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The book encourages teachers to adopt interdisciplinary approaches, making it a useful tool for their professional growth. It supports better teaching methods, curriculum design, and the creation of a positive and safe learning environment. It also discusses global challenges in education and highlights how education can contribute to sustainable development and well-being for a more inclusive future.

Compiled by Neha Gupta  
Librarian-cum-Documentation Officer

Bianca Vienni-Baptista et al. (eds.) **Interdisciplinary Practices in Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Collaborating Across Borders**. Routledge, 2024: 258p.

"Interdisciplinary Practices in Higher Education" highlights various approaches to teaching and collaboration across different fields in universities. Based on eight real-world cases, it addresses common challenges in interdisciplinary education, like designing programs, ensuring effective assessment, and managing stakeholder expectations.

**Key topics include:**

- Balancing broad versus in-depth learning in interdisciplinary courses
- Navigating disciplinary identities during collaborations
- Managing the administration of interdisciplinary programs
- Exploring career paths for interdisciplinary researchers
- Aligning goals with external partners in collaborative projects

Boeren, Ellen. **Lifelong Learning Participation in a Changing Policy Context: An Interdisciplinary Theory**. London, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016: 205p.

The book *Lifelong Learning Participation in a Changing Policy Context: An Interdisciplinary Theory* looks at why adults choose to take part in lifelong learning, drawing on ideas from psychology, sociology, and economics. It examines the different reasons adults might not engage in learning activities and highlights the role of individuals, educational providers, and social policies in this process.

The book focuses on the importance of policies and the social aspects of lifelong learning, discussing the benefits of participation and what this means for future policies, practices, and research. Its goal is to create a better understanding of adult learning and how to encourage more people to get involved.

ElSayary, Areej and Olowoselu, Rasheed (eds.). **Interdisciplinary Approaches for Educators' and Learners' Well-being: Transforming Education for Sustainable Development**. Springer, 2024: 271p.

This book looks at new ways to improve education for sustainable development, focusing on high-quality learning and the well-being of both teachers and students. It shares research findings, successful practices, and real-life examples to help educators use effective strategies.

Printed & Published by Suresh Khandelwal on behalf of Indian Adult Education Association, 17-B, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi - 110 002 and Printed at M/s. Graphic World, 1686, Kucha Dakhni Rai, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110 002. [Tel: 011-43489048], E-mail: iaedelhi@gmail.com, Website: iaea-india.in

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# IAEA NEWSLETTER

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## Indian Adult Education Association

### श्री कैलाश चौधरी जी को भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि



अपनी सोच, सक्रियता एवं सहभागिता के कारण चौधरी साहब, जैसा कि सभी उन्हें आदर के साथ बुलाते थे, भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ की उपस्थिति के पर्याय स्वरूप थे जिनका संघ के इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, नई दिल्ली स्थित मुख्यालय में आना-जाना लगातार चलता रहता था। कुछ दिनों से वे किंचित अस्वस्थ चल रहे थे पर दिनांक 28 अगस्त 2024 को अपेक्षाकृत स्वस्थ हालात में उन्होंने स्टाफ के सभी सदस्यों के साथ बातचीत की एवं जाते हुए उन्हें अपना आशीर्वाद दिया और विदाई ली। उस समय शायद ही किसी को यह आभास हुआ हो कि कार्यालय से यह उनकी आखिरी विदाई होने वाली है। महू पंहुचने के कुछ दिनों बाद ही उनकी तबियत खराब होते-होते गंभीर हो गई और 14 सितंबर 2024 को महू स्थित अपने पैतृक निवास में श्रद्धेय चौधरी साहब ने अंतिम सांस ली। अपनी इच्छानुसार बिना किसी की सेवा लिए चलते-फिरते वे इस संसार से विदा हो गये। प्रौढ़ शिक्षा जगत के लिए यह एक युग का समापन था। इस खबर से देश ही नहीं विदेशों में भी उनके चाहने वाले शिक्षाविदों और मित्रों में शोक की लहर दौड़ गई। इनमें जो जहां थे वहीं से उन्होंने अपनी भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

दिनांक 27 सितंबर को भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ कार्यालय में एक विशेष श्रद्धांजलि सभा आयोजित की गयी जिसमें चौधरी साहब के सान्निध्य में रहे गणमान्य लोगों यथा प्रो. एन. के. अंबष्ट, श्रीमती निशात फारुक, श्रीमती वर्षा दास, श्री के.के. सेठी, प्रो. एल. राजा, श्री सुरेश खण्डेलवाल, डा. वी. मोहनकुमार, डा. ए. मैथ्यू, डा. रामाकृष्ण सूरा, प्रो. राजेश, प्रो. आदिनारायण रेडडी, प्रो. जे.पी. दुबे, प्रो. अनिता प्रियदर्शिनी, प्रो. शिखा कपूर, श्री मृणाल पंत, श्री दिनेश दुबे, श्री रमेश गुप्ता एवं श्रीमती कल्पना कौशिक सहित भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ के सभी

कार्यकर्ताओं ने उन्हें अपनी विनम्र और भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की। सभा में देश भर से श्री चौधरी के बारे में प्राप्त उदगारों तथा उनके जीवन एवं योगदान को रेखांकित करते हुए अनेक चित्रों को भी प्रदर्शित किया गया। श्रद्धांजलि सभा के शुरुआत में भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ के निदेशक श्रीमती कल्पना कौशिक द्वारा रिकार्ड किये गये चौधरी साहब के जीवन और योगदान को रेखांकित करते हुए "स्मृति लेख" को प्रस्तुत किया गया। तत्पश्चात एक-एक कर उपस्थित महानुभावों ने श्री चौधरी के साथ अपनी स्मृतियों को सांझा करते हुए उन्हें अपनी श्रद्धांजलि दी। सभी ने अपनी दृष्टि से श्री चौधरी की कर्मठता के विविध पहलुओं को उद्धृत करने का प्रयास किया।

पर प्रौढ़ शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में चौधरी साहब के व्यापक योगदान को किसी एक लेख अथवा भाषण में समेटना शायद ही संभव हो सकेगा। इसलिए भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ की ओर से उनके प्रति व्यक्त उदगारों को समेट कर एक श्रद्धांजलि स्मारिका प्रकाशित करने का निर्णय लिया गया है ताकि भविष्य के अध्येताओं को उनके बारे में समुचित जानकारी प्राप्त हो सके।



भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ के अध्यक्ष प्रो. एल. राजा ने श्रद्धेय चौधरी साहब की अंतिम यात्रा में भाग ले भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ परिवार के सभी सदस्यों की ओर से अपने पिता तुल्य पूज्य कैलाश चौधरी जी को श्रद्धा सुमन अर्पित किए।



# Shri K. C. Choudhary as Crusader for Adult Education

Shri Kailash Choudhary comes from the historical city Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, the birth place of the great Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and hails from a very humble background. Right from his childhood Shri Choudhary was a unique person, an egalitarian by thought, who used to treat poor and downtrodden at par with anybody else in the society. The crusading spirit in him found the first reflection when he started helping the Scheduled Caste (SC) people who were having problem in fetching water from one well where other community refused them to take water from. He came forward and mobilised youth to dig a new well exclusively for the SC people. Suppressed people became happy and the problem was solved harmoniously.



organizer, participated in the Executive Committee, became Associate Secretary, General Secretary, President and Chief Advisor.

## Dedication, Determination and Devotion

His entire life, with full commitment and constant strive, was devoted for taking IAEA to a greater height. He was continuously thinking about the growth and development of IAEA. He organised a number of workshops, seminars, symposiums, conferences in different parts of the country with full dedications and determinations. He never ailed in any of his efforts.

## One Family

Shri Choudhary considered IAEA to be one family. He was the first one to arrive and the last one to leave from each and every conference organized during his period. He meticulously used to monitor every aspect of the conference be it arrangements for accommodations, food and sanitation that too without giving any trouble to the participants. Because of his forthcoming welcome every participants of the meetings or the conferences used to feel as if IAEA is one family. He always welcomed the delegates with smiling face and with folded hands. Sometimes he used to hug them tightly instilling the sense of oneness. He always used to address the participants as friends. During the conferences he used to be very happy and jubilant with everyone.

## What I learned from him

After my marriage, my father-in-law Prof. B. B. Mohanty, Odisha who was then the Treasurer of IAEA introduced me to the Association and made me as one of the life members in 1994. For the first time, I met Shri K. C. Choudhary and Prof. B. S. Garg in one of the conferences held at Tirupati where both of them were very much happy to see me and wanted me to become an Executive Committee member of IAEA in the next election. Subsequently, I was elected as a Vice-President for the South-Zone of IAEA. It was indeed a great honour for me at that time when I was working for the Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Mandal, Gandhi



## How Adult Education became part of his Life?

Shri Choudhary inherited the vision of adult education from his father who was a Scout Teacher and used to conduct adult education classes for the villagers at that time. Along with his father young Kailash used to carry the lantern for conducting the class at night in the public places. Here he observed how his father and other volunteers were conducting the adult education classes. The lesson he learned from there evolved him as a torch bearer of adult education in the Indian Adult Education Association for more than 60 years. His dedication was demonstrated from Adult Education (AE) era to Artificial Intelligence (AI) era. Shri Choudhary had the opportunity to work with the outstanding personalities of adult education such as Dr. S. C. Datta, Dr. M. S. Mehta, Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah and Prof. B. S. Garg.

## Came into contact of IAEA

His first encounter with IAEA happened in 1964 at Indore in a workshop organized by the Association. It was Shri N. C. Pant, already a Life Member of IAEA, who introduced him to IAEA. At that point of time Shri Choudhary was in the Asha Kala Kendra, an NGO working for the upliftment of the people in Mhow. Later on, the Asha Kala Kendra also became the institutional member of the IAEA.

