



Shah, Ghanshyam; Bagchi, Kanak Kanti and Kalaiah, Vishwanatha (eds.). **Education and Caste in India**. New Delhi, Routledge, 2023: 252p.

The volume explores the historical struggles of SCs and their mission for education, analyzing commonalities and differences in their educational status. It uses state-level studies to assess policymaking and implementation across Indian states, analyzing economic conditions and structural constraints related to access to quality educational facilities. It also examines the social perceptions and experiences of SC students as they live now.

Varghese, N.V. and Panigrahi, Jinusha (eds.). **Financing of Higher Education: Traditional Approaches and Innovative Strategies**. New Delhi, Springer Nature, 2023: 439p.

This book reviews and analyses higher education financing and explores the innovative ways by both public higher education and private higher education institutes in the context of globalization, with India, Russia and Tanzania as a case study. It examines the diverse policy discourses which greatly influence the higher education systems based on evidence-based research. This book is arranged into four major themes. Part one deal with the various possible modes of financing of higher education, such as the credit market and voucher system. Part two deals with strategies to mobilize the resources. Part three deals with innovative and sustainable approaches to financing private higher education institutions. Part four discusses the policies and limitations with external financing of higher education.

Deb, Prasenjit and Das, Asitabha (Eds.). **Lifelong Learning in Developing Countries: Issues and Perspectives**. New Delhi, DPS Publishing, 2023: 480p.

India's literacy rate is 74.04%, according to the 2011 Census Report. Developed countries, like India, have reached their 95% literacy limit, but this is a challenge for them. After completing primary or secondary education, many enter vocational education to secure employment. Developing countries like India are striving to increase literacy levels at the initial level but face challenges due to a high population, decreasing agricultural land per capita, and inadequate industrial growth. This leads to unemployment. To address this, developed countries have restructured lifelong learning to create opportunities for functional literacy in the 21st century.

Shah, SY. **My Experiences in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning in India and Abroad (1984-2023)**. New Delhi, International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Learning, 2023: 104p.

This publication is a reflection on the author's four decades of work in the field of adult and lifelong education in India and abroad between 1984 and 2023.

Prof. Shah discusses his journey into adult and lifelong learning, his entry into the field, his research in adult education history, his first university department, and his experiences teaching at overseas universities. He also discusses his association with the UNESCO Institute for Education, his collaborations with the government, the Indian Adult Education Association, and the establishment of the International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education. He also discusses his contributions and experiences, including awards, and his outlook on the future.

Compiled by Neha Gupta  
Librarian-cum-Documentation Officer

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## South Zone Conference of IAEA – An Invitation

The South Zone Conference of Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi is going to held on July 17-18, 2024 at Sri S.V. University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh in which a seminar on the "National Education Policy 2020: Pathway for the Transformation of Higher Education – Status, Challenges, and Strategies" will also be organized. Academicians/ scholars/professionals/ adult education functionaries desirous to participate may contact Dr. D. Uma Deli, Associate Professpr, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati, e-mail: nep2020conference2024@gmail.com

## फतेहपुर जिला जेल में वार्षिक मूल्यांकन साक्षरता परीक्षा का आयोजन

फतेहपुर जिला जेल में प्रवेश के समय ही बंदियों को साक्षर और अर्धसाक्षर दो अलग-अलग समूहों में बांट कर साक्षरता कक्षाओं में उनका पंजीकरण कर लिया जाता है ताकि उन्हें पढ़ना-लिखना सिखा कर उनके जीवन में सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाया जा सके। इन कक्षाओं में हुई उनकी प्रगति के आधार पर उन्हें लेवल-1, लेवल-2 एवं लेवल-3 के स्तर में बांट दिया जाता है। फिर अधिकारियों की देखरेख में स्वयंसेवी शिक्षकों द्वारा इन नव-साक्षरों को उनके लेवल के अनुसार आगे पढ़ाया जाता है ताकि एनआईओएस द्वारा आयोजित मूल्यांकन परीक्षाओं में भाग ले वे अपनी योग्यतानुसार सर्टिफिकेट प्राप्त कर सकें। इस प्रक्रिया में दिनांक 19 मई 2024 को कारागार में तीनों लेवल की वार्षिक मूल्यांकन साक्षरता परीक्षाओं का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें 6 बंदियों सहित कुल 152 बंदियों ने भाग किया गया।

— मो. अकरम खान, जेल अधीक्षक



# IAEA NEWSLETTER

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## Indian Adult Education Association

## National Seminar on Multi Stakeholders Partnership for Sustainable Rural Development



A National Seminar on Multi Stakeholders Partnership for Sustainable Rural Development was organized jointly by the Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi; Vaaname Yellai Charitable Trust, Chennai and the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, GRI on March 26-27, 2024 at GRI – DTBU. This seminar was a systematic attempt to discuss the existing forms of partnership among various organizations working in the rural areas. It also tried to document the best methods and practices that are being used by these organizations to establish partnership among them as well as the constraints faced during its execution. Attempts were also made to examine the role played and strategies adopted by the Corporate Foundations / NGOs in capacity building of the functionaries of PRIs and CBOs.

