

Rule 29 Academic Awards (Mahadev Desai Samajseva Puraskar)

- [1] This award is instituted to recognize and honour graduates who have demonstrated sustained commitment to Gandhian ideals through long-term social service. It seeks to acknowledge individuals who, primarily through education or public education, have contributed meaningfully to fields such as rural development, public health, environmental protection, women's empowerment, promotion of national and mother languages, and other allied areas of constructive work rooted in the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. By celebrating such service, the award aims to inspire continued engagement with ethical, inclusive, and community-centered development.
- [2] This Puraskar is customarily conferred on the 1st of January each year.
- [3] Mahadev Desai Samajseva Puraskar Committee shall consist of the following members:
 - [a] One of the trustees of the Mandal shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor as the Chairperson;
 - [b] One of the trustees of the Mandal shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor as a member;
 - [c] One of the members of the Academic Council shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor as a member;
 - [d] One of the experts shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor as a member;
 - [e] Two retired teachers of the Vidyapith shall be nominated by the Vice Chancellor as members;
 - [f] Dean, of the faculty of social science as a member secretary;
- [4] The nomination shall be for one year from the date of notification.
- [5] The meeting shall be convened by the Member Secretary with the prior approval of the Chairperson.

- [6] Two-thirds of the total members shall constitute the quorum for the meeting.
- [7] The eligibility and selection process shall be as follows:
- [a] A graduate who has completed at least two years of a regular academic programme at any of the campuses of Gujarat Vidyapith or its Gram Seva Kendras shall be deemed suitably eligible for this award.
 - [b] Only those graduates who have rendered not less than fifteen years of continuous service in any of the specified fields, primarily through education or public education, in accordance with the distinctive tradition of social service established by Mahatma Gandhi, and who continue to be actively engaged in such service at present, shall be deemed eligible for this award. This provision shall not apply to retired graduates.
 - [c] Specified fields, primarily through education or public education:

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| [i] Public Health and Rural Sanitation | [xii] Agricultural Reform |
| [ii] Khadi and Village Industries | [xiii] Environmental Protection |
| [iii] Cow Protection and Animal Welfare | [xiv] Energy Conservation |
| [iv] Nature Cure | [xv] Upliftment of Farmers |
| [v] Prohibition | [xvi] Upliftment of Labourers |
| [vi] Eradication of Untouchability | [xvii] Dissemination of Nai Talim (Basic Education) |
| [vii] Tribal Welfare | [xviii] Communal Harmony |
| [viii] Elimination of Leprosy | [xix] Sustainable Development of Natural Resources |
| [ix] Women's Education and Empowerment | [xx] Science and Technology |
| [x] Promotion of National Language and Mother Tongue | [xxi] Other allied activities of social service consistent with the above fields |
| [xi] Literacy Eradication | |

- [d] Graduates who have undertaken such service activities in rural areas shall be accorded preference in the selection for the award. However, due consideration shall also be given to eligible graduates engaged in comparable service activities within urban areas, ensuring a balanced and equitable evaluation.
- [8] This Puraskar shall be conferred annually upon one eligible graduate.
- [9] The selected graduate shall be conferred the Puraskar comprising a cash prize of Rs. 51,000/-, a commemorative memento, and a certificate of honour.
- [10] Government officials shall not be considered for selection for this award.
- [11] Among graduates engaged in social service either independently or through institutions receiving government assistance, preference in the selection for the award shall be accorded to those who are not salaried.
- [12] Non-Eligibility of Previous Recipients: Graduates who have previously received this award shall not be considered eligible for the same Puraskar again.
- [13] Restriction on Self-Nomination: Graduates shall not be permitted to nominate themselves for consideration for this Puraskar.
- [14] Puraskar Not Applicable to Institutions: This award shall not be conferred upon any institution.
- [15] The Committee shall submit its recommendation to the Secretary of the Mandal on or before the 31st of October each year.
- [16] The recommendation of the Mahadev Desai Samajseva Puraskar Committee shall be subject to prior approval by the Mandal before the Puraskar is conferred upon the selected graduate.