEFA NINA SIBAL MEMORIAL AWARD** in recognition of programmes to enable, equip and empower differently abled children along with their communities in rural and urban underprivileged societies.



Dr Kuldeep Singh, Deputy Executive Director, Kiran Society, Madhopur, Varanasi, with the XX NINA SIBAL AWARD 2022

21st AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2023

Dr. Jitender Aggarwal, Founder CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust was awarded the **21st AIWEFA Nina Sibal Award** in consideration of the wide range of disabilities handled, work in 16 states of India using technology for skill development and placement of the persons with disability, and plans to scale up.



Dr. Jitender Aggarwal, Founder CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust with the XXI NINA SIBAL AWARD 2023

22nd AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2024

Ms. Alina Alam, CEO and founder of 'MITTI SOCIAL INITIATIVE FOUNDATION' a non-profit organization was awarded the **XXII Nina Sibal** award in recognition of their contemporary, impactful and innovative work, committed to the cause of employment and livelihoods for people with special needs.



Ms. Alina Alam, Fonder CEO and Founder Mitti Social Initiative Foundation with the XXII NINA SIBAL AWARD 2024

23rd AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2025

Ms. Poonam Natarajan, Founder and Board member from Vidya Sagar, Chennai, was awarded **XXIII AIWEFA Nina Sibal Award 2025** for providing persons living with disability the skill development programs, entrepreneurial training and rehabilitation services, and promoting dignity through a life-cycle approach for enhancement of family and community support, along with advocacy for the rights of persons living with disabilities.



Ms. Poonam Natarajan, Founder and Board member, Vidya Sagar, with the XXI NINA SIBAL AWARD 2023

AIWEFA

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ALL INDIA WOMEN'S EDUCATION FUND ASSOCIATION (AIWEFA)



Nina Sibal - A Remembrance



**Ms. Nina Sibal
1948-2000**

For those of you, who will be receiving the Nina Sibal Award, it is important to know something about the person after whom the award is instituted. As a young student, Nina was outstanding, brilliant, mercurial, full of enthusiasm and loved life to its fullest. She was also a person in a hurry. Twenty four hours of the day were not enough for her. She was a born achiever. A voracious writer of fiction, her first love was writing. She adored nature in all its wildness and felt equally at home in the midst of forests and mountains, lost in their beauty, discovering peace and serenity. For all those she touched, she will always be remembered as "loving, emotive and a doer."

She had the capacity to work with persons at all levels, from Heads of States and persons at the highest echelons of diplomatic life to the poor, the needy and the challenged, with whom she felt most comfortable. There was never a moment that she did not talk about doing something for them. In her stint in the United Nations in the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly, she always fought for the rights of those in the less developed world. The rights of the child, empowerment and emancipation of women and the obligations of society towards those challenged were issues closest to her heart. In any conversation on any of these subjects, we always knew the position she would take and she never hesitated to enthuse persons to fight for their rights. She was always with the weak against the strong, the oppressed against the oppressor, the poor against the rich and the challenged against those who are insensitive to their concerns. That is where she stood and always wanted to stand.

Her journey was filled with the battles she fought for the less privileged. Some said she was obstinate on those issues and that she was occasionally irrational about the concerns of the less privileged.

But there was an element of consistency in what she stood for. In that sense, life was a struggle, a battle for a cause that needed support and she had enormous strength to always fight for those causes. In

ABOUT AIWEFA

AIWEFA (All India Women's Education Fund Association), an NGO, was founded in 1929 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1932 AIWEFA established the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, with an objective to inculcate a scientific temper in women's education.

As it completes over nine decades of service, AIWEFA campaigns nationally and internationally through its field projects, seminars, workshops, conferences, publications and networking to bring about a sustainable approach to human development and the advancement of weaker sections.

In 1999, AIWEFA was granted the "NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations" (ECOSOC). In 2003 AIWEFA accepted the role of Regional Coordinator of the U.N.'s Informal Regional Network of NGOs (NGO IRENE). In 2017 AIWEFA was conferred the Observer Status with UNFCCC.

AIWEFA's recent and on-going programmes include national conferences: 'Transition of women from education to full employment' and 'Ensuring healthy lives and promotion of wellness in old age'; 'Promotion and development of handicrafts from locally available resources' from Andaman and Nicobar Islands; the National 'Khadi Goes Global' campaign; the North East expo and conference; plantation of local species in Tughlakabad, Delhi; Research and recommendations "Promotion of women's entrepreneurship" for 900 rural women in CARE India's project; engagement with G20 during India's Presidency; college and school workshops on cyber security, 'Prevention of Drug Abuse' and 'Promoting Intergenerational Bonding'.



Internationally at the United Nations AIWEFA's programmes include "A World We Women Want" to document robust Sustainable Development Goals implementation strategies from Asia and Africa; women's economic empowerment; "Khadi Goes Global" campaign on sustainable entrepreneurship practices with events, fashion shows and exhibitions. Online side events with the Permanent Mission of India on a gender-just and violence-free world; Lifestyle for the Environment (LIFE), Technology enabled social and economic advancement.