## Volunteers for IAEA

Shri Choudhary volunteered for the Association from 1964 to 2024 for more than 6 decades and served IAEA in various capacities such as a volunteer, an

# Commemorative Volume on Dr. V. L. N. Reddy

## Call for Write-ups of Memories

Dr. V. L. N. Reddy, a veteran in the field of Education/ Adult Education and recipient of 'Nehru Literacy Award' (2009), who served the university in various capacities as teacher, trainer, researcher, advisor, administrator and community activist, passed away on 28-02-2022. Dr. Reddy started his career as Lower Division Clerk in the Education Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1953 and rose to the position of Professor and superannuated from service as Professor of Adult Education, S.V. University, Tirupati on 31st July, 1993. After retirement, Dr. Reddy extended his services to Sri Magunta Raghava Reddy Charitable Trust, Ongole for a year and later he was offered as Visiting Professor in Education, Osmania University (OU), Hyderabad. After his successful completion his tenure in OU, he served as Director, Siddardha College of Education / Noble College of Management at Kavali, Nellore District. During his two decades of service (from 1972 to 1993) in SVU, Dr. Reddy made a significant contribution to the field of Adult Education in the form of teaching, research, extension, introduction of academic courses, conducting of trainings for field functionaries and coaching classes for the aspirants of competitive examinations. He was instrumental for starting initially the UGC sponsored State Resource Centre (SRC) for Adult Education (which was later shifted to Hyderabad) and for serving the Rayalaseema region, a Regional Resource Centre (RRC) was established in the department. Further, he was responsible for starting the UGC sponsored National Adult Education Programme (NAEP) Unit and Nucleus Cell for resource support to adult education programmes. Dr.Reddy's pioneering contributions to education, adult education, population education and distance education had not only been stupendous but also distinctive which he made possible through his versatility, foresight and wide social contacts.

## Appeal to the Writers/ Contributors

Keeping all these things in mind, it has been decided by a group of his well-wishers to bring out a Commemorative Volume/ Book tentatively titled as 'Dr. V L N Reddy: the Veteran of Adult Education'. In this connection, you are requested to contribute write-ups of memories on Dr. V L N Reddy. The proposed contents include: your association and memories, his noble qualities of open-mind, tolerance, brotherhood, simplicity, values, smile/laughter and empathy, and his imprints on you and your career. You can also choose to write about his early life, education, history, nature, philosophy, philanthropy, and contributions to adult education/ society etc. You can also share your personal and professional experiences with Dr. Reddy as well as interesting incidents, anecdotes, quotations, case studies and memorable photos with him, if any. You can also choose to interview his family, relatives and old friends to

enlist their thoughts and memories on Dr. Reddy.

## Guidelines for contributors

The writers are requested to submit their write-ups either in English or Telugu through e-mail "reddy.mathuku@gmail.com" on or before 30th November, 2024 for timely publication.

– Prof. M. C. Reddeppa Reddy  
Convener

## Obituary

Dr. A. M.Thampi, former Prof. & Head, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala breathed his last on October 16, 2024 at S. K. Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Retired as Director/Coordinator, Advanced Centre of Training in Plantation Crops from Kerala Agricultural University Dr. Thampi was a Life Member of IAEA since September 22, 1978 and a known adult educationist in Kerala. His pivotal academic contribution motivated a number of academicians and scholars to work for the cause of adult education. We in IAEA pay our heartfelt condolences to the departed soul.



## New Subscription Rate for IJAE

The rate of subscription for the Indian Journal of Adult Education (IJAE) has been revised. Now subscribers have to pay Rs.750/- plus 5% GST i.e Rs. 787.50/- per annum. This rate will be effective from January 2025.





## Application invited for Ten Days 'Research Methodology Course in Social Sciences' (19th to 28th February 2025) (Offline Mode)

Scholars pursuing their M.Phil. /Ph.D. / PDF Programme in Social Sciences may apply free of cost for ten days long Research Methodology Course in offline mode organized by The Department of Management & Department of Education, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema, Nagaland which is sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. This course contains a total of 30 working sessions including a Field Trip. Last Date of Application: 17th December, 2024.

**Number of Seats:** Number of seats is limited to 30 (Thirty) (10 Out station +10 within the state + 10 within the campus) only

**Requirements for the Workshop:** Laptop with good Internet speed and necessary data pack are compulsory.

**How to Apply:**

1. Candidates desiring to attend the Research Methodology Workshop have to fill the requisite Application Form and submit to the Course Director through Google Form & Email (Soft Copy) only. A copy of Recent Bio-Data also has to be submitted along with the application form.
2. The applications should be forwarded by the Head/ Dean/ Research Supervisor of the Institution/University of the concerned applicant.
3. Applicants have to submit a note highlighting the present status of their research work duly recommended by the Supervisor, a copy of the Registration certificate, a synopsis/note on their research work along with their applications.
4. Sample draft Article Soft copy (Should bring if selected)
5. It may be noted that selection will be done as per ICSSR Guidelines.

All the requisite details (Application Form+ Bio data +Forwarding Letter + Status of Research Works + Registration Certificate +P.G. Mark Sheet) in Single PDF (convert all the files in single PDF file) should be upload in the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/D54EFhLuTcbzpb6X9>) and also same can be sent by email to: nuicssrworkshop@gmail.com

## बीकानेर में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता दिवस पर संगोष्ठी का आयोजन

दिनांक 8 सितंबर 2024 को बीकानेर में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता दिवस के अवसर पर मुक्ति संस्थान द्वारा 'शिक्षा और साक्षरता मानव विकास की आवश्यकता' विषय पर एक संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। मुक्ति संस्थान के सूचना केंद्र में आयोजित इस संगोष्ठी की अध्यक्षता सुप्रसिद्ध कवि-कथाकार एवं भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ के कार्यकारिणी सदस्य श्री राजेंद्र जोशी ने की। इस अवसर पर वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार श्री राजाराम स्वर्णकार, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता महेंद्र जैन, जनसंपर्क विभाग के सहायक निदेशक श्री हरिशंकर आचार्य तथा श्री राजेंद्र जोशी ने भी अपने विचार व्यक्त किये।

श्री जोशी ने कहा कि शिक्षा और साक्षरता के बिना किसी देश के विकास की परिकल्पना नहीं की जा सकती। सही मायने में शिक्षा और विकास एक-दूसरे के पूरक हैं। उन्होंने कहा की सरकारों द्वारा साक्षरता दर बढ़ाने के प्रयास नियमित रूप से किया जा रहे हैं, लेकिन इस लक्ष्य को पूरा करने में प्रत्येक जागरूक नागरिक को अपनी भूमिका निभानी होगी। श्री जैन ने कहा कि साक्षरता मानव का मौलिक अधिकार है। पर यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि आज भी दुनिया की 754 मिलियन वयस्क आबादी साक्षरता से वंचित है। श्री राजाराम स्वर्णकार ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार ने वर्ष 2030 तक शत-प्रतिशत साक्षरता का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है जो सभी के लिए सर्वांगीण विकास के नए रास्ते खोलेगा। श्री आचार्य ने कहा कि यूनेस्को द्वारा निर्धारित इस वर्ष अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता थीम 'बहुभाषी शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देना आपसी समझ एवं शांति के लिए साक्षरता' है जिसके तहत दुनिया भर में पूरे साल विभिन्न कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाएंगे। संगोष्ठी का संचालन जनसंपर्क कार्यालय के श्री प्रियांशु आचार्य ने किया। इस दौरान श्री विष्णु शर्मा, श्री मांगीलाल भद्रवाल, श्री विजय जोशी, श्री शिवकुमार पुरोहित तथा श्री दिनेश चूरा ने भी अपने विचार रखे।



Museum, Madurai. Later on, in 1998 I joined Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu.

### Attending Conferences and Presenting Paper

From 1994 to 1998, I had the opportunity to attend a few conferences and gained confidence to conduct the All India Annual Conference in Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu in 2002. It was the first time, I had organised an All India Conference with the help of many well experienced professors where entire team worked very hard to make it a grand success. The inaugural function of the conference was graced by a Union Minister.

### Organised Conferences and Regional Seminars

The confidence and motivation gained there helped me to sail the boat further and I organized the second conference in 2009 at Swami Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University. Here also Gandhigram played a crucial role and made the conference as successful one.

The third conference at Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University, Gandhigram was organized in 2015 which turned to be a grand success in view of both the number of participants and the number of academic papers presented in the conference. The discourse that took place in the conference exemplified that the academic programme was gaining new impetus.

Moving ahead on the line the fourth conference was organized in 2023 at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, in collaboration with Indian Adult Education Association, Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore and Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed to be University. The 64th All India Adult Education Conference, participated by more than 170 scholars and academicians was inaugurated by Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor & Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Puducherry.

### Several Regional Activities

The Gandhigram Rural Institute took lead and organized a number of regional seminar and conference on different themes which was highly appreciated by the participants.

### MoU signed with outstanding Institutions

The academic bonding led to signing MoU's with many prestigious institutions including Amrita Vishwa

Vidyapeetham, Quilon, Kerala; Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and the University of Jammu, Jammu.

On all these occasions Shri K. C. Choudhary was present and had a good time and interacted with the higher officials, especially with the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Quilon. At least on three occasions we had inspiring darshan of the Amma Matha Amrithandaimai. It was indeed a great experience.

