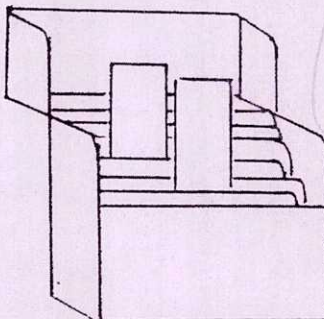


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Indian Adult Education Association

*What it is and What it does*



INDIAN ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

30, FAIZBAZAR, DELHI

1952

Re. 1/-

The Indian Adult Education Association is a non-political, non-sectarian, national organisation devoted to the cause of adult education in India. It is a registered body under the provisions of the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. Ever since its inception it has concerned itself with making the adult education movement popular in the country through its various activities.

#### ORIGIN

The Association owes its origin to the foresight and organised attempts of a few enlightened individuals who derived their inspiration from Britain and found, in the organisation of the then existing sporadic attempts of various agencies and individuals in the sphere of eradicating illiteracy, a fertile ground for the development of an adult education movement in India. These pioneers, founded the Indian Adult Education Society in Delhi in 1937, to investigate the problem of adult education in and around Delhi, to explore methods of solving it and to extend adult education work throughout the country. At this time the adult education movement in India had begun to make rapid strides with the assumption of office by the popular ministries in the provinces under the Government of India Act of 1935. Though a few adult education agencies like the Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association, South Indian Adult Education Association and Bengal Adult Education Association, had been formed to coordinate and extend adult education work in their respective areas, the need for a central organisation with branches in different Provinces and States was increasingly felt to help in evolving suitable methods and techniques by experiments and research, to act as a clearing house of ideas, information and experience, to co-ordinate adult education activities carried on in different parts of the country and above all to direct a uniform progressive policy for the proper development of the adult education movement in India. At the request of some of its very active members, the Indian Adult Education Society took the initiative in organising the First All India Adult Education Conference in Delhi, in March, 1938, to confer and explore the possibilities of bringing into being a Central Organisation.

The Conference brought a large number of adult education workers and others interested in it from all parts of India. It gave careful consideration and thought to the issue of central organisation. It definitely discarded the idea that its purpose be the control and direction of the movement as such. It passed, among others, the following resolution :

“—It is resolved that instead of this Conference, here and now, laying down a rigid framework and cut and dried programme to be imposed from the Centre on the different parts of the country, the precisely opposite course be followed by appealing to all public-spirited and patriotic citizens throughout the length and breadth of this land, to gather together kindred spirits and a realistic survey of the educational needs of their respective immediate surroundings and of organising themselves into autonomous local Adult Education Bodies for their respective localities, to undertake full responsibility to experiment and report on Adult Education work suited to their conditions and needs.” It also passed unanimously another resolution for the appointment of a Provisional Committee, consisting of the ex-officio President of the Conference, six Vice-Presidents, one General Secretary, five Joint Secretaries and correspondents from the different parts of the country, to be entrusted with the responsibility of drawing up a Constitution for a Central Organisation for presentation to the Second All-India Adult Education Conference to be organised by it.

The Provisional Committee worked on its assignment till December, 1939, when it held the Second All-India Adult Education Conference in Bhagalpur (Bihar) under the presidentship of Dr. R. P. Masani of Bombay. It was at this session that the constitution of the Central Organisation was presented and finally adopted unanimously by the delegates to this Conference. Thus the Indian Adult Education Association was formally inaugurated as the Central Organisation with the following aims and objects :

- (a) To spread knowledge among the people of India on all subjects related to their all round welfare and culture in popular and attractive manner through suitable agencies.
- (b) To initiate, wherever necessary, adult education activities

in cooperation with various organisations and individuals interested in the work : and to encourage and coordinate local efforts and organisations engaged in promoting the cause of adult education.

