



BRIEF PROFILE

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Youngest son of Sri Bhikari Charan Das and Smt Tara Devi

Professor Kumar B Das is a distinguished alumni of Presidency College, Calcutta, where he was greatly influenced by two Nobel Laureates: Professor Amartya Sen and Professor Jan Tinbergen and subsequently by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India. Dr Das is an Economist of international repute and an insightful scholar with a very dynamic personality. He firmly believes that education is not an instrument nor an insurance but a value addition to one's life. Professor Das is admired by his peers as, "serious meta economist and organic social scientist" who negates the decontextualised quantitative economic reasoning, transcends beyond the myopic economism and promotes the contextual economics. Therefore his classrooms are crowded by the students and lectures are really captivating. His heterodox ideas and heuristic methods of analysis does not exclude non-economists. His mindset is not reluctant to grapple with issues that are not amenable to econometric modeling. He propagates contextual economics which refers to ecological, radical, feminist, social, humanistic, and new Institutional economics. He argues for two overarching concepts: well-being and equity in the present and social, natural and productive capital for the future. Dr Das is known for his objective, recursive apolitical and hyper critical ideas on several social, economic and environmental issues. He is deeply concerned about increasing trend of regional disparity, rural-urban imbalance, rich-poor inequality, marginalization, vulnerability, discrimination and ever rising trend of faceless enoughism. He firmly believes that we have foolishly abandoned our great heritage and recklessly following asocial path. Economics is a social science and as such it deals with human beings, not atomised ciphers. Rationality must reconstitute itself with morality, ethics and philosophy. Economics must stop being taught where awareness of human nature is lacking. We are suffering from metaphysical diseases and therefore the cure is meta-physical and meta-economical. It is time for economics, econometrics and management to grow up and transcend all statistical exercises. Dr Das is deeply concerned about the economic and environmental possibilities for our unborn grandchildren of the posterity.

Before becoming the Vice Chancellor he was the senior most professor of Utkal university, where he served as Head of Department of Applied Economics, senate member and Chief Editor of university journal. He became direct professor at very early age, for which he was known as the youngest Professor of Orissa. Being the professor of Economics he was the heading the SBI research chair of Utkal university for fourteen years. He became the Head of RBI Research Center of Utkal University and member of national advisory committee of Reserve Bank of India. He was the Vice President and subsequently elected as the President of All Orissa Economic Association. He has 32 years of teaching

and research experience (including 6 years as Reader and 21 years as direct Professor) at post graduate level of Utkal university. With a brilliant academic record(BA Economics Honours-first class, MA(Applied Economics), MBA (Finance), MA(Economics)-first class), he obtained the UGC doctoral fellowship in Applied Economics from Calcutta university in 1978 and earned his PhD degree in 1984. He is the first person in Orissa who has earned D.Litt degree in Economics and D.Sc. degree in Finance. He did his post doctoral research work by obtaining prestigious fellowships from university of Bamberg (German,1984) ,university of Aberdeen(UK,1990) and Troy State university(US,2004). With his supervision more than 20 PhD scholars and 46 M.Phil scholars have been awarded degrees from different universities of India and abroad. He has authored 18 books (4 edited books) and published 16 chapters in different books and 160 research papers in reputed professional journals of India/abroad. He has extensively travelled , chaired and presented research papers in more than 30 international conferences held in 20 different countries abroad. He has delivered about 10 invited lectures abroad and 20 important public (institutional /memorial) lectures organised by reputed organizations/ institutions of India.

BOOKS PUBLISHED :

Important books are: Exposition to Economics, Cement Industry in India, Political Economy of Rural Development, Rural Development and Decentralisation, Rural Economic Development(ed),Environment and Development Conundrum, Decentralisation for Regional Development, Optimisation Techniques for Managers, Food security in Slums, Quantitative Technique for Mathematical Economics, Electrical Energy for Rural Development, Environmental and Regional Dynamics(ed) ,Sustainable Development, Gender Dynamics etc.

RESEARCH PROJECTS :

Important research projects are: Four international projects completed , Six national level major projects completed and Eight minor projects completed. Important Research projects are on: Safe Motherhood and Child Survival, Informal Labour Market, Tribal Development, Environmental Impact of Industrialisation, Functioning of Ashram Schools, Growth of Informal Sector, Role of Institutional Credit in Tribal Development, Child Health and Childhood, Hunger Syndrome of KBK Districts, Recovery Pattern and Indebtedness of Village Households, Village Livelihood Systems, Food security in Slums, Status of women workers, Child Labour in India, Girl Child labour in Orissa, Disaster Management in Coastal Orissa etc

MONOGRAPHS :

Important monographs are: Regional Disparity in India, Regional Disparity in Health Services of Orissa, Role of Institutional Finance in Tribal Development, Casual Labour Market , Status of Women Workers in the Informal sector ,Child Labour Problem of Orissa, Incidence of Girl Child Labour in Orissa, Street Children of Bhubaneswar , Food Security in Slums, Hunger Syndrome in KBK Region of Orissa , Role of Institutional credit in Tribal Development, Prospects of Rural Development in India under Globalisation Regime, Travesty of Developmentalism in India, Investment climate in India and China, Impact of Global Financial Meltdown on Indian Economy, Livelihood System in the Village economy of Orissa, Agro-based Industry of Orissa, Tourism Development of Orissa, Public Distribution System of Orissa, Hotel Industry of Orissa, Disaster management in Orissa, Industrial development and Displacement in Orissa, Non Inclusivity of Economic Growth, Mainstreaming Gender, Environmental Impact of Industrialisation .