Shri Choudhary's spiritual affection inspired me a lot and transformed me into a sincere person for IAEA. He was one of the mentors for me and guided me as his own son. That kind of affection and inspiration is cherished possession for me and will keep my mind illuminated throughout the life. His gentle and soft-spoken words go without hurting anyone. At the same time, he was strict to the workers in the office and guided them how to treat the guests who often visit IAEA. Irrespective of the visitor's social or academic background he used to give equal respect to everyone extended in a humble way. He was a man of action ready to accomplish effortlessly all the activities well in advance in order to avoid the last minutes hurry-ups. He was a well experienced and well-acquainted person in all the aspects whether it is politics, religions, academic, legal or environment.

### My Superannuation Party at Gandhigram

Shri Choudhary used to plan his travel itinerary in such a way that he can attain even the family functions of IAEA members. I was not an exception to this as he blessed me both on the occasion of my superannuation from Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed to be University on March 28, 2024 and our daughter's marriage in Coimbatore. His mere presence made us happy and more comfortable.

### Pre-Arrangement work of the 65th All India Adult Education Conference at Abu Road, Rajasthan

After the National Seminar at Trupati, together we went to Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Abu Road, Rajasthan to attend the meeting for finalizing the pre-arrangement work for the 65th All India Adult Education Conference. It was Shri K. C. Choudhary's



Dear Delegates

Heartiest welcome to

**65th All India Adult Education Conference**

(January 9-11, 2025 : Manmohini Van Campus, Abu Road, Rajasthan)

Indian Adult Education Association

Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya



last visit for looking after the pre-arrangements work of the 65th Conference. He was travelling by car, flight, train and was keen to verify all the facilities for the participants of the conference. This was my last in-person meeting with him. There after I spoke to him over phone many times and very affectionately, he called me "Raja". Where can I get such a delightful person in my life? Who was like everything for me especially after my father passed away? He was like a fatherly figure for me...guided me in almost every important aspects of my life.

#### I miss him

His beautiful smile, compassion towards others, helping the needy, affectionate, unwavering love, simplicity, who always brought sweets and mixtures, traveling for the good cause, meeting IAEA members as own family members was really mesmerising. Some of the fantastic qualities of him viz. having a strong faith in humanity, quietly listening to people, involving youth for the activities made me to adore him a lot. He was an extraordinary leader whose legacy will always be a light house for us. His remarkable leadership marked by unique blend of humility and confidence guided IAEA throughout its transformative journey leading to a massive expansion with a deep sense of service to the community. Let us all value and cherish his vision and mission. We, our family members, Dr. Kalpana Raja and Mrs. S. Kaveri are always grateful to him for his affection towards us.

#### A Mobile University

He was like a mobile library, at any time he would be always alert and trying to extend his help for others. His deep pragmatic knowledge was amazing and often based on real time interesting stories from his life. At any on-line meeting he would be the first person to log in and be available until the end of the programme. If anyone asked any question, he would be very glad to explain to them. During the Corona period he was not able to travel and was very much unhappy. However, we were quite active on mobile sharing each other's views. He had a sharp memory and used to explain incidents vividly and systematically. In many of his interviews he narrated interesting experiences of him. He never took revenge on anyone; on the other hand, he invited the opponent party to be friendly. He forgave others, which was one of best qualities in his life that I learned.

#### His area of specializations

He was a multifaceted and all-rounder personality whose area of interest was vast enough including Adult Education, Workers' Education, Cooperative Member Education, Training of Trainers, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperatives, Social Welfare, Women and Child Development,

Journalism and Publications, NGO Networking, Public Administration and Management, Social Research/Studies, Programmes for Weaker Sections.

#### Traveled Abroad

He travelled almost all the continents especially countries like United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), Europe, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Finland, Switzerland, Asian countries like China, Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand. In these places he had attended the conferences and meetings with regard to Adult Education as well as Lifelong Learning. The most interesting thing for him was to represent Reading Association of India on various international forums where he had contributed a lot for the future of activities both at the national and international levels.

#### Traveled and involved in Political party

From the very beginning he was involved in the activities of the Indian National Congress, Samyukta Socialist Party, Harsola Block Congress, Indore District Youth Congress and All India Youth Lawyers. The strong commitment for political parties for him was to serve poor people in the rural area.

#### Way forward

It is very rare to see such a wonderful person who served the Association for more than six decades in various capacities and developed this as a unique center for Adult Education at the national level and successfully established the International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education for spreading the ideas of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning at the international level. He had wide contact with most of the higher education institutions, government sectors, non-government sectors, service organizations and philanthropists. He was liked by all the sections of the people from lower level to higher level because of his gentleness and enormous practical knowledge.

Now, I consider this to be our highest responsibilities to carry forward his vision and mission that successfully nurtured three most prominent organizations in the domain of Lifelong Learning viz. Indian Adult Education Association, International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Learning and the Reading Association of India. To continue more our efforts should be directed towards organizing extension activities, research work, academic engagement and dissemination of information related to the activities that are happening in and around the country and the world. Let's take IAEA to the greater height so that the sustainability of the organization thrives forever and fulfills his everlasting dream.

– Prof. L. Raja  
President, IAEA



मंचासीन – श्री जयसिंह पंवार, श्री बी.डी. शुक्ला, श्री मनीष सक्सेना एवं श्री सुरेश खण्डेलवाल



प्राचार्य रागनी सोमराजन का अभिनन्दन करते हुए अतिथिगण एवं सुरेश खण्डेलवाल



विभिन्न विद्यालयों के पुरस्कृत छात्र-छात्राएँ



आकर्षक पुरस्कारों से पुरस्कृत छात्र-छात्राएँ

मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. बी. पी. शुक्ला ने कहा कि हमारी मान्यता वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् की है और हम सभी सम्पूर्ण पृथ्वी को अपना परिवार मानते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल महोत्सव समिति बच्चों की प्रतिभा निखारने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही है और स्वाभाविक ही उन्हें महोत्सव में भाग लेते हुए गर्व महसूस हो रहा है। विशेष अतिथि श्री मनीष सक्सेना ने छोटी-छोटी प्रेरक कहानियों के माध्यम से अपनी बात रखते हुए कहा कि जहां चाह वहीं राह होती है। आप अपने में वह कुशलता पैदा करें कि दुनिया कहे आप अनमोल हैं। समारोह के अध्यक्ष श्री जयसिंह पंवार ने कहा कि सूरज की ताकत रखने वाले ऊर्जावान बच्चे बाल महोत्सव के माध्यम से अपनी प्रतिभाओं को लगातार संवार रहे हैं।

इस अवसर पर बालमहोत्सव समिति द्वारा शिक्षा क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए श्री माहेश्वरी उ. मा. विद्यालय की प्राचार्य श्रीमती रागिनी सोमराजन को अभिनंदन पत्र प्रदान कर सम्मानित किया गया। प्रत्युत्तर में श्रीमती सोमराजन ने आयोजन समिति के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करते हुए पुरस्कार प्राप्त करने वाले सभी बच्चों को बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं प्रदान की।

समारोह में उच्च माध्यमिक स्तर के छात्रों के लिए चित्रकला, निबंध, वाद-विवाद एवं ट्रेजर हंट; माध्यमिक स्तर पर रंगोली, एकल गायन, एकल नृत्य एवं खुली ड्रेस एवं खुली चित्रकला आदि प्रतियोगिताएं आयोजित की गयी तथा उच्चरत स्तर, माध्यमिक स्तर और प्राथमिक स्तर की 17 प्रतियोगिताओं में 20 विद्यालयों से भाग ले रहे कुल 98 विजेताओं को पुरस्कृत किया गया।

समारोह के प्रारंभ में विद्यालय के छात्रों द्वारा सरस्वती वंदना प्रस्तुत की

गयी। स्वागत समिति की ओर से श्री राजेश पाटीदार एवं श्री जय गोविन्द गोपीनाथ तथा उ. मा. विद्यालय की ओर से शिक्षिका श्रीमती साधना कुशवाहा ने पुष्प गुच्छ द्वारा सभी अतिथियों का स्वागत किया। बाल महोत्सव की एतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि का परिचय एवं पुरस्कार संबंधी जानकारी समिति के सह-सचिव श्री नारायण प्रसाद चौहान ने प्रस्तुत की। अतिथि परिचय एवं कार्यक्रम का संचालन श्रीमती वंदना दुबे ने तथा आभार समिति अध्यक्ष श्री सुरेश खण्डेलवाल ने माना।

कार्यक्रम को सफल बनाने में श्री विमलचंद जैन, श्री रामलाल प्रजापति, श्री कमलेश मिश्रा, श्री उमेश खण्डेलवाल, श्री रविशंकर दुबे, श्री विजय कुमार विजयवर्गीय, सुश्री पूर्णिमा सेठ, श्रीमती अरुणा मिश्रा, श्री मनीष गुप्ता, श्री विक्रमसिंह शेखावत, श्री शाकीर खान, श्री दिलीप वर्मा एवं श्री दिनेश जादम का सक्रिय सहयोग प्राप्त हुआ।

इस अवसर पर महु नगर के गणमान्य नागरिक डॉ. आकांशा रितेश, श्री सतीश अग्रवाल, श्री मोतीलाल सोनी, श्री दीपक रघुनाथ, श्रीमती निर्मला यादव, श्रीमती राजकुमारी अग्रवाल, श्रीमती करुणा लोहारिया, श्रीमती मधु खण्डेलवाल, श्रीमती अंशु गुप्ता, श्रीमती मनीषा डेनियल, श्री गोविंद शर्मा एवं विभिन्न विद्यालयों के प्राचार्य, शिक्षक-शिक्षिकाएं एवं पुरस्कृत विद्यार्थियों के अभिभावकगण भी उपस्थित थे। कार्यक्रम का समापन राष्ट्रगान के साथ हुआ।

– कमलेश मिश्रा



## The launch of the Digital Publication from the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA)

The Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA) is happy to announce the launch of its Hindi and English publications on its official website. This important step is aimed at enhancing digital access for research scholars, educators, and anyone interested in the field of adult education.