AIWEFA has administered the AIWEFA - Nina Sibal Memorial Award since 2003. Through this award AIWEFA acknowledges innovative and exceptional organizational work for children with disabilities. The award endowment has been made by Shri. Kapil Sibal, Senior Advocate & M.P. Rajya Sabha, in memory of his late wife Smt. Nina Sibal. From 2023, the award will carry a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs, a trophy and a citation.

This year, AIWEFA expands the scope of the award to include a dedicated focus on Women in Distress, acknowledging organizations working with women facing acute social, economic, and psychological vulnerabilities. These women often experience exclusion, lack of access to basic rights, and limited support systems, requiring targeted interventions for protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment.

Nina Sibal Memorial Awards

1st AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2003

Ms. Merry Barua, President, Action for Autism, New Delhi, received this award for her organization. Ms. Barua is a disability activist who has tried to have "autism" recognised as the communication disorder disability towards attracting greater attention to its management both by the victim and family and others working with them.



Ms. Merry Barua receiving the 1st Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Najma Heptulla

2nd AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2004

Mr. Sumit Roy, received this award for his organisation, **Digdarshika Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

DIRR is a non-profit voluntary organisation with a vision to provide a congenial environment and equal opportunities for the mentally challenged, through its research and documentation.



Mr. Sumit Roy receiving the 2nd Nina Sibal Award from Smt. Meira Kumar

3rd AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2005

Dr. Sangeeta Agarwal, received this award for her organisation **Shubham, Muzaffarpur, Bihar**. Shubham is a welfare organisation for the development of persons with disabilities. Its activities are targeted at enabling people suffering from both physical and mental impairment and to encourage and bring them towards the mainstream of a healthy life.



Dr. Sangeeta Agarwal receiving the 3rd Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan

4th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2006

Dr. Kshama Metre, National Director, "Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD)", Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, received this award for her organisation. The main objective of the organization is to empower and provide an opportunity to the differently abled persons to live as important citizens of the country and contribute as any other person.



Dr. Kshama Metre receiving the 4th Nina Sibal Award from Justice A S Anand

5th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2007

Shri P. C. Kapoor, President, Jammu Red Cross, Udhewwala, Jammu & Kashmir, received this award for his organization, which is a home for the handicapped and provides the children with education, free uniforms, free coaching and pre occupational training apart from physiotherapy and medicare for victims of poliomyelitis.



Shri P C Kapoor receiving the 5th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh

6th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2008

Late Shri N. Krishnaswamy, IPS (Retd.), received this award for his organisation, **Vidya Vrikshah, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. The mission of the Vidya Vrikshah is to share IT-knowledge with socially and physically disadvantaged persons. The organisation has adopted path-breaking technologies to reach the usually unreachable groups of people.



Shri N Krishnaswamy receiving the 6th Nina Sibal Award from Smt. Sheila Dikshit

7th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2009

Prof. (Dr.) Asha Hans, received this award for her organization **Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha**.

The centre provides services for the physically disabled children and adults. SMRC has been striving to create and implement a wide range of activities, designed to meet the medical, physical, emotional, social and vocational needs of persons with disabilities.



Prof. (Dr.) Asha Hans receiving the 7th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh

8th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2010

Mr. R.C. Hiremath, received this award for his organization **"Flexitron" of Bengaluru, Karnataka**. Flexitron has brought technological innovations, like alternative energy, low cost lighting, disease control etc. to focus on the poor, women, children, and differently-abled persons in the society.



Mr. R.C. Hiremath receiving the 8th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh

9th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2011

Dr. M.K.C. Nair, Founder Director of Child Development Centre, Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, received this award for his organization on account of the pioneering work done on

Reduction of Disability through novel scientific initiatives.



Dr. M.K.C. Nair, receiving the 9th Nina Sibal Award from Shri Kapil Sibal

10th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2012

Mr. Asok Chakraborty, Secretary, "Shelter" Bhadreswar, Hooghly, West Bengal received this award for his organisation on account of their dedicated work towards education and rehabilitation of persons with mental retardation in association with other disabilities.



Mr. Asok Chakraborty receiving the 10th Nina Sibal Award from Dr. Karan Singh & Shri Kapil Sibal.

11th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award - 2013

Ms. Sheela Sinha, Director Education, Helen Keller Institute for Deaf & Deaf Blind (HKIDB), Mumbai, Maharashtra, received this award for her organisation on account of their dedicated work towards educating and rehabilitating the Deaf & Deaf-Blind.



Ms. Sheela Sinha with Mr. Kapil Sibal and Aiweafa Executives after receiving the 11th Nina Sibal Award

12th AIWEFA Nina Sibal Memorial Award-2014

Dr. Anupa Siddhu, Director, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, received this award for her institution for their multi-dimensional work related to disability across the life span and training of Disability Educators.



Dr. Anupa Siddhu receiving the 12th Nina Sibal Award from Shri Kapil Sibal