Apart from Inaugural and Valedictory there were six Technical sessions in the two-day seminar in which participants had detailed discuss on six major aspects of the theme –'Corporate Social Responsibility'; 'Partnership with Alumni of GRI'; 'Partnership among Panchayat, NGO and CBO'; 'Partnership for Sustainable Rural Development'; 'Technology, Education and Learning for Partnership' and 'Sectoral Aspects of Partnership'.

### Inaugural Session

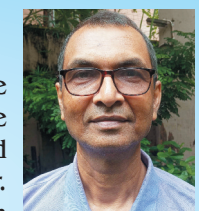
Held at Silver Jubilee Hall, GRI on March 26, 2024, the Inaugural Session began with rendering a prayer song by Dr. S. Gnanasaranya. Thereafter, a warm welcome was

## Books Donated for Amarnath Jha Library

Dr. Subhendu Ghatak, a Life Member of IAEA from Kolkata, West Bengal has recently donated a set of valuable books in response to the Director's Appeal to the adult education fraternity and the well-wishers of IAEA to come forward and support the rebuilding of the Amarnath Jha Library which got heavily damaged due to flood last year. The books

donated include - Thoughts on Education by Vinoba, Education by T.S. Avinashilingam, Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire, Instead of Education by John Holt, Summerhill by A.S. Neill, School Without Fear by J. Krishnamurti, Maulana Azad by S. Irfan Habib and Dynamic Role of Adult Education by Dr. M.V. Lakshmi Reddy.

We in IAEA whole heartedly appreciate the sensitivity and swiftness shown by Dr. Ghatak. This act of him will certainly motivate and encourage other academicians, scholars and adult education functionaries to come forward and support the rebuilding of the library in every possible manner.



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Editor: Suresh Khandelwal



extended to all the participants by Dr. R. Venkataravi, Head and Seminar Director, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, GRI. The proceeding of the seminar was started with the Presidential Address delivered by Dr. L. Rathakrishnan, Registrar-in-charge, GRI - DTBU, Gandhigram. He emphasized that development takes place when various stakeholders extend their support and hence there is a need for promoting multi-stakeholders' initiatives towards sustainable rural development. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. K. Parthasarthy, Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai who said that multi-stakeholders partnership would be creating a win-win situation for all the partners in the context of rural development. Prof. L. Raja, President and Shri K.C. Choudhary, Chief Advisor, Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi and Shri Rajesh, Managing Trustee, Vaaname Yellai Charitable Trust, Chennai also shared their opinion on the occasion. Together they underlined the need for joint action as a strategy to strengthen the development activities. They were of the opinion that the multi-stakeholders approach will help to bring much desired result, particularly on community welfare and development.



Two books were also released on this occasion. Prof. P. Adinarayana Reddy, former Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, SV University, Tirupati released a book entitled "Stakeholders in School Development: Study in Rural



Tamil Nadu" written by Dr. P. Dharmaraj and Dr. R. Venkataravi. This book was introduced by Dr. C. Pitchai, Professor of Cooperation and Finance and Officer-in-charge, GRI. Another book entitled "Gender Based Violence among Rural Women" authored by Dr. M. Eswari and Dr. R. Venkataravi was released by Dr. K. Parthasarthy. This book was introduced by



Dr. A. Jahitha Begum, Professor of Education, GRI. The session

was concluded with the Vote of Thanks extended by Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA, New Delhi.

The first and fourth technical session was for paper presentation by the scholars.

The first session was chaired by Dr. K. Ravichandran, Professor, Cooperative Management, GRI while Dr. M. Anandhan, Guest Faculty, GRI was the Rapporteur. In this session 7 papers were presented and discussed- 'Assessing Corporate Social Responsibility Trends: A Quantitative Study on Sectoral and Regional Differences in India' by Ms. K. Ananya and Dr. S. Malini; 'An Overview of Collaboration among Public and Private Enterprises' by Dr. A. Ramyashree; 'Rural Self Employment Training Institutes - A Handholding of Government of India and the Corporate Sector' by Ms. Seetha A. S; 'Corporate Social Responsibility of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in Promoting Sustainable Development of Rural Areas' by Dr. S. Gnanasaranya, Dr. P. Vanitha and Shri R. Ezhil; 'The Impact of Yoga-breaks in Corporate Settings: Enhancing Well-being and Productivity' by Ms. S. Bavithra; 'Strengthening Grassroots: Corporate Foundations/NGOs and Panchayat Raj Institutions Partnership' by Ms. V. Priyanka and Dr. T. M. Hemalatha and 'Study in Kabaddi Skill Prowess Excelling in Attack and Defence within Corporate Foundations' by Shri P. Sivakumar, Shri P. Alagarsamy and Dr. C. Sugumar.