The available resources cover a wide variety of topics, including adult

learning theories, effective learning methods, and educational policies. This initiative not only facilitates easier access to essential information but also encourages collaboration and knowledge sharing within the adult education community. Researchers, teachers, and learners can now conveniently explore these valuable materials from anywhere, making it easier to enhance their

understanding and application of adult education principles.

The IAEA believes that by making these resources readily available, it can contribute to the professional development of educators and improve educational outcomes for adult learners. We invite everyone to visit the IAEA website to take advantage of this wealth of information in the field of adult education.

## महू बाल महोत्सव 2024 का सफल आयोजन



उदघाटन समारोह में मंचासीन अतिथिगण



अतिथियों द्वारा बाल महोत्सव का शुभारंभ

भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू बच्चों से बेहद प्रेम करते थे और इसी कारण उनका जन्मदिन 14 नवंबर पूरे देश में बाल दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। प्रतिवर्ष की भांति इस वर्ष भी इस अवसर पर बाल महोत्सव समिति, महू के द्वारा बाल महोत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। "वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् एवं भारतीय संविधान" पर केंद्रित 44वें बाल महोत्सव में विविध सांस्कृतिक एवं रचनात्मक प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें महू नगर एवं आसपास के क्षेत्रों के लगभग 40 शासकीय एवं अशासकीय विद्यालयों के छात्र-छात्राओं ने भाग लिया।

### शुभारंभ

महोत्सव का विधिवत शुभारंभ 14 नवंबर 2024 को आयोजित भव्य बाल रैली से हुआ जो गर्ल्स स्कूल चौराहा स्थित अहिल्या कन्या उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालय से प्रारंभ होकर संचलन करती हुई महू नगर के प्रमुख मार्गों से होते हुए ड्रीमलैण्ड स्थित नेहरू प्रतिमा पर पहुंची जहाँ विशाल बालसभा का आयोजन किया गया। बाल सभा में मुख्य अतिथि के तौर पर श्री विकास कुमार, मुख्य अधिशासी अधिकारी तथा श्री शिव शर्मा, मनोनीत पार्षद, छावनी परिषद महू एवं श्री योगेश यादव, वरिष्ठ समाजसेवी ने भाग लिया। रैली में

बच्चे अपने विद्यालयों के बैनर, 'राष्ट्रीय एकता', 'पर्यावरण संरक्षण', 'बेटी बचाओ', 'स्वच्छ भारत - विकसित भारत' आदि से संबंधित नारे लिखी पट्टिकाएँ लेकर चल रहे थे जिनका रास्ते में विभिन्न संगठनों द्वारा भव्य स्वागत किया गया। इस अवसर पर नगर के पूर्व विधायक एवं समाजसेवी स्व. श्री आर. सी. जाल साहब की प्रतिमा पर उनके पोते श्री दिनेश सेठ द्वारा माल्यार्पण किया गया।

### पुरस्कार वितरण एवं समापन समारोह

महू बाल महोत्सव का समापन श्री जय गोविन्द गोपीनाथ उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालय के ऑडिटोरियम में आयोजित एक भव्य एवं रंगारंग पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह के सफल आयोजन के साथ हुआ। छात्रों, अभिभावकों एवं शहर के गणमान्य लोगों से भरे इस समारोह को मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. बी.पी. शुक्ला, अधिष्ठाता, पशुपालन एवं पशु चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, महू; अध्यक्ष श्री जयसिंह पंवार, प्राचार्य, जयगोविंद गोपीनाथ एवं मनीष सक्सेना, प्राचार्य, एकायना पब्लिक स्कूल, राऊ तथा बाल महोत्सव समिति अध्यक्ष तथा भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ, नई दिल्ली के महासचिव श्री सुरेश खण्डेलवाल भी मंचासीन थे।

## Tribute to a Distinguished Adult Educator - K.C. Choudhary (1942- 2024)

Flashes of my four-decade-long association (1984-2014) with Shri K.C. Choudhary, whom I respectfully called "Sir," came to mind as I wrote about him. Our relationship began on a professional level in 1984 and gradually evolved into a more informal and friendly bond. Sir was the first person I met in the field of Adult Education in August 1984, at the office of the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA), where I had gone to consult some of their publications. After making me comfortable and offering me a cup of tea, Sir introduced me to the IAEA and its rich history. He suggested that it would be advantageous for me to become a member so I could receive regular invitations to attend programs and receive copies of the Indian Journal of Adult Education and the IAEA Newsletter. I immediately filled out the membership form. My first interaction with Sir left a lasting impression on me, showcasing his deep knowledge of Adult Education and his passion for the subject.

From then on, I regularly visited the IAEA to participate in its programs, where I often met Sir. Our discussions frequently focused on ways to improve the functioning and role of the IAEA. He believed that members of the IAEA needed to take more initiative in planning and managing field programs, research, and publications to enhance the organization's impact. At that time, Sir was actively involved in coordinating the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Association and in that connection, had invited state-level studies on Adult Education from interested members. He mentioned that despite offering an honorarium of five thousand rupees for a monograph of one hundred pages, not many members showed interest. Sir then asked if I could prepare a monograph on Adult



Education in Bihar, given that I was already working on a UGC research project titled "Mass Literacy Campaign in Bihar during 1937-39." I immediately agreed to his request and prepared the monograph, which was subsequently published by the IAEA and released during the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1987. Sir appreciated my work, noting that it was based on primary sources, unlike many other IAEA publications that were generally based on secondary sources.

I observed that Sir had a keen eye for identifying promising researchers and was deeply committed to strengthening the research capabilities of IAEA members and others working in the field of Adult Education. With this goal in mind, he submitted a proposal to the Executive Committee of the IAEA, to organize a ten-day research methodology course for professionals in Adult Education. Following approval by the Executive Committee, the first course was coordinated by Dr. K. Shivadasan Pillai, the then Vice President of IAEA, at the University of Kerala. After the success of this course, it was decided that subsequent courses would be held at the IAEA headquarters in New Delhi. Sir asked

me to take on the responsibility of designing and coordinating the ten-day course, a role I continued for ten years. The program eventually ended due to declining participation, as many university departments had begun organizing similar research methodology courses.

As it was a residential course, participants had ample opportunities to spend time in the library and interact with the staff and office bearers of the IAEA. I noticed that Sir was not only present throughout all ten days of each course but also actively participated in the discussions. During the decade from 1990 to 2000, it was estimated that about two hundred participants from NGOs, universities, and government departments from various parts of the country attended the course. This initiative significantly raised the profile of the IAEA, with many participants subsequently enrolling as members of the Association.

After the conclusion of the program, Sir was eager to organize similar academic initiatives at the IAEA that would attract young researchers and field workers from NGOs. During one of our luncheon meetings at the India International Centre, Sir mentioned that, despite



sending letters to the Executive Committee members inviting proposals for new academic programs, he had received no response. He then requested me to take up the challenge of drafting a strong proposal.

After consultation with several academicians, it became clear that many of them were hesitant to attend programs organized by an NGO. I realized that if the IAEA could establish an Institute of Adult Education and organize programs under its aegis, it might attract the academic community. Given the closure of the National Institute of Adult Education, which previously operated near the IAEA, there was no other institute in India dedicated to the promotion of Adult Education. Since the IAEA had the infrastructure, a solid reputation as a long-standing organization in the field, and a history of collaborative programs with international organizations like the Asian South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education, the International Council for Adult Education, World Literacy of Canada, the International Federation of Workers' Education, and DVV, I thought it would be a great idea to set up an International Institute of Adult Education.

I decided to discuss this idea with Sir in a more relaxed setting. As soon as I mentioned the idea of establishing an institute, his face lit up, and he said, "It is a damn good idea," which needs thorough discussion, preferably outside the office. He suggested a luncheon meeting at the India Habitat Centre, one of his favourite places. During lunch, I shared the preliminary details of the proposed Institute with him. After listening, he encouraged me to proceed with drafting the full details of the proposal.

With Sir's approval, I began working on the proposal. My previous experience at the National Institute of Adult Education proved helpful, as I had access to relevant documents, including its constitution and agenda papers from various meetings. These resources

greatly aided me in drafting a comprehensive proposal for the new Institute. After reviewing the draft, Sir presented it at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the IAEA, where it received unanimous approval. After incorporating the members' suggestions, Sir took the necessary steps to register the Institute under the Societies Registration Act as a separate entity.

The International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education officially came into existence on December 11, 2002, at the premises of the IAEA. It was established with a mandate to design and offer certificate, diploma, and degree programs, conduct research, publish works, and sign MOUs with overseas universities for collaborative activities and faculty and student exchanges. Soon after its formation, the Institute signed MOUs with five universities in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Canada.

Understanding that designing courses and obtaining recognition could be a lengthy process, Sir suggested seeking affiliations with interested universities to offer some of their programs at the Institute. Agreeing with his views, I recommended approaching Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), which offers certificate, diploma, and master's programs in Adult Education. Since Dr. Madan Singh, the then General Secretary of the IAEA, was a close friend of Professor Nageshwar Rao, the Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, Sir suggested that the three of us Sir, Dr. Singh, and myself should seek an appointment with him. We soon met with Professor Rao to discuss the possibility of establishing a Study Centre for IGNOU's Adult Education courses at the Institute. This Study Centre provided the IAEA with the opportunity to organize workshops for students enrolled in the certificate, diploma, and master's programs and to serve as an examination centre for IGNOU. The Institute also hosted occasional lectures by international professors. Sir was delighted that the

establishment of the International Institute enabled the IAEA to develop as a significant academic centre.

