

About Dr Snehal Donde

A Water Activist



Being a guiding epitome is not what everyone can become; it comes with inherent passion and unconditional zeal to make a better future for others. Dr. Snehal Donde has been doing the same as an Environment Conservationist and Education

Administrator with a significant experience of being a Head of Institution affiliated to University of Mumbai for last 15 years. Sharpening her work profile as a lecturer with specialization in Zoology & Management Studies, she has efficiently dressed herself in the merits of a professional through enriching educational qualifications, dynamic work experience and extension services. Presently she is Dean Administrative Affairs of Bhaktivedanta Vidyapith Research Centre (BVRC) for Vedic studies and conducting projects on Environmental Vaishnavism.

For community extension work she started as Mumbai University NSS Programme officer in 1993 and continuing same as Hon. Chief Research officer of Goverdhan Ecovillage, at Hamrapur Manor, Palghar, which is a model sustainable village of ISKCON. For her immense contribution in Nature awareness programmes and river rejuvenation water conservation initiatives, Dr Snehal Donde is recognized as Jalnayak by Water Literacy Department, Yeshada (Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration)

Government of Maharashtra. At National level she is associated with Dr Rajendra Singh Water Man of India as Core Member of Indian River Basin council and is Chief Convenor of Jalbiradari Aviral Ganga Mission (West Bengal & Tripura) for resolving erosion, siltation issues and rehabilitation of displaced population in affected areas. At International level she is active member of World Water Council, making efforts to curb corporatization of water.

She has conducted aerial survey of Ganga from Bihar to West Bengal and as a solutionary, under her leadership along with a team of Scientists she has conducted social and environmental assessment of ganga basin from Farakka to Malda-Murshidabad districts upto Ganga Sagar in West Bengal and Tripura State and have taken up the issues with Office of Prime Minister and President of India for resolution. In Maharashtra she has been painstakingly working for rejuvenation of western flowing rivers such as Kamvari & Arjunali (Bhiwandi Taluka), Bhatsa (Kalyan Taluka), Waldhuni & Ulhas (Ambarnath



Jalsamvad

December 2021

30

taluka), which are severely encroached, polluted and mainly shrinking into nallahs. Being a Researcher and environment activist, she has vastly studied issues of over-damming in Maharashtra which is affecting biodiversity, fishery and livelihood of displaced people. She has extensively conducted survey for understanding the efficacy of government policies and status of implementing Rain water Harvesting policies in Mumbai city and its suburb, and followed up with Water department authorities for ensuring its effective implementation as an alternative for water crisis. She and her scholars have carried out studies on Mithi river and Dahisar creek for mangrove carbon sequestration to recommend government effective formulations of policies and strategizing mangrove conservation.

Journals of National and international repute. Her main focus area in research is Education policy, Riverine ecosystem, Environmental pollution and biodiversity studies. Through research work she is making efforts to bring change in archival policies as she firmly believes that effective policy can bring quality change and thus forwards recommendations to appropriate regulators for policy guidelines. She has presented several papers in international and national conferences and travelled extensively across India and visited many states of foreign countries like US, UK, Canada, Thailand, Mauritius, Srilanka, Brazil France etc. Among many few awards to mention is that she is recipient of Green Crusader award by UNEP Ministry of Environment and Bhamla Foundation, Dr Belsare Medal from Zoological Survey of India,

Best Educator Award (Twice), Best Extension work Teacher awarded by University of Mumbai for



taluka), which are severely encroached, polluted and mainly shrinking into nallahs. Being a Researcher and environment activist, she has vastly studied issues of over-damming in Maharashtra which is affecting biodiversity, fishery and livelihood of displaced people. She has extensively conducted survey for understanding the efficacy of government policies and status of implementing Rain water Harvesting policies in Mumbai city and its suburb, and followed up with Water department authorities for ensuring its effective implementation as an alternative for water crisis. She and her scholars have carried out studies on Mithi river and Dahisar creek for mangrove carbon sequestration to recommend government effective formulations of policies and strategizing mangrove conservation.

Journals of National and international repute. Her main focus area in research is Education policy, Riverine ecosystem, Environmental pollution and biodiversity studies. Through research work she is making efforts to bring change in archival policies as she firmly believes that effective policy can bring quality change and thus forwards recommendations to appropriate regulators for policy guidelines. She has presented several papers in international and national conferences and travelled extensively across India and visited many states of foreign countries like US, UK, Canada, Thailand, Mauritius, Srilanka, Brazil France etc. Among many few awards to mention is that she is recipient of Green Crusader award by UNEP Ministry of Environment and Bhamla Foundation, Dr Belsare Medal from Zoological Survey of India,



Best Educator Award (Twice), Best Extension work Teacher awarded by University of Mumbai for community services, received several Awards for excellence and contribution in water literacy, conservation and river rejuvenation, Membership and vocational excellence award conferred by Rotary Club and has successfully completed Leadership Academician Programme sponsored by Ministry of HRD, GOI.

She is a dedicated academician, an able distinguished administrator and activist, with a futuristic vision for leadership, who inspires people around to strive for quality and excellence in Education as well as fighting for the cause of water crisis. She is very passionate about any work she undertakes. She is double PhD one in Science (Zoology) and other in Humanities (Management). And presently pursuing for third doctoral studies on Hinduism and ecology. She is recognized PhD/MPhil/PG guide in Zoology and Education Management from University of Mumbai, SNDT, AMET Chennai, JIT Rajasthan. 9 students have been awarded PhD degree under her able guidance and four are pursuing. She has authored 10 books and six chapters in books published by international publisher. 50 papers are published in peer reviewed

She has created mass movement for cleaning water bodies and rejuvenating rivers and continues to mobilize and educate students, teachers and NSS volunteers of colleges and universities across India. She has conducted Ganga peace march, human chain formation and river rallies for awareness among local public. She regularly conducts workshops and orient Talathi (Kisaan Sevak) for judicious use of water by making them understand crop pattern and rain pattern and use of drip irrigation, also orient Gram Sevaks, Gram Sarpanchs for water literacy and joint meetings with authorities of Tehsil, Grampanchayat, Zilla Parishad, Collector office, Municipal Corporations, MMRDA, MPCB for emphasizing performance report and accountability. She is instrumental in



closing down few companies releasing effluents and polluting Kamvari river. With an integrated approach and as an RTI activist she has resolved several issues of environment and education. She has delivered recently a session on water conservation and river rejuvenation in Richmond, US and given talk shows on TV channels which include Mindalia TV show and interview by Walking Water organization in USA. A multi-dynamic individual she has proven that nothing can stop you from acquiring knowledge, learning, environmentalism and contributing in community for social action and sustenance.