The fourth session was chaired by Dr. G. Vedanthadesikan, Director, Centre for Rural Development, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu and the Rapporteur was Dr. S. Rajangam, Guest Faculty, GRI. Eight papers were presented in this session - 'Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Sustainable Rural Development' by Shri Stany Pancras; 'Connecting Communities: Strategies for Effective Collaboration among Community-Based Organizations' by Ms. Sujitha S; 'Partnership System during the Sanga Illakiyam' by Dr. C. Chidambaram and Shri K. Silambarasan; 'Analysing the Effectiveness of Public-Private Partnerships in National Highway' by Ms. Jagatheswari G and Ms. Nishali B; 'Partnership Experience in Designing Strategies for Participatory Rural Development' by Dr. B. Geethpriya; 'Public-Private Partnership as a Tool for Sustainable Development' by Shri Joshi Shraddha Rajesh and Shri Rajarshi Shahu; 'Connecting the Communities, Produce and Market: Partnership for Sustainable Development' by Shri Prabakaran M. and 'Village Government Schools: Catalysts for Sustainable Rural Development through Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Cultural Programs' by Ms. Naziya Khanum.

Remaining 4 sessions were interactive in nature where held a lot of discussion on respective topics. The second session was chaired by Dr.P. Ananadaraja Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Rural Development, GRI and the Rapporteur was Er. Praveen Kumar, Guest Faculty, GRI. The third session was chaired by Dr. S. Rajendran, Professor, Economics, GRI and the Rapporteur was Shri Samuel Paul Raj, Research Scholar, GRI. The fifth session was presided over by Prof. Muthumanickam, (Retd), University of Madras and the Rapporteur was Dr. P. Vanitha, Guest Faculty, GRI. The sixth session was presided over by Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA, New Delhi and the Rapporteur was Ms. V.P. Faseela, Research Scholar, GRI. While sharing her

## Farewell for Shri M.L. Sharma



A farewell party was organized on May 30, 2024 in the honour of Shri Murari Lal Sharma, Deputy Director (Finance), IAEA which was graced by the presence of Shri K.C Choudhary, Chief Advisor, Prof. L. Raja, President, Prof. S. Y. Shah and Prof. Rajesh, Vice Presidents, Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, Smt. Nishat Farooq, Member EC, Dr. V. Mohankumar, Former Director, Dr. A. Mathew, Editorial Consultant IJAE, Shri S.C. Dua, Former Documentation Officer, Smt. Veena Mahajan, Former Office Superintendent, IAEA and Shri Ramesh Gupta, Chartered Accountant. All the members of the staff of IAEA were also present on the occasion. Shri M. L. Sharma was accompanied by his wife Smt. Meera Sharma, both sons Shri Rohit Kumar Sharma and Shri Mohit Kumar Sharma, Daughter-in-Law Smt. Anuja Rawat, his

elder brother Shri Rishi Kumar Sharma, friend Shri Manoj Kumar, Regional Director, ICCR, Delhi and a couple of his family friends.



The party began with the words of blessing given by Shri K. C. Choudhary who fondly recalled a few defining points of Shri Sharma's character and termed him to be truly dedicated, hard-working, cooperative, amicable and a man of positive attitude. Shri Sharma and his wife were offered a bouquet, shawl and gifts on behalf of the Association. Almost everybody

attending the function shared some of the reminiscence they could recall while working with Shri Sharma and extended their well-wishes blessings to him and his family members for a happy-healthy life ahead. Referring to the cherished memories of one of the adult education conferences held at Shegaon Prof. Raja said that Sharma Ji will always be remembered as a person ready to serve the organization at any time. Shri Khandelwal also underlined the diligence that Shri Sharma stood for while serving the Association. Extending his blessings Shri S. C. Dua recited a few couplets written by him on the occasion which amused everyone present in the programme. For Sharma Ji's wife, sons and daughter-in-law it was really a passionate moment to hear the encomiums received by him at the time of farewell. At the end Shri Sharma thanked IAEA and everybody present on the occasion from the bottom of his heart for organizing such a beautiful farewell party as well as for the cooperation he received throughout his service. The programme was conducted by Shri B. Sanjoy, Research Officer, IAEA and concluded with sharing a few anecdotes by Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA.