WORKING PAPERS :

Important working papers are: Regional Disparity in India, Incidence of Girl Child Labour in Orissa, , Food Security in Slums, Travesty of Developmentalism in India, Investment climate in India and China, Impact of Global Financial Meltdown on Indian Economy, Livelihood System in the Village economy of Orissa, Role of State and Market, Agrobased Industry of Orissa, Tourism Development of Orissa, Public Distribution System of Orissa, Hotel Industry of Orissa, Disaster management in Orissa, Industrial development and Displacement in Orissa, Non Inclusivity of Economic Growth, Mainstreaming Tribals, Engendering Development Process, Environmental Impact of Industrialisation in Orissa, etc

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Life member of Royal Economic Society(UK), International Association of Regional Science(US), List Society(German) , LACDE(China) ,Fellow of the Society of International Development(Italy). He is the executive/active member of Indian Economic Association ,Indian Academy of Social Science, Indian Regional Science Association ,Indian Labour Economics Society, Indian Political Economy Association Indian Econometrics Society . He is in the Editorial Board of International Research journal of Business and social Sciences (UK), Interdisciplinary Review of Economics and Management (Australia) and Asian Economic and Financial Review(China). He is the associate Editor of Indian Economic Journal and President of Orissa Economics Association etc.

AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS:

National Scholarship Govt of India 1975, UGC Research Fellowship 1978, NATO-Deutch Fellowship 1980, State Bank of India Chair 1990, Scotland Environment Society Fellowship 1990 , Spanish Govt Fellowship1998 , WEHA-Argentina Govt Research Academy Grants 2002, Best Research Award, APHEIT, Thailand 2004, China LACDE Foundation Fellowship 2004, Reserve Bank of India Chair 2006, Best Economist award Rajiv Gandhi Forum 2007, United Nations Fellowship 2009, Dewang Mehta Award Bombay2011,etc

FOREIGN VISITS:

Important foreign invited lectures and academic visits are : Holland(1980), German(1984, 90,98) , Sweden(1986), Italy(1984,94),Spain(1998), Argentina(2002),Bhutan(2000) Malaysia(1995) Singapore(1997), Thailand (2003,04,06) China (2004,05, 06), Hong Kong(2005), Finland (2007), UK (1990,95, 2002), US (1997,2002, 08, 09), Japan(2006, 2011) etc.

Professor Das spent his childhood days with his parents: father Sri Bhikari Charan Das and Mother Smt Tara Devi and grand parents: late Sankar Charan Das and Radha Devi in a joint family of Madhusudanpur village , a very remote village of undivided Cuttack district of Orissa. He passed his matriculation from a village school, named as Angalo High school. Dr Das firmly believes that village is the immense source of indigenous knowledge towards the growth of a full man and the formation of 'knowledge society'. He is a man of conviction, pragmatic ideas and action. He is a very serious researcher and a very effective class room teacher as well. He is known for his passion for teaching

,original ideas and organic thinking for social transformation. He is the founder of 'Agaamee Orissa' movement for rural development and tribal development of India.

At present he is visiting professor of Troy State university(US),Coventry university(UK), Asian university(Thailand) and Shanghai University(China). He has also taught at the universities of German, Italy, Argentina, Malaysia, and China. He was the Chief editor of Utkal Economic Papers for a pretty long period. He has acted as the expert in the selection committees for the post of Professor of different universities of India. He has been the regular examiner and question setter in UPSC(both IAS and IES) and UGC-Net and OPSC examinations. He was the Director of many research projects and Chairman of Board of Studies/ Research Committees of different universities of India. He has acted as resource person in Refresher Courses of different universities, in international Workshops and in National Seminars and Training Programmes. His biography has been indexed in Reference Asia & National Register of Social Scientists of India. He has an extensive work experience of being consultant to various NGOs, INGOs, corporate sector, Banks, Insurance companies and undertaking research projects of World Bank, RBI, ODA, DFID,UNDP, UNEP,UNICEF, ILO, WHO, Noviv, Actionaid, HDFC and Government. of India and Govt of Orissa. He is associated with many policy-making bodies of the Government. He is the member of many international bodies and agencies. He was member of Financial Reforms committee of UNO during Obama Administration. At present he is the Associate Editor of Indian Economic journal. He is the member of editorial board of *International Research journal of Business and social Sciences(UK)*, *Interdisciplinary Review of Economics and Management(Australia)*,*Asian Economic and Financial Review (China)* and few other journals of Economics in India and abroad . The Ministry of Environment ,New Delhi has appointed Dr Das as the Member of State Pollution Board.

His teaching proficiency includes:

Mathematical Economics, Econometrics, Statistics, Institutional Finance, Strategic Management, Quantitative Techniques, Investment analysis and portfolio management, Micro-Macro Economics, Environmental Economics, Industrial Economics, Health Economics, Managerial Economics, Regional Economics and International Economics.

His domain of research interest includes:

Sustainable development, Regional disparity, Industrial management, Institutional Finance, Inclusive development, Rural development, Tribal development, Gender issues, Poverty and Vulnerability , Livelihood systems, Empowerment and Human Rights, Social sector, Human Development, Environmental Issues, Displacement and Disaster management.