- (c) To serve as a Central Bureau for information and advice concerning adult education in different Provinces and States in India.
- (d) To cooperate with other movements aiming at the removal of illiteracy and ignorance and the promotion of the civic, economic and cultural interests of the masses.
- (e) To serve as a connecting link for inter-provincial and inter-State cooperation and coordination.
- (f) To prepare and supply, if necessary, slides, charts, films, booklets, suitable literature etc. and to undertake the publications of the bulletins and journals.
- (g) To arrange public lectures, demonstrations, seminars etc. for the furtherance of the objects of the Association.
- (h) To organise the Indian Adult Education Conference at least once every two years.
- (i) To induce the Universities and other educational bodies in the country to take up adult education work and to do all other acts that are incidental to the fulfilment of the above-mentioned objects of the Association.
- (j) To affiliate Adult Education Organisations throughout the country.

While the Indian Adult Education Association had put before it these laudable objectives for promoting the development of Adult Education Movement in India, it had to struggle its way through to implement them. It has continued to live till today on its very meagre resources drawn from membership subscription, donations and irregular grants from the Central and Provincial Governments. Though the paucity of funds hampered the execution of many of its plans, with the sound leadership provided by a few loyal, hardworking and zealous workers who remained united under its banner, devoted to its cause, the Indian Adult Education Association withstood many a storm in its attempts at nursing the

Adult Education Movement and extending its influence in the country.

The Indian Adult Education Association has directed its efforts in the last 15 years towards creating public opinion for the need for adult education and to ensure that an all out attack is made on this front with the complete cooperation of the official and non-official agencies in the field. The Association has given technical leadership to the movement by clarifying its stand as to the aims and objects of the movement, the nature and scope of Adult Education, training of requisite personnel and the role of universities and various voluntary organisations, on the one hand, and the responsibility of the Government in fostering the movement on the other. All this has been done by establishing contacts with various voluntary agencies and State Governments, by actually cooperating with some of the organisations in conducting training courses for adult education workers, by acting as a Clearing house of information and finally by sponsoring or holding Conferences and Seminars on various issues connected with Adult Education in India.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH MEMBERS

In its attempts to extend the sphere of its influence the Indian Adult Education Association has developed contacts with various individuals and institutions engaged in Adult Education work in India. It has enrolled them as Institutional Members or Individual Members.

The Association has, in all, 67 Institution Members and 138 Individual Members besides Patrons and Donors. Its institutional membership covers the States of Ajmer, Bombay, Delhi, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Uttar Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh, and West Bengal. Of the 67 institutional members 26 are official and 41 voluntary organisations. The Voluntary Organisations include 7 Adult Education Associations, 8 Educational Institutions including Schools of Social Work and Teachers' Training Colleges which give practical training in adult education to their students, 10 Social Service Organisations and Agencies that do adult education work, 41 Adult

Education Agencies which are primarily concerned with the promotion of Adult Education in the country, 2. industrial workers' organisations and 3. Library Associations. Similarly the individual members of the Association hail from different parts of India and include responsible Adult Educationists, Government Officials, Lecturers, teachers, active Social Workers and Field Workers.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH ALL INDIA RADIO

The Indian Adult Education Association has remained in close touch with the All India Radio. The association has been able to arrange for the broadcast of series of talks on Adult Education by eminent Adult Educationists in India in the winter of 1945.

Further more the A.I.R. authorities have agreed to provide in their Dehati (For Villagers) and other programmes regular adult education items such as Summer School Courses, programmes for industrial workers, talks for University Students, Special programmes for Literacy Days and lessons in Hindustani.

#### COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

While the Indian Adult Education Association has all along been trying to secure the interest and co-operation of the Government of India in popularising the movement on an all-India basis, the Government continued to restrict its patronage to mere lip-sympathy until just on the eve of the Independence. With the dawn of Freedom, the Government realised the importance of closer association between the Government and non-official agencies. Accordingly the relationship between the Association and the Government of India developed, grew and became closer.

In 1945, the Government of India invited Mr. R. M. Chetsingh, the then Honorary General Secretary of the Association to visit the Raniganj and Jharia Coal fields and to draw up a scheme of Adult Education for workers of Coal fields. This scheme was presented to the Advisory Committee for Welfare Work under the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. While this report was greatly appreciated it received proper attention only after Independence.

