

Sanjoy Ghose Media Awards 2023

Charkha Development Communication Network announces ***Sanjoy Ghose Media Awards 2023*** to celebrate the work of independent writers, researchers, social workers and young peer leaders who are committed to creating a new vision for the media's role in empowering young girls and women from rural communities. These awards pay homage to Charkha's founder, Sanjoy Ghose, and his efforts to bring about the social and economic inclusion of marginalized rural communities through innovative media practices. Over two decades, these awards have nurtured a cadre of development communicators poised to establish influential models for sustainable change. Awardees convene to exchange ideas, collectively driving the creation of a visionary, responsible, and socially sensitive media – the fourth pillar of democracy.

This year, a total of 5 awards will be given based on the evaluation made by an independent panel of experts, under 2 different categories.

Category 1:

This category of awards recognizes and promotes outstanding work by independent writers in the field of rural reporting. **Articles published between May 1, 2022, and July 31, 2023**, on any of the following themes would be considered by the panel:

- **Gender-based violence against young girls and women in rural India** – Articles that demand attention and action on the gender-based violence experienced by young girls and women living in rural and remote regions of India. Gender-based violence not only hinders personal development but also obstructs broader societal progress. Your published article should stress how addressing this issue is not only a matter of human rights but also pivotal for achieving gender equality and inclusive rural development. Your article should have explored any of the following key areas – survivor stories, root causes, legal framework, psychological impact, and community interventions.
- **Healthcare for young girls in rural India, including SRHR and WASH** – Access to quality healthcare, SRHR services, and proper WASH facilities is not only a matter of health but also a fundamental right. Articles that highlight the critical need for comprehensive healthcare for young girls living in rural India, with a particular focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and ensuring access to clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities will fall under this theme. Your article should have explored the

multifaceted challenges faced by these girls and the solutions that are being implemented to improve their overall well-being. We will look for a clear emphasis on how these services empower young girls to make informed decisions about their bodies, education, and future, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being and agency. Key areas that we will look in your published articles will include: SRHR, WASH infrastructure in villages, menstrual hygiene, cultural barriers, and impact of government initiatives.

- **Women entrepreneurship in rural India:** Articles that focus on the entrepreneurial spirit and economic empowerment of women in the often underserved and challenging rural landscapes of India. Women in rural areas play a crucial role in ensuring food security, livelihood generation, and the preservation of traditional crafts and knowledge. Your published article should contribute to a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that women entrepreneurs from rural areas experience. This theme invites articles that have delved into the stories, challenges, and innovative solutions revolving around women from rural regions stepping into the world of entrepreneurship. Your article should be centered on any of the following key areas – success stories, economic impact, sectorial diversity, innovative models, and local and global impact.
- **Sports for empowerment of adolescent girls in rural India** – This theme sheds light on the transformative power of sports as a tool for the empowerment of adolescent girls in rural India. Participation in sports empowers them, promotes self-esteem, and equips them with life skills. It can also be a means of challenging gender norms and expanding horizons. The published article should have explored the challenges faced by these girls in accessing and participating in sports, as well as the opportunities that sports offer in terms of personal growth, education, and community development. The key areas we will look for in your article will include – barriers to participation, equity and inclusion, bodily freedom, health and well-being, role of coaches and mentors, and success stories.
- **Role of digital literacy in empowering adolescent girls in rural India** - Digital literacy plays a pivotal role in enabling the empowerment of adolescent girls residing in rural India. Despite the transformative potential of digital literacy, gendered attitudes and stereotypes can act as barriers, limiting girls' participation in this realm. Social norms, perceived risks, resource allocation, cultural stigmas and lack of female role models in technology and digital field make it difficult for girls in rural areas to participate in this field. The published articles should focus on the existing digital divide, the gendered access to education, economic empowerment, access to information, health and awareness.

