

Citation for the OneJAIN Excellence in Community Service Award

The awardee for the Excellence in Community Service Award spent the first 28 years of his life in Kenya. After his high school studies, he joined his family business.

His desire to better himself drove him to study at home and gain a degree in Economics and that too after he got married and had become a father.

He migrated to the UK in 1968 – must have been a popular year for migration to the UK!! And took up a full-time employment. His desire to better himself had not been satiated and he studied law and was called to the Bar at the Gray's Inn in London. He has never practised as a Barrister-at-Law

Rewinding his timeline a little, – at the age of 14 he, with a few friends, revived the community library in Nairobi. Raised funds to buy new books and made the lending library an interesting and thriving project.

At 21, he was elected Vice President of the community's Youth Association. To make the association membership attractive, games like badminton, table tennis and chess were introduced. A monthly newsletter was launched and a group of volunteers was formed to offer services to the community.

His reputation as a good worker was well respected in London and the community elected him to the Executive Committee of Navnat Vanik Association [NVA] and a member of the Editorial Board of the community newsletter in his absence. Just a few months later, the Editor resigned, and he took over the editorship temporarily but it lasted for 15 years, punctually producing handwritten newsletter each month. Although he left the post a few times, he was requested to manage temporarily for short periods and served as an Editor for altogether 30 years.

He remained a committee member of NVA for several years and was elected ~~as a~~ Vice President. Later he was appointed a Trustee and remained so for seven years. He was requested to become the President of NVA in 2000. During his term he started the Bridge Club which - is a very popular activity at NVA.

He was jointly instrumental in the formation of the National Council of Vanik Association.

After retiring from business, he joined a Harrow card playing group which he - formalised as a charity: the Harrow Elders Group which - is very active to-date. He successfully secured several grants for the charity whilst with them.

He then joined Navnat Vadil Mandal. He was instrumental in formalising the group, introducing yoga and other interesting activities, and securing grants.

Few years later – he formed another group for the elders – Navjivan Vadil Kendra which received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2015. Apart from Yoga – he introduced bowling which has proved to be a very popular activity in the group.

He has been honoured by the local Gujarati newspaper and by Mahavir Foundation.

He realised the importance of physical activities for a healthy life in later years of his life and he took up several physically demanding games like squash, badminton, racket ball and played those for over 30 years. Yoga has been his favourite all these years and still continues to be an important activity.

He took up trekking at the age of 65 and for ten years continued to track in the foothills of the Himalayas. He also used the opportunity to raise funds for several charities during his trekking. His other interests include golf, bridge and bowling.

We see in this awardee a very versatile and determined person who achieves what he sets out to do. Fortunately, his targets are all community service oriented and thus the community continues to benefit thru his efforts in the past.

THE 2018 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE in COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: Mr JAYANT DOSHI