Sir was always committed to providing opportunities for IAEA members to participate in international programs. When I suggested establishing an Indian Chapter of the Reading Association of India to create avenues for participation in international conferences, he immediately agreed and asked me to work out the details. This idea of setting up an Indian chapter was initially suggested to me by Dr. Sakil Malik, the then Director of the International Reading Association. Since the IAEA was actively involved in promoting literacy and had a suitable office space, it was decided that the Indian branch of the Reading Association should be established at the IAEA, with the active participation of interested members. The establishment of the Indian Reading Association (IRA) in December 2009 opened many opportunities for IAEA members to attend international conferences in countries like the USA, New Zealand, Germany, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, under the leadership of Sir.

Whenever Sir visited Delhi, he would invariably call me, and we would exchange updates on IAEA programs, often meeting for lunch at the India International Centre or India Habitat Centre two of his favourite places. During one such meeting, Sir expressed his frustration that despite the IAEA library's rich collection of publications, few visitors were utilizing the resources. He sought my thoughts on how to attract scholars to the IAEA library.

I shared with Sir my experience from a residential Visiting Scholar Colloquium I had attended at the Syracuse University (USA), which was designed to attract young doctoral students to spend a month at the university to consult the library's resources. Each colloquium included about 15 researchers from different parts of the US and abroad,

## Community Enrichment Programme by IAEA on World Toilet Day



'Safe toilets for all by 2030' is one of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 but global statistics suggests that the world is seriously off track as nearly 3.5 billion people still live without safely managed sanitation, including 419 million who practise open defecation worldwide. To make people aware about the seriousness of the situation and develop healthy habits for ensuring a clean, safe and secure habitat for themselves the World Toilet Day is observed on November 19 every year.

The theme identified by the United Nation for this year's World Toilet Day is "Toilets – A Place for Peace". Commemorating the day on November 19, 2024 a Community Enrichment Programme on the topic was organized by the Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi. A team of staff

of IAEA including Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer; Shri Vinay Chhetri, Senior Assistant; Shri Jai Bhagwan, Assistant; Shri Surinder Singh Yadav, Caretaker; Shri Bittoo and Shri Kishore, MTS along with Smt. Sonia Sharma, Trainer and Smt. Meena Rawat, Counsellor associated with IAEA Skill Training Centre conducted an intense door-to-door awareness campaign and mobilized a number of children from the community to whom hand-wash training was imparted while exhibiting the eight steps of "how to wash hands properly". Once the training was over a competition was organized in which the children were asked to show all the eight steps. Surprising each of them came forward and showcased their learning enthusiastically. The programme was concluded with a soap given to each of them as a token of motivation.

### Visitor

On November 28, 2024 Prof. Dhaneswar Harichandan, Senior Fellow, ICSSR, and former Professor-cum-Director, Institute of Distance and Open Learning, University of Mumbai visited IAEA Headquarters at New Delhi and discussed some of the pertinent issues before lifelong learning in the light of NEP 2020 with Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director and Shri A.H. Khan, Executive Member, IAEA. He also expressed his willingness to participate in the 65th All India Adult Education Conference to be held at Prajapita Ishwariya Vishva Vidyalaya, Mount Abu, Rajasthan on January 9-11, 2025 along with some of the faculty members of the university.



### Farah Diba successfully completed her Ph.D

Ms. Farah Diba, a Life Member of IAEA, has successfully completed her Ph.D under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Anita Priyadarshini, Director, Department of



Staff Training and Research Institute (STRIDE, IGNOU). She has been awarded the Degree of Doctorate of Philosophy by Department of Staff Training and Research Institute (STRIDE, IGNOU) for her valuable work entitled "A Study on Problems and Challenges of Undergraduate Woman Distance Learners Studying through Hindi Medium" which gives meaningful and comprehensive insight on mother tongue education through NEP, 2020. Ms. Farah has shown tons of courage, dedication and hard work while completing her thesis against all odds. We extend hearty congratulation to Dr. Farah Diba and wish her all the success in her academic journey.



# Global Media and Information Literacy Week

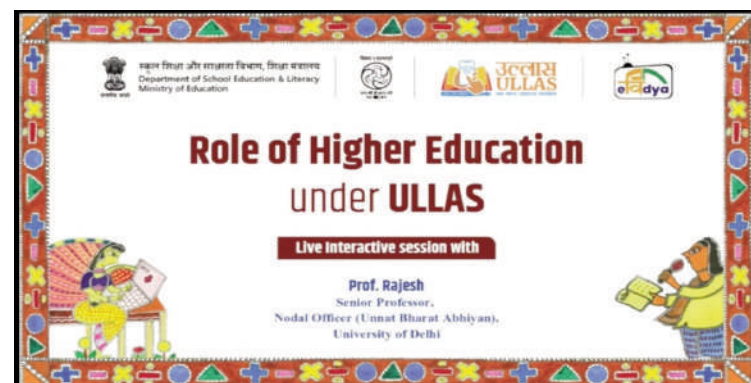


Promoting the cause of literacy IAEA celebrated Global Media and Information Literacy Week from October 24-31, 2024 at its Headquarters. As part of the celebration an awareness campaign was conducted in the nearby localities by a team of IAEA staff members comprising Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer; Smt. Neha Gupta, Librarian, Shri Kripal Singh Mehra, Programme Associate, Shri Vinay Chhetri, Senior

Assistant and Ms. Meena Rawat, Rehabilitation Psychologist, IAEA Skill Centre in which more than 50 families were approached and informed about the importance of the day. Parents were motivated to send their school going children to attend the play cum interactive workshop on "Reading Newspaper: Inculcating Reading Habit" to be organized on October 24, 2024 at IAEA office. As a result, couple of school going students participated in

the workshop and enjoyed reading story books and newspapers displayed for them. A cartoon-based film depicting the importance of reading books and newspaper was also shown to them which they enjoyed a lot. During the campaign it was observed that in the absence of a public library in the nearby areas people here do not get relevant resources – books, newspapers or magazines for regular reading.

## HEIs have a big role to play under ULLAS – Prof. Rajesh



While speaking in a session on "Role of Higher Education under ULLAS" convened at PMeVIDYA Portal on November 27, 2024 Prof. Rajesh, Vice President, IAEA and Senior Professor, Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension and Nodal Officer, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, University of Delhi covered a wide range of issues associated with two flagship schemes of Government of India – ULLAS (2022-27) and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (November 2014 onwards). Explaining the role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) under ULLAS, Prof. Rajesh said that teaching, research and extension in community outreach are the three major

dimensions of higher education. The UGC way back in 1997 identified extension as the third dimensions of higher education to be treated at par with teaching and research.

ULLAS, in fact, has opened the new horizon where young students/scholars, be it from any university or college, can have first hand exposure to volunteerism while helping a non/neo-literate to become functionally literate and handle their day-to-day affair confidently. Unfolding the linkages between government's ambition to realize the goal of Viksit Bharat by the year 2047 and ULLAS and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Prof. Rajesh said that ULLAS has been

designed to enable every citizen of the country to compete the journey from skill to employability. He said, government expects all the higher education institutions to provide training and motivate students to enrol themselves as a volunteer of ULLAS. Quoting the experience of undertaking programme under Unnat Bharat Scheme by the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi, he said that focus should be given to open lifelong learning department in every institution of higher education so that demographic dividend can be harnessed well in favour of making India a developed nation.

providing an opportunity to not only use the library but also to network and learn from each other. I suggested that if the IAEA organized a similar program, inviting a limited number of doctoral students from different universities, it might encourage them to use the library and engage in discussions with peers and experts.

Sir appreciated the idea and asked me to design such a program. The ten-day residential program, fully funded by the IAEA, received a good response. It introduced the IAEA to young researchers, many of whom later joined the Association as members. Sir took great interest in the program, spending all ten days with the participants, discussing the role and importance of the IAEA. We observed that one reason for the declining number of library visitors was the preference among young scholars for online resources instead of physical libraries. Consequently, Sir suggested that the IAEA should digitize its collection to make the publications accessible online. Unfortunately, soon after the digitization process was completed, a flood occurred, and 90% of the IAEA's collection was lost.

The continuous publication of the Indian Journal of Adult Education since 1939 is considered one of the IAEA's significant achievements, and Sir played a crucial role in ensuring its continuity. In the 1990s, after Shri J.L. Sachdeva, the then-director who was overseeing the journal's work, retired, the publication of the journal was halted. One day, Sir, accompanied by Dr. Madan Singh, the then General Secretary of IAEA, visited me at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), where I was working, carrying a file of papers. Sir emphasized the importance of continuing the journal and requested me to take up the role of an editor. He handed me a file with several articles, mentioning that I would be paid an honorarium of Rs. 7,500 and the expenses related to word processing of the articles. I informed Sir that I would be happy to take up the role in an honorary capacity. At that time, I had

employed Shri A. Sundara Rajan, a former editorial staff member of the Indian Express, on a project. I utilized his services for copy editing and word processing of the articles.