After 1947, as life in the country became normal, great interest came to be evinced in Adult Education work. The Government of

India set apart a large sum of money for promotion in the country of what came to be known as Social Education. The Indian Adult Education Association appraised the Government of India and the people generally with its attitudes towards the various handicaps in the progress of the Movement and from time to time suggested ways and means of overcoming them. In July 1949, the Association submitted to the Government of India a note entitled "Adult Education in the Indian Union" and thereafter continued to press the points raised therein with the officials of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. In October 1949, a deputation on behalf of the Association consisting of its active leaders waited on Maulana Azad and emphasized the following points :

1. Establishment of a separate Department of Social Education :
2. the need for Training and Research into the techniques of teaching adults ;
3. (a) production by the Centre of books, reading material and other audio-visual aids ; and  
(b) subsidising local non-official organisations already in the field for the production of the above material.
4. Formation of Union Boards and State Boards of Social Education :
  - (a) to examine and evaluate the experimental work already in progress ; and the strength of teaching personnel available :
  - (b) to draw up a development plan which would give due consideration to the problem of finance, training of various cadre of personnel and production and service of necessary reading and kindred material ;
  - (c) to co-ordinate the work of the Boards of Social Education of the Constituent State.
  - (d) to develop the whole work in five years so as to create a well-seasoned Department of Social Education independent of and co-ordinate with the universities and Department of Public Instructions.



5. The need for a more liberal and recurring grant to the Indian Adult Education Association.

6. The need for giving due representation to the Association at the UNESCO Seminars and at the National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO.

These points were given sympathetic consideration by Maulana Azad, Education Minister.

The Association now functions in close touch with the Government of India and the various Governments of the States who have been extending full co-operation in conducting training courses, National Seminars and Conferences and other activities of the Association.

#### COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

The Association has maintained close relations with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation for furthering adult education activities in India.

It was at the invitation of the UNESCO that Mr. R. M. Chet Singh, the then Honorary General Secretary of the Association, wrote on behalf of India, a paper on Fundamental Education in India, covering the fields of Adult Education and Primary Education. This paper was incorporated by UNESCO in their preparatory volume for the Conference of UNESCO which met in Paris in 1940.

In the year 1947 the Indian Adult Education Association was recognised as the national organisation of Adult Education Workers in India and as such granted representation on the National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO.

The UNESCO further utilized the experience of the Association by inviting Shri Shafiq-ur-Rehman Kidwai, a veteran leader of the Association to head the UNESCO Fundamental Education Commission to Indonesia and invited him to its Headquarters at Paris.

It was on the occasion of the UNESCO Seminar on Rural Adult Education and Community Action held in Mysore in 1949

that Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, General Secretary of the Association contributed a paper on Rural Adult Education in India. This paper stimulated discussion in the Seminar on the complex issue connected with Adult Education in rural areas in India. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, Hony. General Secretary of the Association continues to maintain very close contacts with the UNESCO and its various officials and Departments.

The Association last year arranged a reception in honour of Dr. Jaime Torres Bodet, Director General of UNESCO with a view to acquaint him with the activities of the Association as also to introduce him to the active local field workers and leaders of the Adult Education Movement.

#### CO-OPERATION WITH VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS FOR THE TRAINING OF ADULT EDUCATION WORKERS

The Indian Adult Education Association has extended its cooperation to Provincial Organisations and local bodies in conducting short-term Training Courses for Adult Education workers.

Successively for three years between 1945-47, and in 1952 the office bearers of the Indian Adult Education Association helped the Delhi State Adult Education Association in organising Summer Schools for trained field workers. These courses were run to meet the needs of those who primarily wished to help in literacy and post literacy work and those who desired to have a more comprehensive course of Adult Education.

The trainees who took advantage of these courses came from Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Indore, Jaipur, Madras, Mysore, Rampur and Ujjain.

At the request of Delhi Administration, the Association conducted another course at Nangloi, a village in the Delhi State, in 1949. This course was organised in response to a call from the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, Government of India, to promote adult education work in the country. This course combined lecture work with practical field experience. Many of the leading members of the Association took part in running the course.

