

KARMA ORAON**October 24th, 1952 - May 14th, 2023**

Professor Karma Oraon, a renowned scholar, social activist and esteemed member of the Scheduled Tribe community, passed away on May 14, 2023 at Medanta Hospital, Irba, Ormanjhi, Ranchi due to kidney problem at the age of 72. On 15th May the funeral took place at Adelhatu funeral ground in Ranchi. All the rituals were performed at his present residence at New Area Morahabadi, Ranchi as well as at his parental village, too. He was born on October 24, 1952 in the Longa Mahuatoli village, situated in the Bishunpur Block of Gumla District, Jharkhand. Professor Oraon made significant contributions to the anthropology, and he was dedicated to social activism and educational pursuits. His contributions to society will be remembered forever.

Professor Karma Oraon's educational journey was marked by remarkable achievements. His Primary education started from the Longa. He obtained M.Sc. in Anthropology, followed by an L.L.B. degree, and later he earned Ph.D. degree. These academic accomplishments demonstrated his unwavering dedication to knowledge and his pursuit of excellence in his chosen field.

Throughout his career, Professor Oraon held various esteemed positions, including his role as a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Ranchi University. He started his career in March 11, 1978 as a Lecturer of Anthropology at Ram Lakhan Singh College, Ranchi. He served the university under the 16-Year Time Bound Scheme from March 11, 1994, and later under the Merit Promotion Scheme from March 13, 1997. Dr. Oraon's leadership abilities and commitment to the department led him to become the Head of the Anthropology Department where he made significant contributions to its growth and development.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Dr. Oraon actively participated in government institutions and organizations. He served as a former member of the Bihar Public Service Commission (1989-1995) contributing to policy-making and shaping the future of the region. Additionally, he held the position of Chairman cum Liaison Officer of the SC/ST Special Cell at Ranchi University, working tirelessly to promote

the welfare of marginalized students.

Dr. Karma Oraon's dedication to education extended to his role as the coordinator of the UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP)-DRS-I at the Department of Anthropology in Ranchi University. This program, sponsored by the UGC continued for five years from 2009 to 2014, aiming to uplift students and researchers in the field of anthropology.

Recognizing the importance of equal opportunities, Professor Oraon also coordinated the UGC Scheme for coaching classes for SC/ST and minority students, providing them with the necessary support to enter various public services.

His impact in the international academic community was evident through his position as the President of the International Diaspora for Education, Research & Evolution in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Through this role, he fostered global collaborations and worked towards the advancement of education and research on an international scale.

Dr. Karma Oraon's commitment to combating social evils was exemplified through his role as the coordinator of the P.G. Dip. in Anti-Human Trafficking Course at the Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University. This program aimed to create awareness among students and address the heinous crime of human trafficking.

Additionally, he served as the former Director of the M.A. in Rural Development Course at the Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University; where he played a pivotal role in shaping the minds of numerous students who went on to make positive contributions to rural communities.

Professor Oraon also served the Ranchi University as Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences. In this capacity, he made several changes in the research activities of the social sciences departments.

Professor Karma Oraon's academic achievements were accompanied by an extensive list of research papers, publications, and involvement in national and international academic conferences. He presented papers, chaired sessions, and delivered lectures in conferences held in countries like Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, among others. His contributions expanded our understanding of tribal culture, religion, socio-economic challenges, and bio-cultural diversity.

Outside of academia, he was actively involved in political and religious organizations, representing the Adivasi community. He contested in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, advocating for the rights and empowerment of marginalized communities. He also held positions in various organizations dedicated to the welfare and upliftment of Adivasis.

Professor Karma Oraon's passing away is a tremendous loss to the academic, political, and social spheres. His dedication to education, research, and social

justice has left an enduring impact on the lives of countless individuals. He will be remembered as a compassionate teacher, a devoted scholar, and a tireless advocate for the marginalized people.

Professor Karma Oraon's passing leaves behind a void in the realms of education, research, and public service. His unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and immense contributions will continue to inspire generations to come. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Smt. Santi Oraon, his daughter-in-law: Shital Pardeshi, his younger son- Sanni Oraon, and his daughter, Dr. Neha Chala Oraon, along with his extended family, friends, colleagues, and students.

I pray for eternal peace for the deceased's soul. This was the largest loss for me since he was the mentor in my personal and academic life.

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