After completing my project, Sundara Rajan was looking for a suitable position, and I recommended him to Sir for the consultant role to manage the journal's editorial work. Sir, always empathetic and supportive, not only offered him the position but also arranged accommodation for him at the IAEA. Sir was pleased that the journal's publication could continue smoothly. After Sundara Rajan's departure, Dr.V. Mohankumar joined as the Director of IAEA and took over the editorial responsibilities of the journal. He served in that capacity for over a decade. When Dr. Kumar resigned, Sir began searching for another suitable candidate to edit the journal. Since no suitable person could be found, he requested me once again to take up the journal's editorial responsibilities. I proposed that a consultant could be employed and trained to take over the work of the journal in due course. Although I identified three young and promising scholars and employed them, unfortunately, none of them stayed for more than three months. Given Sir's strong desire to ensure the continuity of the journal, he requested that I take over the editorship and improve its quality. Since I could not devote full-time attention and would be working in an honorary capacity, I formed a team comprising an Editorial Consultant, Copy Editor, Editorial Secretary, Editorial Manager, and a panel of peer reviewers. Additionally, I prepared a detailed style sheet that followed international standards. This plan was approved and appreciated by Sir, and the journal continued to be published on time.

Sir was very keen that the IAEA should recruit young researchers and train them to take over the responsibilities of the Journal. As mentioned earlier I identified and appointed three youngsters during

the year 2023, none of them stayed back as they got better options. One of the reasons was the low remuneration offered by the IAEA.

Sir was an excellent crisis manager, a quality I witnessed during my four decades of association with him. There was an occasion when one of the Secretaries misused funds and even behaved disrespectfully towards Sir. The situation escalated to the point where this individual took control of the Association, preventing Sir and the other members from entering the office building, and forcing meetings to be held in a nearby restaurant. With great patience and diplomacy, Sir succeeded in resolving the conflict, and the Association eventually returned to normalcy. Throughout this challenging period, Sir remained calm and composed, never losing his temper, which is one of the reasons he could serve the Association for such an extended duration. When involving members in the various activities of the Association, he prioritized compatibility over competence to ensure that everyone could work together as a cohesive team.

Sir took a keen interest in organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops, which were central to the IAEA's activities. He played a significant role in planning and managing two major events: The Golden Jubilee and the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Golden Jubilee was a grand event that included an international conference, the participation of numerous dignitaries, and the release of publications. In contrast, the Platinum Jubilee was a more low-key affair, limited to an in-house seminar, primarily due to a shortage of funds. Knowing my interest in history, Sir encouraged me to compile a comprehensive history of the IAEA's journey over the last seventy-five years (1939-2014). Although I had initially planned to write a detailed academic publication, Sir suggested that a coffee table book with numerous photographs would be more



engaging for the members. He was deeply involved in selecting photographs and reminiscing about the events to be included in the book, titled 75 Years of Indian Adult Education: Some Glimpses. It was a collaborative publication between Sir and me. We also co-authored another publication, International Dimensions of Adult & Lifelong Learning besides working on making a short film on IAEA which was uploaded on YouTube.

It seems that Sir had worked without expectation of any reward or award. Although he served as a member or chairman of several committees to select the candidates for the two prestigious awards instituted by the IAEA viz; Nehru Literacy Award and Tagore Literacy Award, Sir never aspired or agreed to be nominated for any award. Even when some of the members of the

selection committee recommended his candidature for the Nehru Literacy Award, Sir vehemently opposed it.

During one of our discussions, Sir expressed his disappointment that many members, despite their vast experiences, had not written much about their work. He was keen on finding a way to encourage them to share their rich experiences so that future generations could benefit. I suggested that we could record their experiences through video interviews and publish these stories in our journal or newsletter. To set an example, I began by recording an interview with Sir, which was subsequently published in the IAEA Newsletter. I assured him that I would continue this effort to document the experiences of other members in due course.

Sir's dedication to the IAEA was

unwavering. He was very actively involved with the IAEA for over six decades. Since I had the privilege of associating with him for four decades, I could recollect some of the experiences in this tribute. It seemed that the IAEA was his top priority, and he often neglected his health to fulfil his official duties. Today, if the IAEA continues to thrive as a robust professional organization with over two thousand members, it is largely due to the key role and leadership that Sir provided over the years. His multifaceted contributions to the IAEA stand as a testament to his passion, dedication, and commitment to the cause of adult education. It was indeed my pleasure and privilege to have known and worked with him for many years.

- Prof. S. Y. Shah  
Vice-President, IAEA

## “बड़े गौर से सुन रहा था जमाना आपको, आप ही सो गये दांसता कहते-कहते”



आदरणीय चौधरी जी का महाप्रयाण मेरे लिए भीषण वज्रपात है। ऐसा लग रहा है जैसा कि एक वीराने में मैं बिल्कुल तन्हा रह गया हूँ। लगभग विगत 50 वर्षों से उनकी छत्रछाया में मैंने कठिन से कठिन कार्यों को सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न किया है। हर समय वे एक बड़े भाई एवं गुरु के समान मेरे रक्षा कवच बने रहते थे। चाहे 1977 के छावनी परिषद

उसके संचालन की जिम्मेदारी भी सौंपी थी जिसे मैं गत 44 वर्षों से सफलतापूर्वक निभा रहा हूँ। इसी प्रकार निम्न आय वर्ग के छात्र-छात्राओं की मदद के लिए वात्सल्य की स्थापना का विचार भी उन्हीं का था जो आज भी सफलतापूर्वक चल रहा है। 31 वर्षों पूर्व मुझे भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ से जोड़ने तथा एक आजीवन सदस्य से क्रमशः राष्ट्रीय काउंसिल

का मेरा चुनाव हो अथवा अन्य महत्वपूर्ण गतिविधियों में मेरी सहभागिता। हर मोड़पर वे मेरे साथ खड़े होते थे। 1977 के छावनी परिषद के प्रतिष्ठा पूर्ण मुकाबले में उन्होंने व हमारे अन्य साथियों ने मुझे विजयी बनाने में अथक परिश्रम किया था। बाल महोत्सव का बीजारोपण भी उन्होंने ही किया था और मुझे

सदस्य, राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी सदस्य, एशोसिएट सदस्य, संयुक्त सचिव और अब राष्ट्रीय महासचिव बनाने तक में भी उनकी ही संपूर्ण भूमिका थी। मेरी कार्य क्षमता से प्रभावित होकर उन्होंने ही आशा कला केन्द्र में मुझे अपने साथ सचिव की जवाबदारी दी और मेरा कार्यालय भी बनवाया। उनका मुझ पर असीम प्रेम और विश्वास था जिसे मैं कभी भी भुला नहीं पाउंगा। ईश्वर करें कि उनका यह आशीर्वाद मेरे उपर हमेशा बना रहे। वे बहुत ही शांत प्रवृत्ति, तीक्ष्ण बुद्धि, सादगी पसंद कर्मयोगी थे। सहकारिता के तो वे इनसाइक्लोपीडिया थे। ऐसे महान व्यक्तित्व हमारे बीच से चले गए जैसे एक युग का अंत हो गया। ऐसे देवदूत सैकड़ों वर्षों में कभी-कभी ही जन्म लेते हैं। मेरे हर जन्म में उनकी छत्रछाया मेरे उपर बनी रहे यही ई वर से प्रार्थना है। मेरे बड़े भाई, गुरु, मार्गदर्शक एवं आशीर्वाददाता को मेरी अश्रुपूरित श्रद्धांजलि एवं कोटि-कोटि नमन।

- सुरेश खण्डेलवाल  
महासचिव  
भारतीय प्रौढ़ शिक्षा संघ

## IAEA observes World Mental Health Day

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, October 10, 2024 IAEA organized a Mental Health Awareness Programme for the marginalized communities residing in the localities surrounding ITO, Delhi. Prior to the event, a mobilization cum awareness generation drive was also conducted by the members of staff of IAEA including Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer; Shri Kripal Singh Mehra, Programme Associate, Smt. Sonia Sharma, Trainer and Ms. Meena Rawat, Rehabilitation Psychologist, IAEA Skill Centre. Learners of the Centre also took part in the drive with lot of enthusiasm. The team went door to door to inform and invite community members.

Apart from IAEA's team, the programme was participated by 27 community members including their children. All of



them showed keen interest in the information shared about the mental health and its impact on individual as well as social wellbeing. The participants not only learned about taking care of mental health but also to identify and address mental issues and mental illnesses. Many of them expressed their willingness to join IAEA Skill Centre for acquiring skills and further support. The program continued for more than an hour in which participants also shared a few challenges they usually face in such areas.

## Ministry of Education organizes workshop on 'Volunteering for ULLAS'



The Ministry of Education, Govt. of India organized a virtual workshop on "Volunteering for ULLAS" on October 7, 2024 in collaboration with the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). The workshop was aimed at promoting youth volunteerism from Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to achieve cent-percent literacy across India as enshrined in the National Education Policy 2020. More than 18,000 TEIs, faculty and student-teachers were inducted during the session.

The workshop was presided over by Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education who exhorted that non-literate people in our society should be given the gift of literacy and society should come together to pay special attention for this. The workshop was also addressed by Smt. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary, DoSE&L; Prof. Pankaj Arora, Chairperson, NCTE; Ms. Kesang Y. Sherpa, Member Secretary, NCTE and Smt. Preeti Meena,

Director, DoSE&L. Smt. Archana Sharma Awasthi encouraged the students and teachers to join the program for community service and engagement while Prof. Pankaj Arora said that the National Council for Teacher Education is fully committed to realizing the dream of Viksit Bharat by achieving the goal of 'Jan Jan Saakshar'. Ms. Kesang Y. Sherpa, while presenting the role of NCTE in the context of the implementation of ULLAS, highlighted that for the academic session 2023-24, NCTE had directed all Teacher Education Institutions to connect 8-10 students with the ULLAS initiative and motivate them to become volunteer teachers and contribute to nation building cause. The students can earn 2 Credits for Community Engagement & Service for active participation in activities related to ULLAS-New India Literacy Programme (NILP), NSS & Other community activities, she added. Smt. Preeti Meena gave a detailed presentation on Ullas which also covered the implementation steps of Ullas in TEIs.



made possible by his profound insight in fusing the core principles of NGOs with sophisticated professional methodologies, entailing a collaboration between representatives from the service industry and academia to supervise the organization's functions. Remarkably, he has formulated an all-encompassing blueprint for perpetuating his legacy in adult education, discerning and nurturing promising individuals for pivotal roles in academics and administration within the framework of the IAEA. Throughout his tenure at the helm of the IAEA, he has fostered robust partnerships with educational institutions, pinpointed emerging leaders, and involved them in various aspects of the organization, as evidenced by the diverse composition of the Executive Committee, the effective execution of field projects, ground-breaking research endeavours, and the dissemination of scholarly works.