The Indian Adult Education Association also collaborated with the Municipal Committee in organising yet another training course for implementing the Adult Education Scheme of the Delhi Municipality, which was inspired and guided by the leaders of the Indian Adult Education Association at the planning as well as the execution levels. This course included lectures on the various aspects of Adult Education in India, guidance of the trainees in preparing charts, pictures and wall maps and wall newspapers ; addressing the audience, conducting and leading discussions, and organising study circles and visits to the various Adult Education Centres in the city. A batch of 30 trainees from different areas took part in this training.

By cooperating with these organisations in this manner the Indian Adult Education Association got a useful opportunity for developing relations with workers in the field ; it further gave a lead in stimulating its Institutional Members to organise similar courses in their respective areas.

#### CLEARING HOUSE OF INFORMATION

The Association has acted as a Clearing House of Information by attending to the queries with regard to adult education made from different parts of the country and by publishing the Indian Journal of Adult Education, Social Education News Bulletin, Directory of Adult Education Organisations and Agencies in India and other suitable literature. It has also been consulted for expert advice by the various State Governments, the Delhi Municipal Committee, the Sea-farer organisation, and various institutional members and others interested in it and has kept close touch with the Hindustani Talimi Sangh.

The Association has thus given technical help and advice to Governments, responsible field workers, institutional members, institutions and individuals interested in Adult Education work in different parts of the country. The various points on which expert advice was sought related to the standards to be enforced, the different types of work and methods to be followed, type of literature available and the ways and means of starting and carrying on adult education work in a given situation.

like use of radio, films, handicrafts, dramas, museums, and music etc. It has also published various plans and schemes of adult education both for urban and rural areas, besides giving information about adult education movements in various other parts of the world.

Thus by acting as a source of information and advice on various aspects of adult education work, by advocating the cause of adult education in India and by being an instrument of education for field workers, the Indian Journal of Adult Education along with the Indian Adult Education Association has been doing yeomen service to the cause of Adult Education in India.

#### THE SOCIAL EDUCATION NEWS BULLETIN

The Social Education News Bulletin is being brought out every month from the Central Office of the Association.

The Social Education News Bulletin has been spreading knowledge about activities of workers and agencies doing Adult Education Work in various States of India.

In the beginning this Bulletin used to be cyclostyled and supplied only to members and selected adult education agencies in the country. But in recent years with the increasing popularity and growing demand, this News Bulletin is now printed.

The Social Education News Bulletin has been instrumental in making Adult Education in India popular.

#### DIRECTORY OF ADULT EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS AND AGENCIES IN INDIA

The Indian Adult Education Association has published the Draft Edition of a Directory of Adult Education Organisations and agencies in India.

This Directory is a landmark in the history of Adult Education Movement and also of the Indian Adult Education Association in so far as it represents pioneering attempts towards co-ordination of Adult Education activities in India. It covers 79 organisations spread over 18 States in the country. It may, therefore, legitimately claim to cover a substantial amount of work done in the various parts of the country. It is, however, in no sense

complete ; some of the organisations have been left out as the information about them had been inadequate at the time of its publication.

The Directory is divided into two parts—part one, gives information about All Indian Organisations engaged in adult education work of one kind or another. Part two, gives organisations existing in Ajmer, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Delhi, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, PEPSU, Punjab (I), Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin State, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

All these agencies are engaged in either or all of the following activities.

1. Running of evening classes, night schools or courses for adults.
2. Running of libraries or reading rooms.
3. Organising lectures, discussion groups or reading circles.
4. Organising of exhibitions on civic, economic or social topics.
5. Organising agricultural extension work.
6. Organising activities for the popularisation of arts such as drawings, paintings and music and arranging classes for learning such arts.
7. Running of museums.
8. Production of literature on adult education work.
9. Production of films and other audio-visual aids.
10. Organising Radio listening groups such as those organised by various State Governments-in the villages.
11. Giving training in Cottage Vocations, domestic work, First-aid.
12. Extra curricular activities of Universities such as extension lectures etc.

Divided into two parts, the Directory is alphabetically arranged according to the names of the Organisation or agency. It gives

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information about its aims and objects, activities, management, office-bearers, and publications.

This Directory will be very useful to the Governments and field workers to enable them to know the various organisations and agencies engaged in the field of adult education and help them to cooperate with each other in the common task.

