

Uttar Pradesh Fellowship-1: Arvind Murti **Engaging local communities to create a Vibrant and Participatory Democracy**

Arvind Murti is a social activist with a strong passion and commitment to bringing about positive social change by intimately and organically connecting to the local communities. Arvind's work ranges from education and livelihood-preservation to RTI and social upliftment to name a few. He has also exposed corruption in the education system using tools such as RTI very effectively. Arvind enjoys a great rapport with diverse communities and has the confidence of doctors, lawyers, journalists and other activists in the region. His deep sense of empathy for the underprivileged is evident from the large amount of time and energy he spends in disseminating information about beneficial government policies to people who are economically backward or socially oppressed. He works closely with government officials, acting as a bridge between them and the people they serve by helping ensure that well meaning policies are implemented appropriately in practice and being a voice of the people by providing feedback to the officials. His actions and interventions impact people way beyond the immediate area of his work.



IFA has been supporting Arvind since 2007. During this time he has grown vastly in stature as a well-known and highly respected social activist in Uttar Pradesh. Besides his own work, he is routinely called upon to help during nationwide campaigns of people's movements. Below is a glimpse of the work that Arvind has been involved in recently.

2022-23 Update

Since being chosen as the Northern Zonal Coordinator of the Indian Community Activists Network (ICAN) Arvind's work now includes extensive traveling to meet activists and organize activities. Yet, he remains committed to helping his community in a variety of ways.

1. Anti-Corruption Activities



Anti-corruption work includes public hearings on NREGA, Ration (PDS) and similar government schemes to ensure that the right candidates receive benefits. This photo shows Arvind standing with the disabled Babulal Navik who, (along with his wife Archana who is blind) was surviving without ration card or pension until he attended this hearing and was then helped to obtain both.

निजी स्कूलों की मनमानी को लेकर अभिभाक मंच में सौपा ज्ञापन

स्वतंत्र घेतना

मऊ। सोमवार को अभिभाक मंच ने अपनी नव सूची मांगो को लेकर सिटी मजस्ट्रेट को ज्ञापन सौंपकर जनवाद में मान्यता प्राप्त गैर मान्यता प्राप्त निजी विद्यालय बड़ी संख्या में संचालित हो रहे हैं। लेकिन किसी भी निजी विद्यालय द्वारा 12 सितंबर 2018 को पारित हुए शूल्क विनियमन अधिनियम 2018 का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित नहीं किया जा रहा है। जबकि इस संबंध में जिला विद्यालय निरीक्षक को दो बार लिखित रूप से मांग की गई थी परंतु निजी स्कूलों पर कोई दोस कार्रवाई नहीं की गई। इसलिए अभिभाक मंच मांग किया कि 13 अप्रैल 2021 से नूतन शिक्षण सत्र 2021-22 प्रारंभ होने जा रहा है। लेकिन किसी भी निजी विद्यालय की वेबसाइट और सूचना पट पर पाठ्य पुस्तकों की सूची जारी नहीं की गई है जबकि शिक्षण सत्र प्रारंभ होने



के 90 दिन पूर्व पाठ्य पुस्तकों की सूची विद्यालय की वेबसाइट और सूचना पट पर प्रकाशित हो जानी चाहिए। जिले के किसी भी विद्यालय ने वेबसाइट पर पाठ्य पुस्तकों की सूची नहीं डाली है। शूल्क विनियमन अधिनियम 2018 के अनुसार शिक्षण सत्र प्रारंभ होने से 60 दिन पूर्व विद्यालय की वेबसाइट और सूचना पट पर शूल्क का विवरण प्रस्तुत किया जाना अति आवश्यक है। जो किसी भी विद्यालयों द्वारा नहीं किया गया है। ज्ञापन सौंपने में अमरेश कुमार सिंह, अरविंद मूर्ति, यशोम अखार, मोहम्मद शारिक, जयप्रकाश सिंह यादव, संतोष यादव शामिल रहे।

2. Labor Reforms and Worker Empowerment:



Leading the Bihar Sammelan of Unorganized/Migrant workers



Leading a Lucknow State Workshop on Labor Reforms, Land Acquisition Act, etc. Act

3. Social Activities



(T) Addressing Baliya rally in support of jailed reporters who exposed the nexus in getting exam papers leaks.
(B) Conducting a self defence workshop for young girls



(R) Addressing Gandhi Jayanti Rally for Communal Harmony (B) With two construction workers (Vinod Lal and Lal Bihari) of Ratanpura (Mau), UP, after helping them get free cataract surgery

4. Organizational Activities



With Prashant Bhushan in support of democratic rights



With Medha Patkar at the Kisan Mazdoor Panchayat in Kosi, Bihar



With Farmers' Campaign leader Rakesh Tikait in Kisan Panchayat at Manduri, Azamgarh, UP



5. Gramsabha Jagrukta Abhiyan:

Arvind is leading this ICAN Campaign for making rural communities aware of the practice of Gramswaraj as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and as laid out in India's Panchayati Raj Act. While high in intention the act has failed to achieved the desired results due to lack of implementation as the entrenched parties see this as a threat to their power. The campaign involves traveling, holding meeting and other interactions with grassroots activists as well as the people in general. This is being done in stages, starting with U.P in 2023 and then moving to other states including Jharkhand, Bihar and Gujarat.

--IFA Liaison: Prithvi R Sharma