If you have written an article on any of these themes, and if it has been published in an Indian (national or regional) newspaper, magazine or website between May 1, 2022, and July 31, 2023, then send us your entry by October 31, 2023.

Two awards carrying a certification and a cash prize of **INR 50,000/ each** will be awarded under this category.

Who can apply?

- All participants entering this category should be between 25-40 years of age.
- Participation is open to freelance/independent writers, excluding those currently employed by any media house.
- People from marginalized communities are encouraged to apply.

Requirements:

- One published article on any one of the themes mentioned above in English, Hindi or Urdu to be considered for the award. Please share the pdf of the published article along with the link.
- Participants are also required to submit a cover letter detailing their life journey, impact of their writings, the challenges encountered and overcome during their work, and their vision for contributing to society through their writings in the future.
- Please provide two previously published articles authored by you (in addition to the one submitted for award), on any subject of your choice. This will help us in gaining a deeper understanding of your work. Please share the pdf of the published article along with the links.
- One professional letter of recommendation along with two professional references.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

We request all applications should be sent as one email to connect@charkha.org. Please mention "Submission - SGMA 2023- Category-I" as the subject when applying for the award. For further information, contact +91 8851982420 between 10:00am-6:00pm.

Please Note: Charkha's trained writers and Women journalists are encouraged to apply. Previous Charkha Awardees/Fellows and those currently availing benefits of any other fellowship or a similar

financial assistance scheme are not eligible to apply. Articles written as part of any other fellowship will not be considered.

Category 2:

This category of awards aims to encourage young girls associated with non-profit organizations to become social advocates/peer leaders. After selection, each awardee in this category is expected to generate three well-researched articles acceptable in English, Hindi, or Urdu, along with good-quality photographs to be submitted by March 15, 2024. ***The Charkha team will assign a mentor to each awardee in this category to support them in their journey of writing these articles. The last date to apply for this category is October 31, 2023.***

Three awards carrying a certification and a cash prize of **INR 25,000/ each** will be awarded under this category.

How to Apply?

Please send a proposal of approximately 800-1000 highlighting how you aim to cover issues around **one of the thematic areas mentioned below:**

1. Gender-based violence against young girls and women in rural India
2. Digital literacy and its impact on empowering adolescent girls in rural India
3. Menstrual rights of adolescent girls in rural India
4. Impact of poor transportation facilities on lives of adolescent girls in rural India
5. Sports for empowerment of adolescent girls – challenges and opportunities in rural India.

Who can apply?

Adolescent girls (**age 15-18**) and young women (**age 19-25**) associated with any non-profit organization working in rural areas to empower adolescent girls from disadvantaged communities.

Requirements:

- Apart from the applicant's life journey, the proposal should also include why the applicant feels compelled to write about the issue. They should also share details regarding the

location of the study, how they will research about the article and who all they will interview to gather information related to the issue.

- Please also specify the language of communication. Articles will be accepted in **English, Hindi, or Urdu.**
- Participants are also required to submit one **writing sample** (published/unpublished) on any topic of your choice.
- Letter from the head of the organization approving the candidate's application shall also be attached with the application.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. (In case, you don't have access to a mobile phone/computer to send typed proposals/writing samples, please contact us immediately.)

We request all applications to be sent as one email to connect@charkha.org. **Please mention "Submission - SGMA 2023- Category-II" as the subject when applying for the award. For further information, contact +91 8851982420 between 10:00am-6:00pm.**

Please Note: *Charkha's trained writers and Women journalists are encouraged to apply. Previous Charkha Awardees/Fellows and those currently availing benefits of any other fellowship or a similar financial assistance scheme are not eligible to apply.*

Deprivation Points Model of Evaluation: Under category I of the SGMA, Charkha also follows the "deprivation points model". Under this, through the Jury's discretion, applicants can receive a maximum of 5 additional points to mitigate the gendered socio-economic disadvantage that they have faced. This, however, shall only be available to women, and people from gender minorities.