#### LITERATURE

The Indian Adult Education Association has the publication of a number of booklets to its credit. Written from the point of view of the field workers, these books have been found to be very popular in the circle of those who have been interested in adult education work.

These books include :

- (a) Indian Adult Education Handbook, edited by Ernest Chempness and H.B. Richardson.
- (b) Fundamental Education by Ranjit M. Chetsingh.
- (c) Education for Leisure by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.
- (d) Rural Adult Education in India by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan.
- (e) Draft Directory of Adult Education Organisations and Agencies in India.
- (f) Report of the First National Seminar on the Organisation and techniques of liquidating illiteracy.
- (g) Report of the Second National Seminar on Community Centres.
- (h) Social Education Literature by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.
- (i) Indian Journal of Adult Education, published quarterly from the office of the Indian Adult Education Association, Delhi.
- (j) Social Education News Bulletin published monthly from the office of the Indian Adult Education, Association Delhi.

The Association hopes to publish a few books at present under preparation by the end of this year.

The Association co-operated with the Hindustani Talimi Sangh in considering the problems of adult education in India.

In early 1945, the Sangh appointed an Adult Education Sub-Committee with Mr. C. Ramachandran as Convenor. Mr. R. M. Chetsingh, the then Honorary General Secretary of the Association was requested by the Sangh to serve as a member of the Committee and this appointment was accepted by him. This Sub-Committee recommended that the object of Adult Education should not be merely literacy but education of the adult and that adult education should be imparted through some suitable craft.

#### CONFERENCES HELD BY THE ASSOCIATION

In the last 15 years of its life the Indian Adult Education Association has held eight all India Adult Education Conference presided over by persons of great eminence and culture like Sir R. P. Masani, Ex-Vice Chancellor, University of Bombay; Dr. Amaranatha Jha, Ex-Vice Chancellor of Allahabad and Banaras University; Shri K. G. Saiyidian, Joint-Secretary to the Education Department, Government of India; Hon'ble P. N. Saprú; Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, Professor of Library Science in the University of Delhi; Shri Shafiq-ur-Rehman Kidwai, Education Minister of Delhi-State and formerly Director of Adult Education Jamia Millia Islamia (National Muslim University) and Principal R. M. Chetsingh of Baring Union Christian College, Batala (East Punjab).

The Conferences have provided a common platform for the adult education workers of the country to come together and to share views and experiences on various aspects of adult education work. They have thus enabled the Indian Adult Education Association to make known the aims and objectives of the Adult Education Movement and to arouse interest of the people and the Government in the movement.

The first Conference was held in Delhi at the University Hall in March 1938. The Hon'ble Justice Shah Mohammed Suleiman of the Federal Court and Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh University presided. The Conference though fairly representative of workers in various parts of the country, realized its limitations and only set up a Provisional Committee for the promotion of interest in this work, and to make preparations for a more representative conference to be held in 1939. Sir Shah Suleiman was elected, President and Mr. H. B. Richardson, General Secretary of

the Provisional Committee. Among other members of the Committee were Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Messrs. N. M. Joshi, N. G. Ranga, Ranjit M. Chetsingh, J. B. Raju and the Princess of Berar.

The Second Conference was held at Bhagalpur in Bihar in December, 1939. Dr. R. P. Masani, Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University presided. Mr. Alam was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Conference and Rai Sahib Sidhinath, Secretary of the Reception Committee. The Conference decided to set up the Association and adopted its constitution.

The Conference gave a lead to the country by clarifying its stand on literacy. The Conference passed the following resolution :

"The Conference stresses that literacy is only a means to an end and adult education should explore and utilise all other means to achieve higher civic, social, cultural and economic level and recommends the adoption of the following or other means for the achievement of the end in view :

(1) Health and Culture Clubs, (2) Sanitation Programmes, (3) Discussion and debates, (4) Study groups, (5) Amusement and recreation programmes, (6) Dramatic and magic lantern shows, (7) Talks by specialists, (8) Thrift societies; (9) Social Reform Leagues, (10) Organisation for the promotion of communal understanding; (11) Economic uplift scheme (12) Artistic and cultural activities."