The expertise of Prof. S. Y. Shah from Jawaharlal Nehru University has been instrumental in overseeing the publication of national and international journals, official and research documents as well as networking with national and international bodies. Additionally, an international organization, the International Institute of Lifelong Education, was founded to enhance the reputation of the IAEA and represent it on the global stage. The inclusion of Dr. Ranawat, Dr. Asoke Bhattacharya, Dr. A. L. Raja, Prof. Rajesh, Dr. P. A.

Reddy, Dr. D. Uma Devi, Dr. V. Reghu, Dr. Rajendra Joshi in the Executive Committee of the IAEA exemplifies the success in recognizing and supporting them as accomplished adult educators. In terms of administration, the extensive contributions of Dr. V. Mohankumar, the former Director of Directorate of Adult Education, spanning over a decade have been invaluable, while Smt. Kalpana Kaushik has been identified and groomed as a prospective leader of the association. These instances clearly showcase his visionary approach towards shaping the future of IAEA.

Choudhary's dedication to the field of adult education and his significant role in the growth of IAEA have been nothing short of extraordinary over a span of four decades. His influence in promoting adult education and strengthening the sector by empowering a wide range of individuals and institutions is truly awe-inspiring. He emerges as a leader with foresight, a mentor with exceptional skills, a persuasive supporter, a defender of human rights, a compassionate individual, a guru of human connections, a steadfast advocate of moral values, and much more. It is without a doubt that in the future, those delving into the annals of adult education in India will dedicate a comprehensive section to the enduring legacy he has left behind.

**Prof. P. Adinarayana Reddy**  
Treasurer, IAEA

## Tribute to Shri Kailash Choudhary (4/8/1942-14/9/2024)

With profound respect and a heavy heart, I pay tribute to Shri Kailash Choudhary, a towering personality whose association with the Indian Adult Education Association spanned over a period of five remarkable decades. His unwavering dedication to the cause of adult education and lifelong learning has inspired generations of educators, professionals, and volunteers, including myself. When I joined the office way back in 1996 as a young but inexperienced individual, it was Shri Choudhary who recognized the potential in me that I didn't even see in myself. At that time, he was the General Secretary of the Association, a role he carried with immense dignity, wisdom, and warmth. He took me under his wing, mentoring me with patience, kindness, and an infectious passion for learning. Shri Choudhary believed deeply in the principle of learning by doing, and through his guidance, I not only learned professional skills but also imbibed the values of dedication, teamwork, and service to a greater cause.

I had the privilege of accompanying him to many conferences and seminars, where I witnessed his ability to bring people together, foster meaningful discussions, and inspire change. Whether addressing large gatherings or sharing insights in smaller circles, he was a beacon of knowledge, humility, and vision. His calm demeanor and empathetic approach touched everyone he met, leaving a lasting impression that words can scarcely capture.

To me, Shri Choudhary was more than a mentor - he was a guide, a teacher, a father, a friend and a source of unending motivation. He taught me that education is not merely the transmission of knowledge but a transformative force that



can empower individuals and uplift societies.

Even after his formal responsibilities lessened, his presence remained a pillar of strength for the Association. His legacy of selfless service and commitment to adult education will continue to illuminate our path forward and forever.

Today, as I reflect on the years I spent learning and growing under his guidance, I feel an immense sense of gratitude and loss. Shri Choudhary's life was a testament to the power of purpose, and his contributions will forever remain etched in the history of the Indian Adult Education Association.

Sir, You have left behind a legacy that will continue to inspire and guide us. I am privileged to have known you, learned from you, and walked a part of this journey alongside you. You will always be there in our hearts and at the same time you will be deeply missed, but the illumination you generated will never fade from our lives.

With heartfelt respects,

**Kalpana Kaushik**  
Director, IAEA

## KC Choudhary- As I knew him

Kailash Choudhary, a friend of mine and of my age, was a very gentle and knowledgeable person in the field of adult education. It would not be an exaggeration if I call him a beacon light in the firmament of adult education, not only in India, but throughout the world. His humility and docility were so empowering that it left a permanent impression on who so ever was in his contact. His commitment to the cause of adult education was beyond any dispute. He was very empathetic to the needs of the poor and downtrodden that he devoted all his life to ameliorate the pains and poverty of the downtrodden.

My association with the field of adult education started in 1962-1963 when I was a research student working in the tribal areas of Rachi district for my Ph.D. programme on tribal education. I joined

NCERT in 1966, the then National Fundamental Education Centre which later was rechristened as Department of Adult Education, and had the privilege of working with stalwarts like Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah, VS Mathur, Dr. TA Koshy etc. Their deep knowledge and basic approach to problems of adult education - ranging from social education, fundamental education, adult education, functional literacy, etc. led to my conceptual clarification which later helped me to teach adult education in a Nigerian University with field experiences. Choudhary Sahab (as I called Kailash Choudhary) would often discuss the field experiences with theoretical implications and would try to reconcile the theory and practice.

We had very fruitful discussions on practical problems as against the

theoretical framework of adult education as such.

Our discussion led to a kind of a dialogue which could be captioned as Adult Education - theory and practice. His deep understanding of the problems and possible solutions with actual field experiences have impacted my understanding of adult education and solving some of the dilemma that I faced.

I miss him both as a friend, philosopher and guide. His parting with me has created a void which cannot be filled. I miss my friend beyond words.

**- Prof. N.K. Ambasht**  
Visitor, IIALE



## Shri K. C. Choudhary, In Memoriam



I first came across Shri K.C.Choudhary in a seminar held in Delhi at the India International Centre way back in 2007. The seminar was organized by the Adult Education Group of the Jawaharlal Nehru University under the leadership of Prof. S. Y. Shah. The seminar, as far as

I can remember, was on digitization. Prof. Shah introduced me to Shri Choudhary, a suave, low-profile elderly person who spoke to me affectionately. I was told he was the President of Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA). My previous experiences with IAEA was not very sweet. Once I attended a conference at B.H.U. in Benares. It was a huge affair. Since, I did not know anyone in the leadership, I felt quite isolated. On another occasion, I went to the then one-storied building of IAEA in Delhi to collect some documents. No body took any personal interest about the person who was then the acting Director of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension Centre of Jadavpur University, Calcutta. I never felt that it was my Association. But at the India International Centre, New Delhi, the President of IAEA talked to me in a very sincere way and I liked the man instantly.

Slowly, I was feeling a kind of nearness to IAEA. From that time onward, whenever I visited Delhi, I would visit the office of IAEA. Most of the time I was fortunate enough to meet Shri Choudhary, Dr. Madan Singh and Dr. S.Y. Shah. They used to welcome me with outstretched hands though these were merely personal visits. The trio used to be courteous, warm and sincere. I felt quite comfortable in their company. At times I used to visit the office along with my friends and they used to be quite overwhelmed by the courtesy shown to them. Choudhary Saab was always exemplary.

Later, due to the efforts of Prof. S. Y. Shah, I was drawn closer to the leadership and eventually was elected as a member of the Executive Council. I also used to visit IAEA office more often to take part in the official programs of IAEA. There I found Shri Choudhary quite open to suggestions put forth by the members. Even when he differed with the opinion of a certain member, he would gently reason with him or her. He was never aggressive, rude or uncourteous. He would always stress on the glorious tradition of IAEA. And I found, how under his stewardship the Association was growing from strength to strength though the ground reality was quite difficult.

A few years back, the people of Mhow, his birth place, celebrated his 75th birthday. I saw first-hand how they regarded their son. The huge hall where the celebration was taking place, was filled to the brim. I had never in my life come across such birthday celebration in my life. People came to show their respect from all parts of India. The affection that was shown was rare, to say the least. But he never showed any pride in his demeanour. He was the safe soft-spoken man quite oblivious of the celebration that was going on.

Very recently I met him at the IAEA conference at Coimbatore. He was not very strong physically. We were then organizing an International Conference on behalf of IFSSR in Kolkata. I invited him to kindly grace the occasion as Chief Guest. He readily agreed. But later, seeing his state of health, I was not very enthusiastic about his presence. He agreed. Now I regret my decision. We were deprived of his august presence.

I met him last at the Tirupati conference. He had to endure an uncomfortable train journey. But he was in his mood, always smiling. Who knew that it would be my last chance to meet him.

He was an epitome of the philosophy of Adult education.

I hope IAEA will carry forward his example.

Yours Truly,

**- Prof. Asoke Bhattacharya**  
Co-opt Member, EC, IAEA



# A Glowing Tribute to the Esteemed Mentor

## K.C.Choudhary Ji

K.C. Choudhary Ji stands as an eminent figure within the realm in our nation, his influence stretching across more than three decades. His impactful leadership and adept administration have not only shaped the careers of many individuals but have also fostered an environment conducive to the sustained growth of adult education. A skilled motivator, he has nurtured numerous professionals within this field, guiding the association towards unparalleled heights. Through his efforts, he has played a pivotal role in elevating the standard of the programmes and activities conducted by it, spearheading various initiatives and collaborations with esteemed national and international entities. Known for his adept problem-solving skills, he has successfully united academicians from all walks of life, propelling the advancement of adult education within our country to new horizons.

