



Mrs. Gowroo Somanna, President of the Deaf Women Development Trust, receiving the national award from the former President Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma

"DETERMINATION, HARDWORK KEY TO SUCCESS"

Mrs. Gowroo Somanna born in Kunda, Ponnampet, South Coorg, Karnataka, daughter of late Madhira I. Chengappa. Gowroo was the eighth child in the family who was born deaf. Fortunately by the encouragement of her parents she was able to complete her matriculation from the blind and deaf school at Mysore.

She started her tailoring career and worked for five years at Ganapathi Fancy Tailoring Hall in Coorg and mastered the Art of Dressmaking. She got married to Mathanda Somanna, also deaf, a non-officer in Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. Now she is a proud mother of two sons who are normal.

At the start, she struggled a lot to get a suitable job and finally managed to get a job as Assistant Instructor in Technical Training Center for the Deaf. In 1987, she started her own business in manufacture of readymade garments by training and employing hearing impaired women.

In recognition of her outstanding performance in work and her concern to help other disabled women to be trained in tailoring free of cost and also providing suitable jobs in her own organisation she was recognised at the national level and was conferred the National Award in 1995 by late Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the former President. On 3rd December, 2000 she received a prestigious State Award from the Governor Mrs. V.S.Rama Devi. She was also awarded by the Rotary Club in

1995, Lion's Club in 2000, Kodava Samaja in the year 1996 and was also honoured by Lion's District Governor P.M.Mallaya.

This encouragement made her start a voluntary organisation, Deaf Women Development Trust to provide free training to people with disability, in tailoring and fashion designing. With the kind help of Mrs. Mangala Swaminath, the Principal of this institution who has been working since 20 years for the development of the disabled, Gowroo was able to train and employ six persons in her organisation. She has always been working for the disabled from then on and has provided suitable employment for more than 50 people.

The main motive of this organisation is to encourage and train the hearing impaired women to be self-reliant and confident to face life independently. Gowroo Somanna, a brave woman is one of the best examples to show that with determination and hard work anything is possible.

Mrs. Gowroo looks forward to your helping hand to reach out to many poor and needy disabled women and children.

Reethu.J, Anuradha.S.H and Pavithra.P
 X std, The New Cambridge English School,
 R P C Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore-10