On work among women, the Conference suggested that experiments be made in a triple approach to courses of study :

(1) Courses designed to equip women for their primary task of home-making i. e. child welfare and child psychology, hygiene and first aid, nutrition, needle craft etc. (2) Courses for the development of the cultural life such as literature, music, civic, history etc and (3) Training in various cottage industries whereby women in the home are help to raise their economic level.

The following were elected office bearers :—

President : Dr. R. P. Masani.

Vice-Presidents : Princess of Berar.

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit.



Dr. Syed Mahmud.  
 Prof. N. G. Ranga.  
 Mr. C. J. Varkey.  
 Prof. A. N. Basu.

General Secretary : R. M. Chetsingh.

Treasurer : Prof. H. B. Richardson.

The Central office of the Association was set up at Friends Settlement, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh.

In 1940, Regional and State Conferences in Madura, Bombay, Tinnevely and Lahore were held and gave a great impetus to the adult education work in the region. Shri P. M. Gopalkrishnan was appointed Organising Secretary for South India, and he was able to organise and extend the movement in the rural areas.

The Third Conference was held in Indore in December, 1942. Dr. Amaranatha Jha presided. The Conference was inaugurated by the Maharaja of Dewas Senior. The Conference recommended the establishment of an Adult Education Department in the office of the Educational Commissioner to the Government of India and requested the Central Advisory Board of Education and the Inter-University Board to appoint a special sub-Committee to make suggestions to the various University bodies to strengthen the adult education movement through assessing the various teaching methods evolved during the last few years by literacy workers in different parts of the country.

The Conference also urged the mill-owners to keep adult education in the fore-front of all welfare programmes for the workers.

The Conference elected the following Executive Committee :—

President	... Dr. Amaranatha Jha.
Vice-Presidents :	... 1. Princess Savitri Bai of Indore.
	... 2. H.H. the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.
	3. Dr. Syed Mahmud.
	4. Sir Maurice Gwyer.

5. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.
6. Prof. A.N. Basu.
7. Mr. J.L.P. Roche Victoria.

Hony-General Secretary ... Mr. N.K. Mookerjee.

Treasurer ... Mr. H.B. Richardson.

Among the Executive members were :—

Messrs R.M. Chetsingh, K.G. Saiyidain, R. D. Choksi  
and Miss Ruth Ure.

The Fourth Conference was held on December, 29 and 30, 1946 at Trivandrum. Shri K. G. Saiyidain, was the President-elect but he could not attend. His presidential address was read by Mr. F. G. Pearce, Inspector General of Education, Gwalior, who acted as President.

The Conference passed a number of resolutions. For the first time it discussed the question of whole time paid personnel and passed the following resolution :

“The Conference is of the opinion that the importance, immensity and urgency of the problem of Adult Education in India demand that any comprehensive scheme of adult education in all its aspects can be worked effectively only by a sufficient number of trained and devoted full time workers in different linguistic areas under the direction and guidance of a Central Institute of Adult Education. Therefore this Conference urges upon the government of all provinces, States and the centrally administered areas to institute Adult Education sections as an integral part of their Education Department.”

The Conference also passed a resolution recommending the enactment of legislation to make all regular employers of more than 10 persons to provide facilities for adult education at or near the place of employment. By another resolution the Conference requested the Governments of all Provinces and States to start and maintain rural library service, in view of the essential part that the library plays in adult education.

The Association decided to organise the Central Office to

make it more effective to perform the functions of the Association, as a clearing house and a coordinating centre of all adult education work that is being done in the country.

The Fifth Conference was held in Rewa on December 29-31, 1947. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. N. Saprú, presided. The Conference emphasised the need for establishing a Central Institute of Education" to re-interpret the function and develop further, through bold experimentation, the technique of adult education as the only means of equipping the Indian people to play their part worthily in the evolution of a progressive, peaceful and just democratic order." The comprehensive resolution passed on the occasion gives in nut-shell the philosophy which guides the adult education workers within the fold of the Association. The resolution says :

"Now that power has passed into the hands of the people on whom must devolve within the next few months the responsibility for making grave decisions, this Conference stresses the view that the need for adult education in all aspects of its programme was never greater in our land than it is today.

