

Saurbandhu Kar, General Secretary, AITUC, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Name	Saurbandhu Kar, Orissa state AITUC General Secretary
Date of Interview	January 29,2003
Place	at Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Context	Being a bank leader, the interview took place at the bank union office itself. Saurbandhu Kar is one of the younger state trade union leaders as he became the General Secretary at the age of 54 only.
Interviewers	Anil Rajimwale

Biographical Sketches

My date of birth is April 2, 1948. I hail from a lower middle class background and lost my father in my early childhood. I was deeply influenced by my mother who was ascetic by nature and was a strict disciplinarian. The fact that my mother was a widow and brought me up single handedly had impressed me greatly. She liked to read Vivekananda. I inherited the liking from her especially because Vivekananda had said that he wanted to wipe the tears of all widows in the country.

My mother wanted me to study and I fulfilled her desire by doing post graduate as well as LLB. The harsh economic conditions forced me to take up all kinds of odd jobs including being a coolie but I could never step back.

I joined bank services and got involved in the trade union movement as that was the only way to fight for one's rights. I became the state secretary of the Orissa trade union committee while working in bank and still I am a part timer only which is in itself unusual.

It was after coming to bank that I realised the need of trade union movement. I continued to build up trade union movement in other areas also in Bhubaneswar.

I have organised movements against child labour and bring out a journal on the same subject. I have organised movements against disinvestment of NALCO too.

I am also in the Progressive Writers' Association. I have penned several books on literature and philosophy. I believe that following Swami Vivekananda's philosophy, workers in our country can achieve emancipation.

Transcript Summary

Born on April 2, 1948, Saurbandhu Kar comes from a lower middle class background and lost his father in his early childhood. He was deeply influenced by his mother who was ascetic by nature and was a strict disciplinarian.

Saurbandhu Kar believed in education and continued with his studies despite harsh economic conditions. After school final, he began working as a coolie in the state electricity board on daily wages. Since he was educated, they put him on office work.

Saurbandhu Kar studied upto post graduation and also law. After finishing his MA and LLB, he joined bank services.

It was after coming to bank that he realised the need of trade union movement. He continued to build up trade union movement in other areas also in Bhubaneswar. He organised movement against child labour in the schools. He took part in the NALCO movement actively. He is the first bank leader to become state trade union leader.

Saurbandhu Kar is also the first trade union leader at state level to work a part timer.

Saurbandhu Kar has been deeply influenced by Vivekanand and his philosophy and believes that workers can be emancipated by following the same.

Saurbandhu Kar is also part of Progressive Writers movement. He has several books to his credit and brings out a journal on child labour.