

# 20th Annual PoleStar Awards

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## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL IMPACT 2018

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Instituted to honour excellence in the workings of social impact enterprises that have made it their life's mission to bring positive change in the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised communities.

The POLESTAR Foundation has always believed in recognition that is truly deserved. And the winners have earned the honour through their sustained efforts against great odds in making a difference.

## JURY SPECIAL MENTION AWARD 2018



### CENTRE FOR ACTION RESEARCH AND PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT (CARPED)

**CARPED** has won the PoleStar Special Award for Best Social Impact organization in Health

CARPED is an action research group, formed by a group of young professionals, engaged in participatory community development.

The group registered as a Society in 1989 with an objective to facilitate better quality of life in development through community mobilisation, participatory governance based on sustainable natural resource management. Thus community participation, education, protection and promotion of environment and social capital are central to the activities of the organisation. Emphasis on children, women and environment are major areas of attention of CARPED's action research interventions that provide space for the participation and engagement of the stakeholders in analysis and change of the conditions forming the milieu of the people with whom CARPED works. Thus, targeted women are partners in the interventions and important stakeholders. CARPED emphasizes on making policies people-oriented.

CARPED was active in the areas of preventing displacement of the tribal communities, environment education and legal aid as part of larger networks, during the first five years. CARPED initiated activities in Kowdipallymandal of Medak since 1994 with focus on woman and child issues and participatory community development based on natural resource management (NRM). Besides, it continued active involvement in networks, campaigns and movements to facilitate people's development in varied spheres.

CARPED is known for designing and implementing Pilot projects to demonstrate alternative models. Projects include stopping child marriages among Gangireddula community, education to

the first generation lambada children by developing temples of learning in tribal hamlets, campaign against unnecessary hysterectomies, developing IEC material on HIV/AIDS in a tribal language, social audits on BC scholarships.

The Polestar Jury Special Mention Award 2018 for CARPED was conferred for the yeomen service CARPED renders in saving the lives of thousands of women from the hands of unscrupulous medical practitioners by preventing more number of unwanted hysterectomy cases, as pictured below.

"The RSBY and similar health insurance schemes are incentivising unethical practices leading to the large number of irrational and unnecessary surgeries."

Under the RSBY, cashless insurance of Rs 30,000 is given yearly to a BPL family – and a doctor can charge a hefty Rs 12,500 for a hysterectomy. In Andhra, for instance, a hysterectomy can cost up to Rs 60,000 - an amount that was reimbursed under the state's Aarogyasri scheme. As there was scope for quick money to be made in surgeries, private hospitals used registered medical practitioners (RMPs) to refer poor women with gynaecological problems as hysterectomy cases". In Andhra Pradesh, 'aarogyamitras', or health assistants, are appointed by private hospitals to scout around for patients who can be enticed to get operated upon in private hospitals. CARPED was alarmed at the rate of young women operated wrongly for hysterectomy, without their knowledge - due to ignorance compounded by illiteracy. It played an activist role in exposing this illegal and dangerous practice and continues to save large number of tribal and poor rural women from the clutches of the perpetrator.

For more information visit <http://carped.org/>

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