"At present the people are confronted with new problems and difficulties and new social and moral urgencies. It is necessary therefore to re-interpret the function and develop further, through bold experimentation, the technique of Adult Education as the only means of equipping the Indian people to play their part worthily in the evolution of a progressive peaceful and just democratic order. The Conference recommends to all agencies, engaged or interested in Adult Education to pay due regard to the following points while formulating their policies and programmes.

1. Adult Education is larger than literacy and literacy should not be regarded as the best or the inevitable starting point of Adult Education in the prevailing circumstances of the country.

2. Adult Education must aim at enabling the common man to live a richer life in all its aspects - social, economic, cultural and moral. For this purpose adult education must definitely envisage all Adult Centres as social centres, interested primarily in providing social, recreational and cultural facilities for the people and must

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endeavour to develop their powers of initiative, judgement and integrity as citizens.

3. While a great deal of emphasis will naturally be placed on the education of the illiterate, Adult Education should confine its attention to this class but should be extended to cover various forms of "further" or "continuation" education in particular through lectures, seminars, discussion groups, art, craft and music clubs, Peoples College and other agencies need to be developed in India in the light of her special needs.

4. In order to expedite the process of Adult Education and to reinforce the appeal of the printed and the spoken word, it is essential to make the fullest use as far as is practicable of the modern media of mass communication like the Radio, the Cinema, the Press, the Theatre, folk lore, art etc.

In order to attempt adequately the programme envisaged above the problem of selecting and training effective personnel for administration, supervision and field work should be recognised as an urgent problem. This need can best be met by the setting up of a Central Institute of Adult Education for the Indian Dominion. Such a body should be able to guide and assist the Provincial and State Governments, local authorities and voluntary agencies in providing training facilities for their respective areas.

This Institute can render unique service by providing basic material for the entire country which regional and provincial workers can use as a model and can draw upon in meeting special needs of their own constituencies.

This Conference further recommends the setting up of Provincial and State Boards of Adult Education with wide powers. These Boards should normally have a non-official as Chairman and invariably a suitable Senior Education Officer with requisite gift and experience as Secretary; the latter should have the responsibility for directing the work of adult education in the Province or State.

A Special Sub-Committee should be entrusted with the task of commissioning, cataloguing and distributing suitable educational

films and other visual aids material. This Committee would undertake to secure the production of specially selected films suitable for their areas, and work in continuous and close collaboration with the agency commissioned to produce films etc.

Another Special Sub-Committee should be charged with the responsibility of taking effective steps to take full advantage of recorded programmes made available through the Radio or the gramophones. The technique for using such recorded programmes as a basis for discussion in rural communities should receive immediate attention."

The Sixth Conference was held in Mysore on December 30-31, 1948. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan presided. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. C. V. Raman.

The Conference passed a resolution requesting the Government of India to start a central training institute for training superior staff for organising adult education and conducting research and experiments in the principles and techniques of adult education.

The following were elected office-bearers :

President	Dr. Amaranatha Jha
General Secretary	Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.
Vice-President	Dr. Zakir Hussain.
	Mr. J. L. C. Roche Victoria, M. L. C.
	Mr. Uma Charan Patnaik, M. L. A.
	Mr. T. Madhe Gowda, M. L. A.
	Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, Bombay.
	Mr. R. M. Chetsingh, Delhi.
	Prof. A. N. Basu, Calcutta.
Treasurer	Shri Raghunandan Saran.

Messrs. S. R. Kidwai, Harrisarvottama Rao, W. G. Eagleton, R. D. Choksi, V. S. Mathur, S. C. Dutta and Miss Sosa Mathews were elected members of the Executive.

The Conference concentrated its time on internal organisational problems and decided that a note be submitted to the

Government of India on the question of general approach to the problem of adult education and the attitude of the Government and on the Association's role and future in that context. The note was submitted to the Hon'ble Minister of Education early in the year and a deputation consisting of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, Messrs Shafiq-ur-Rehman Kidwai, V.S. Mathur, N.L. Kitroo and S. C. Dutta, waited on Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad on October 5, 1949.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan explained the views of the Association and urged the need for a separate Department of Social Education and formation of Union Board and States Boards of Social Education to act as fact-finding commissions and to draw up development plans

The Seventh Conference was held in Hyderabad in December, 1950. Shri Shafiq-ur-Rehman Kidwai, Director, Adult Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, presided.