I consider myself privileged to have been guided and supported by him in my journey towards excelling in the realm of adult education. When I find myself in the bustling city of Delhi, it has been a personal practice of mine to visit various eminent institutions such as the UGC, Association of Indian Universities, Directorate of Adult Education, NCERT, NUIPA, ICSSR, IAEA, among others, and delve deep into the wealth of knowledge and wisdom they offer on adult education. The moments I have spent within the walls of the IAEA library have always left an indelible mark on my soul, for it is a treasure trove of scholarly journals and books covering a vast spectrum of developmental studies including different fields of social sciences. The atmosphere within is always brimming with energy and knowledge, a haven for individuals dedicated to the betterment of society. A particular memory from the late 80s shines brightly in my recollections, a moment when I was crossing paths with esteemed Choudhary Ji during a visit to the IAEA office. His genuine interest in my endeavours and our department, alongside our revered Prof. VLN Reddy, etched a significant chapter in my story. On my trips to Delhi, I would typically lodge at the Gomati Guest House located quite close to Mandi House and overseen by the JNU administration. Upon discovering this, he recommended that I shift my accommodations to the IAEA Guest House and even went a step further by suggesting to Shri J. L. Sachdeva, who was the Director at the time, to extend his hospitality to me whenever I visit the premises. This particular encounter marked the inception of my longstanding affiliation with IAEA.

Choudhary Ji not only convinced me to acquire a lifetime membership of IAEA but also propelled me to delve into writing research papers focusing on adult education, subsequently encouraging me to get them published. Undoubtedly, this pivotal moment ignited a passion within me to collaborate with fellow educators at the university, initiating our ground-breaking research on the learning requirements of neo literates and the driving forces behind adult learners' decisions to engage in educational programs

for adults. These ground-breaking studies found their way into the esteemed publications 'Experiments in Education' and 'Indian Journal of Adult Education'. The initial spark ignited by Choudhary Ji nurtured and honed my research skills and publication abilities.

Choudhary Ji's mentorship role in shaping my advancements in the adult education domain, evident in my involvement in extensive research projects, organizing numerous seminars and conferences, sponsored by various esteemed organizations, leading to the successful completion of approximately 45 comprehensive research work concerning various facets of adult education. Furthermore, my endeavours have resulted in the publication of 75 insightful books and 130 meticulously crafted research papers, each contributing significantly to the vast tapestry of knowledge surrounding adult education. During the implementation of these tasks, vivid recollections flood my mind, bringing back memories of the profound conversations I had with Choudhary Ji. The words he imparted to me remain etched in my memory, echoing his belief in my expertise and his gentle encouragement for me to delve into the realms of potential execution. It is undeniable that his guidance and mentorship have been pivotal in propelling me towards significant milestones in my career, such as gaining access to the Executive Committee of the IAEA, assuming the role of a Member, Associate Secretary, and eventually serving as Treasurer.

During a crucial meeting, Choudhary Ji encouraged me to envision the potential of hosting IAEA' South Zone conference within the Department of Adult Education. Eagerly embracing this opportunity, I passionately advocated for our department to serve as the host for this prestigious event. Little did I know, this marked the genesis of a remarkable journey intertwining my academic pursuits with the noble mission of the IAEA. Subsequently, our Department became a proud venue for numerous impactful initiatives under the aegis of IAEA from hosting insightful south zone conferences, to organizing the annual conference of the association, and conducting enriching seminars and workshops. This enduring partnership between IAEA and the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, SV University not only elevated the reputation of our institution nationwide but also played a pivotal role in securing accolades such as three Nehru Literacy Awards for our esteemed faculty, four coveted Best Teacher Awards from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for our dedicated members, and prestigious recognitions like the NLM-UNESCO award for the department.

I am deeply convinced that Choudhary Ji embodies the



noble essence of humanism and cultivates harmonious relation with every individual in his contact including myself. The profound bond I had with him was evident through his unwavering presence in every significant chapter of my journey, be it personal or professional. He graced with his benevolent spirit almost every defining moments of my personal life including all family occasions such as the weddings of my children. From my son Vishnu's marriage festivities in Nellore to the grand reception in Tirupati, and later at my daughter's marriage reception in Tirupati, his support and blessings were steadfastly by my side. Moreover, he extended his warmth and support during meaningful initiatives like the inauguration of old age homes in Kalikiri and Tirupati, further solidifying our heartfelt connection.

During our meeting of the International Reading Association in Kolkata, I sensed his solitude and quiet demeanour, prompting me to extend an invitation for him to join me in Tirupati. Although he responded with a mere nod, to my surprise, a month later he contacted me to inform his imminent arrival in Tirupati. I fetched him and arranged his stay at the guest house for officers. Our itinerary included visits to various temples and a sacred viewing of the Seven Hills. Subsequently, we visited the old age home managed by me located at Kalikiri about 70 KM away from Tirupati. Over four days, we engaged in discussions regarding issues concerning workforce development, research, and publications in the realm of adult education. He expressed deep concerns about the future of adult education, noting the lack of governmental support due to deficiency in leadership and advocacy. His enjoyment during the stay was evident by his expressed desire to return for a longer period in the future.

He possesses an exceptional knack for navigating challenges and emerges as a proficient trouble-shooter. Witnessing his adept handling of internal conflicts within the administration has left me in awe. His strategic acumen shone brightly during the association's elections, particularly during the tumultuous Kashi Vidyapeeth electoral process. Despite facing adversities, he fearlessly steered the elections to completion. In moments of crisis, I distinctly recall Madam Choudhary's resolute voice urging me, "You must witness the assembly, my dear." Eagerly, I stood by his side, providing unwavering support amidst turbulent times. I vividly remember a crucial Bhuvaneswar EC Meeting where I stood as a shield, requesting a disruptive member to excuse themselves to safeguard his interests. Even now, the memory persists of Madam's summon to a significant gathering at Abu Road, Rajasthan. Regrettably, prior commitments prevented my attendance, thus forfeiting a valuable opportunity to reconnect with her later. Such moments resonate deeply, underscoring the invaluable bonds forged through shared challenges. Similar occurrences transpire when it comes to Shri Choudhary, usually reaching out to me in times of trouble or uncertainty. On this occasion, however, he took the initiative to secure an air ticket to New Delhi for a five-day stay without consulting me first. The following day, he engaged me in discussion for approximately fifteen minutes, departing from our usual brief and straightforward conversations. During our prolonged interaction, he conveyed a request which I promptly agreed to fulfil. Curious about the purpose of my trip to Delhi, I inquired about the necessity. Yet, his words continue to resonate within me,

urging me to join him in furthering the mission of the IAEA. While the envisioned collaboration did not come to fruition, it resulted in my attendance at a memorial gathering.

During my recent trip to Delhi, Choudhary had inquired whether I could arrange for the regional conference in Tirupati. Eagerly, I agreed, envisioning the positive impact it would have on our university department. However, faced with reluctance from within our own ranks, I sought out Dr. D. Uma Devi from S.P. Mahila University. Dr. Devi boasts an impressive background in adult education, having participated in events both nationally and internationally. Her affiliation with the IAEA executive body only adds to her qualifications. Fortunately, she accepted my proposal, on the condition that the seminar be held at her university a term to which we acquiesced without hesitation. Amidst our preparations, a call from Choudhary prompted a discussion on the progress made thus far. Showing further support, he expressed a willingness to provide advance funds for room reservations and other necessary arrangements. While circumstances required my absence for a period of ten days, I entrusted the entire responsibility upon her, with full trust in her ability to manage affairs with exceptional effectiveness. During this time, a significant event unfolded at the esteemed Mahila University, helmed by the capable leadership of Dr. Uma Devi. Approximately 40 esteemed experts in the realms of education and adult education convened, contributing their invaluable insights towards the advancement of the innovative New Education Policy. I was heartened to witness the successful execution of the programme, orchestrated under the adept guidance of Dr. Uma Devi. Notably, Choudhary not only commended Dr. Uma Devi for her exemplary organization of the event but also extended appreciation towards me for the diligent instruction provided to facilitate her in independently conducting the programme.

Choudhary Ji not only guided and supported me but also broadened my horizons by involving me in the Asia European network for adult education. One delightful morning, over a cup of coffee, he phoned and proposed a trip to Germany for an adult education conference, to which I eagerly assented. The subsequent day, an ASEM delegate reached out for my details, followed by an official invite. This wasn't my initial venture abroad, having previously spent three months in Denmark studying adult education on a Danish Government scholarship. This inaugurated a series of international prospects, with participation in conferences worldwide under ASEM's umbrella, venturing to countries like Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Vietnam, the Philippines, France, Indonesia, Thailand, the UK, and Sri Lanka. Collaborating with international experts and experiencing diverse cultures led to notable milestones such as signing an MOU with Sri Lanka's Entrepreneur Development Board, hosting an ASEM network meeting focusing on adult education professionalization, and coordinating an international conference at S.V. University on Vocational Education and Training-Professionalism. My success and global network owe much to the guidance of Choudhary Ji.

Shri Choudhary possesses a remarkable talent for devising and orchestrating tasks, a quality that shines through his exceptional management of the IAEA. Although originating as a well-established NGO, this institution has flourished into a professional body that specializes in educating adults under his adept tutelage. This remarkable metamorphosis was