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Poetry of the Young on Human Values 2010

Edited by
H.K. KAUL

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Foreword

Fostering human values in children lies at the core of education. Ministry of Human Resource Development has endeavoured to ensure that human values form the subtext of the education system crafted for the nation. Education needs to recognise and then nurture talent innate in children while providing appropriate forum for their expression and further blossoming. Such talent when guided through the prism of good human values helps create art, literature and cultural expression of lasting value.

I am happy that the Poetry Society (India) with the support of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been successfully conducting creative writing workshops in Indian languages and the All India Poetry Competition for school children in different parts of the country. I compliment them for having chosen the theme of Human Values for this competition this year.

The fact that 2290 students have participated in this competition and given expression to their talent and inner most feeling is also indicative of the need for larger number of students to participate in creative processes to ensure that the space for poetic expression remains inviolate. Writing poetry dwelling on human values has, I am sure, been a valuable experience of self-discovery for these young poets as, I am sure, it will be for the readers in whose hands this volume will find a way.

I hope the Poetry Society of India initiatives will continue to gather strength for us to enable the creative talent of young girls and boys to blossom to the fullest potential.

New Delhi
December 8, 2010

Vibha Puri Das
Secretary
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India

Preface

The Poetry Society (India) has been organising All-India Poetry Competitions Among School Children in order to promote creativity among students. These competitions have been supported by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. We have been organising these competitions since 1995.

The work on this competition was started in January 2010. Advertisements were placed in many leading newspapers and entry forms were sent to about 5,000 selected schools in the country.

The judging of the entries of the All India Poetry Competition Among School Children on Human Values 2010 was completed on October 21, 2010. The Competition was organised with the assistance of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The following comprised the panel of judges:

1. Dr. J.P. Das, Chairman
2. Ms. Anna Sujatha Mathai
3. Ms. Sharmila Ray
4. Ms. Rachna Joshi
5. Dr. H.K. Kaul, ex-officio member.

In this competition 2290 students from 227 schools located in different parts of India contributed 2583 entries. The panel of judges selected the following student-poets for the awards:

First Prize (Rs. 11,000)

Miss Aayushi Jajodia for the poem *The Tunnel of Life*
Class XI
Mahadevi Birla Girls' Higher
Secondary School,
17A, Darga Road,
Kolkata 17

Second Prize (Rs. 7,000)

Mr. Arshiet Dhamnaskar for the poem *The Trail of Life*
Class X
Gopi Birla Memorial School,
68, Walkeshwar Road,
Mumbai 400006

Third Prize (Rs. 5,000)

Miss Namrata Agarwal for the poem *Living Life...The Right Way*
Class X
Mahadevi Birla Girls' Higher
Secondary School,
17A, Darga Road,
Kolkata 17

Commendation Prizes (Five, of Rs. 1000 each)

1. **Miss Athira P.** for the poem *The Little Girl in Me*
Class XII
Atomic Energy Central School,
RMP Colony, Yelwal
Mysore 571130

2. **Miss Rhea Mehta** for the poem *Betrayal*
Class X
Gopi Birla Memorial School,
68, Walkeshwar Road,
Mumbai 400006
Tel: School 23696872 / 23693063

3. **Miss Mrinalini Verma** for the poem *Life is Like a Plant*
Class X
Venkateshwar International School
Sec. 10, Dwarka
New Delhi 110075

4. **Mr. Harne Shubham M.** for the poem *The Jigsaw of Life...*
Class XII
Aditya Birla Public School,
Dahej Road, Kesrol, Bharuch

5. **Miss Kaineet Kaur Sira** for the poem *Light Burden*
Class X
Delhi Public School
Near Bopal Crossing,
Bopal, Ahmedabad

The Poetry Society (India) published the following anthologies based on the shortlisted poems of the All-India Poetry Competitions Among School Children under the Series **Poetry of the Young:**

1. The Whispering Breeze
2. Early Blossoms
3. Light Breeze of Spring
4. Blooming Buds
5. Dreamy Blossoms
6. The Morning Rays
7. Spring Flowers

The eighth national poetry competition is devoted to human values. Eight award-winning poems have been presented in the first section. In the second section 34 poems have been shortlisted and presented. I would like to thank the young poets who participated in this national poetry competition. We are grateful to the Principals and concerned teachers of schools who forwarded the entries to the Poetry Society (India). I would like to congratulate the award-winners and hope that they will continue writing poetry in future as well.

We hope that all poems are original and do not contain any copied portions from already published poems. It has not been possible for us to check each and every poem with Web resources and other published resources. It is for this reason that we had asked the young poets to forward their contributions through their schools.

We are grateful to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for providing financial assistance for organising this All-India Poetry Competition Among School Children on Human Values. This has been a theme-based competition and as a result a number of views have emerged on Human Values through these poems. I am sure that the young poets whose poems have been shortlisted will continue writing poetry and improve their craft so that next time they could win the awards as well.

November 30, 2010

H. K. Kaul

Secretary-General
The Poetry Society (India)
L-67A, Malviya Nagar,
New Delhi - 110017

Introduction

H. K. Kaul

We received 2583 poems from 2290 students from different parts of India. These poems were on various aspects of human values. I could shortlist only 42 poems for this collection. But these poems give an overview of the mood of young poets who participated in this competition. The effort was to select the poems that were better in the lot and therefore each poem has scope for further improvement. I therefore do not want to write on the craft of these poems but on the themes and idea that these poems project with a great sense of responsibility.

Almost all these poems criticise the human environment of which we are part of. The human attributes of individuals, not complimentary at all, are well depicted by Gargi Juneja in her poem "Humanity". She gives examples of the inhuman values of man and finally observes:

Now, I think
How unlucky I am,
I'm a human.
If I weren't a human, I wouldn't
Have been aware of the
Path, I'm walking on...

Life, therefore, is becoming complex every day. Aayushi Jajodia, the first prize winner of this competition, brings out succinctly the bright and dark sides of life and recommends that one should not follow in the footsteps of others but leave behind one's own imprints. So does Arshiet Dhamnaskar, the second-prize winner who describes life as a stony trail and depicts the twists and turns one may face in the journey of life. In the struggle for living, Namrata Agarwal, the third-prize winner of this competition highlights the difficult moments in one's life:

It doesn't take a lot to sharpen a pencil
It takes a lot to sharpen it when it keeps on breaking
It doesn't take a lot to hurt someone
It takes a lot to love someone who hurt you