The Conference passed a resolution on the role of voluntary agencies in adult education. The resolution said "the voluntary agencies are more free to use their resources with a minimum of restrictions and to select personnel with greater freedom. Such agencies however cannot flourish without the liberal and generous support of the State. Through giving aid to such agencies Governments can make available funds go much further than otherwise. This Conference urges the State Governments to adopt a definite policy to progressively help and promote voluntary agencies and give them a recognised place in their scheme of adult education.

Dr. Amaranatha Jha and Dr. S. R. Ranganathan were re-elected President and General Secretary for a term of two years. The following were elected Vice-President :—

Dr. Zakir Hussain.  
 Hon'ble J. L. P. Roche Victoria.  
 Shri T. Madhia Gowda.  
 „ K. G. Saiyidain.  
 „ R. M. Chetsingh.  
 „ G. Harisarvottama Rao.  
 Dr. V. S. Jha.

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Shri Onkar Nath was elected Treasurer and Messrs. A. R. Deshpande, Shaligram Pathik, B. M. Kapadia, S. C. Mahapatra and S. C. Dutta were elected Associate Secretaries. Messrs. S.R.Kidwai, V. S. Mathur, A. N. Basu and Srinivasa Rao were among those elected as members of the Executive Committee.

The Eighth All-India Adult Education Conference was held in Bombay on October 25-26, 1951 under the presidentship of Shri Ranjit M. Chetsingh, Principal Baring Christian College, Batala. The Conference passed the following resolution on the Community Centres :

"The Conference conscious of the place of community centres in the scheme of National Reconstruction, recommends that the social education centres in the country should progressively become real community centres, equipping the regional community with initiative, with leadership and local organisation for the solution of its problems and infusing real community spirit without distinction of caste, colour or creed".

The Conference also passed a resolution asking for adequate attention to be paid to vocational training. The resolution said :

"The Conference notes with satisfaction that the broader aspects of adult education activity are being appreciated increasingly by a number of State Governments and non-official agencies. The Conference wishes to emphasise the wide and varied nature of adult education activity. Education is a life-long process, its aim being to make possible for the individual to develop to the fullest stature. In addition to literacy and cultural education, adequate attention should be paid to vocational training, The standard of national efficiency and of economic production can only be raised, when the persons working in the farms and factories enjoy the work in which they are engaged and know how to do it more efficiently.

"This Conference emphasises the importance of providing facilities for Continuation Education for the maturing of talents, both mental and motor, of those millions of our young people who are obliged to be engaged in the struggle for making a living in their early life.

"The Conference recommends the organisation of evening classes for equipping people for various vocations as well as providing training in handicrafts and cottage industries in a definitely educational atmosphere."

#### SEMINAR

The Indian Adult Education Association has organised two National Seminars—one in Jabalpur in December, 1950 and the other in Indore in September, 1951.

The first National Seminar held in 1950 was held with a view to discuss in detail the organisation and techniques for liquidating illiteracy in India. It brought together delegates and observers from Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, Bhopal, Delhi, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, PEPSU, Panjab, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin and Uttar Pradesh. The delegates to the Seminar represented both Government and voluntary agencies.

This Seminar was held in response to a suggestion made to the participating countries at the Asian Seminar on Rural Adult Education for Community action held under the joint auspices of the UNESCO and the Government of India in Mysore in 1949. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, Government of India, had reiterated the value of National Seminars in the course of his speech there. The Indian Adult Education Association derived its inspiration in holding the First National Seminar from the speech of the Hon'ble Education Minister and decided to hold the First National Seminar after the Asian Seminar. It was hoped that National Seminar would give opportunity to adult education workers all over the country to come together to exchange views on the problems of liquidating illiteracy in India and evolve a standard for their work.

It was in consultation with the Directors of the Seminar, Dr. V.S. Jha, Secretary to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Education Department, and Shri Shafiq-ur-Rehman Kidwai, Director of Adult Education Department, Jamia-Millia, that the Secretariat of the Association drafted a Working Paper to help discussion