

Descriptive Vita of Bibhu Mohapatra

- **Senior Consultant:** Liberty Institute, New Delhi. Project on Democracy and popular participation. A web based project for informed participation of voters in the electoral process.
- **Consultant:** UNDP project on Legal Empowerment, carried out by Multiple Action Research Group (MARG), New Delhi.
- **National Coordinator, Association for Democratic Reforms, New Delhi.** ADR was responsible for the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India (2 May 2002), which mandated the disclosure of background details of candidates contesting Assembly and Parliamentary elections and held the Right of the citizen/voter to know such information as a Fundamental Right guaranteed by the Constitution of India. Since then, ADR has been involved in creating participatory mechanisms for better and informed electoral process. Recently concluded assembly elections in Punjab, Uttarakhand and UP and earlier in Bihar and West Bengal, citizens election watches have forced the political set up to review its policy of nomination candidates with criminal antecedents and have brought down number of such candidates drastically. Roles involved civil society initiatives for Creating and managing network organizations in 18 states of India. Strategising their growth, empowerment and strengthening of network by coordinating activities, which help in ADR's national profile. Raising funds, creating campaign material, writing reports, conceptualizing strategies and managing the office at New Delhi are part of administrative responsibility. In all till date I have been part of 17 Citizen's Election Watch campaigns in India since 2002. My work in these election watches include, research, creation of network, media coordination, and advocacy with election officials and till date we work with about 1200 NGOs across the country.
- **Consulting Editor, *The Indian Legislator*, (June 2004- March 2005)** a weekly for the Members of Parliament, Chambers of Commerce, Policy Makers and Civil Society. *TIL* aimed at informing the MPs about issues of significance in the sphere of the economy, politics, foreign policy, development and human rights. Following official positions of political parties on current issues and providing a matrix of comparative analysis was one of its features. It was meant to be a platform for creating a responsive mechanism between the governed and the elected representative. It was closely read and followed by Political Parties so that their own members can know about the position of the Party on important policy matters. I was the lead author on Governance, Rights based issues, Monitoring performance of Parliamentarians, Election and electoral reforms, Child rights, gender issues, Development scenario, and Current politics.
- **Consultant, National Campaign for Governance and Electoral Reforms, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, New Delhi-110067 (2003-3004).** **Tasks:** Creating popular literature for awareness campaigns on issues related to governance and electoral reforms; creating networks of NGOs and other civil society bodies for collective social action, right to information, and election watch; strategising coordination of activities between Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Orissa, Jharkhand, and northeastern states for citizens watch on electoral process; conducting workshops; coordinating media strategy at state and

- national levels; coordinating and collaborating with Chief Electoral Officers in states, State Election Commissions, and Election Commission of India; coordinating collection, collation and dissemination of disclosure data (information contained in affidavits filed by aspiring candidates along with nomination papers) during elections 2003 and 2004.
- **Member representative, Association for Democratic Reforms** (October 2003-present) and coordinator, **Chunav 2004**, a coalition of NGOs and concerned civil society actors working for citizens participation in the electoral process for clean and responsive representatives. Responsible for election watch efforts in Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and North Eastern States. **Tasks:** creating network of civil society actors (especially media, NGO, Self-help groups and students) for voters' awareness, electoral expense monitoring, affidavit collection --election watch. Creating channels of communication and collaboration between political parties, media and election watch groups.
 - **Programme Officer, Constitutionalism Programme** (a Ford Foundation funded Programme), **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**, New Delhi. (August 2001–October 2003) **Tasks:** Project Administration; Financial administration; Public campaigns on accessing constitutional rights; Producing concept papers; Coordinating with partners and collaborators; training and network building for rights based campaigns, Publication and dissemination of information; convened and coordinated Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh election watch 2003; coordinated media strategy for dissemination of information; actively collaborated with Election Commission of India regarding creation of people's watch for violation of model code of conduct; conducted the Go Out and Vote campaign in the above mentioned states through electronic media campaigns and village level meetings of Panchayat representatives.
 - **September 1994 – July 2001: Research Officer, Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund**, New Delhi. **Tasks and activities:** Researching primary sources, newspapers, private papers, Ministry of External Affairs, Home, Industry, and Intelligence Bureau papers for selecting, editing, annotating and footnoting Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru volumes starting from November 1951 till January 1956 (vol-17- to vol-29). These Volumes of Jawaharlal Nehru's writings are considered to be one of the basic sources of historical and political research for post independent India. Closely worked with the Chief Editor, late Dr S Gopal, late Dr Ravinder Kumar, Professor A.K.Damodaran.
 - **March 1989-August 1994: Research Associate, Towards Freedom Project, Indian Council of Historical Research**, New Delhi. A 10 part project devoted to the documentation of the last decade of Freedom Struggle from the perspective of modern social history writing. **Tasks:** Primary research on information and documents pertaining to 1938, 1941, 1946 and 1947 from National Archives of India, State Archives of Orissa, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. Partially edited sections on Government of India Act, 1935; Provincial governments in action, 1938; and footnoted the whole volume for 1938. The volume for 1938, in three parts, was published in 1997 by the Oxford University Press.
 - **1996-1998:** Worked as Consultant and Editor for the **Land Reforms in India** series brought out by Land Reforms Unit of **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy for Administration**, Mussoorie. Particularly worked on Andhra

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab volumes. These volumes have been published by Sage publication India.

- **1989-1996:** Worked as freelance editor for Oxford University Press.
- **Research Fellow, University Grants Commission 1987-1991.**

Training

- BA Political Science Utkal University 1983; MA Political Science Delhi University 1986; MPhil, Political Science, Delhi University 1991. My Mphil title was “As within, so without”: Body and Politics in Gandhian Discourse. This was an endeavor to read political history of India through the lenses of psycho-analytical tools.
- Trained Facilitator in workshop designing, moderation, and content designing, Theodor Huess International Academy for Leadership, Gummarschbach, Germany, 2007.

Publications

- Co-author, *Orissa Development and Investment: Citizens’ Right to Information*, report, March 2004.
- Co-author, *The Right to Know: A Voter’s Guide* (CHRI, May 2003).
- Author, 'Linkages of Poverty and Human Rights', *Liberal Times*, December 2002.
- Co-author of numerous popular booklets and pamphlets on Voters Rights and responsibility; Verifying voters roll; Setting up a National agenda for governance reforms; Right to Education; Right to Information; Probity in Government etc. etc.
- Research and writing of section on Globalisation for the Talisman Report on Poverty and the Commonwealth (Presented at CHOGM, 2001).
- 15 reports on state elections and civil society action.
- Changing Grammar of Politics: Civil Society in UP Assembly Elections 2007.

Bibhu P. Mohapatra,

E-38, Oxford Apartments, IP Extension, Delhi-110092.

Alternately:

45-C, Green View Apartments, Sector 15-A, Noida,UP-201301

Tel- 0120-4228104 (res); Mobile: 91- 9811891124

Email: mohapatrabibhuprasad@gmail.com

bmohapatra@idfresearch.org