It may be noted that the Association has decided to avail the services of Shri M. L. Sharma post retirement and has re-appointed him as Finance Head w.e.f. June 3, 2024.

## Seminar on Women Empowerment at Gaya



Celebrating International Women's Day, a seminar was organised on March 7, 2024 at the premises of

Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (PBKIVV), Gaya together by PBKIVV, the Bihar Chapter of IAEA, Islamic Information cum Inter-Religious Dialogue Centre, Bodhgaya and Amar Jyoti Vihar Bodhgaya. The seminar was addressed by the Chief Speaker Sister B. K. Sheela, In-charge, B. K. Center, Gaya who emphasized that International Women's Day should be celebrated as "Women's Empowerment Day". As we all are the members of a big human family there

should not be any scope for discrimination on any basis whether it is gender or otherwise, she said. It was attended by more than 150 scholars including Shri B. K. Baldeo, District Income Tax Officer, Gaya; Shri A. H. Khan, Associate Secretary, IAEA, New Delhi and Sister Anna Christianity, Former Professor, Department of History, M.U Bodhgaya. Entire programme was conducted by Shri B. K. Baldeo and Shri. Anwaruzzaman Khan.

- A. H. Khan

## IAEA Welcomes Jude Walker



Associate Professor Jude Walker, serving as the Program Coordinator for the Adult Learning and Education Program (ALE) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), embarked on a significant but short visit to the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA) on April 4, 2024. The visit aimed to initiate discussions on potential areas of collaborations between the two esteemed institutions and to explore the avenues for academic exchange.

During the visit, Professor Walker engaged in insightful discussions with Shri K.C. Choudhary, Chief Advisor, IAEA; Prof. S.Y. Shah, Director IIALE and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA,

focusing on synergizing their expertise in the field of adult education. Emphasis was placed on leveraging resources and knowledge to enhance educational practices and promote lifelong learning opportunities.

As part of the visit, Associate Professor Walker had the privilege of touring the renowned Amarnath Jha Library and the IAEA Skill Training Centre (cutting and tailoring) at the IAEA Headquarters. She also



interacted with the students of the cutting-tailoring class. These facilities serve as pivotal hubs for knowledge dissemination and skill development

within the community, aligning closely with the mission of UBC's Adult Learning and Education Program, she said.

The visit highlighted the mutual interest of both the institutions in fostering cross-cultural academic exchange and advancing educational agendas. Associate Professor Walker expressed enthusiasm about the potential collaborations and reiterated UBC's commitment towards promoting global learning net works. The interaction between Associate Professor Jude Walker and the officials of IAEA signifies a promising step towards forging meaningful partnerships in the domain of education. It underscores the importance of international collaborations in addressing and evolving needs of learners and promoting inclusive education practices worldwide.

## MSDE lays out Framework for Holistic Development of Trainers



As 'Viksit Bharat 2047' envisions a completely developed nation by the Centenary of India's independence, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) aims to foster a dynamic workforce in an ever-evolving economy. To cater to this, the Ministry has laid out a roadmap where trainers from short-term and long-term skilling ecosystems will be equipped with the right skills and technology to help learners participate in the future market through suitable job roles.

Drafted by Future Right Skills Network (FRSN), a MSDE partner, this framework for holistic development of trainers in the skilling ecosystem

entitled "Trainer Development Strategy for the Skilling Ecosystem" was launched on May 17, 2024. While laying out detailed guidelines for the development of the 21st century educator, this framework, recommends that trainers should integrate digital blended content into classroom learning using digital tools and resources. The initiative aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of nationwide trainers across sectors for long-term skilling. Additionally, the strategies evolved will address the gaps in staffing and training capacity and; the shortage of qualified trainers in the Technical and Vocational Education

and Training (TVET) sector which impacts the quality and effectiveness of skill development programs and reduces attrition of qualified trainers due to irregular employment, limited career advancement opportunities, and low pay.

Moreover, this document, will also layout strategies to improve the efficiency of existing trainers through recognition, performance evaluation, motivation, and up-skilling. The drafting of the framework has been facilitated by Quest Alliance and supported by a collaborative effort between Accenture, Cisco, J.P. Morgan, and SAP. Emphasizing the joint endeavour, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GOI, termed this initiative as a testament of the collaborative efforts of the Government, Industry and Academia which will pave the way for a stronger skilling ecosystem with a holistic approach to trainer development.

views Smt. Kalpana Kaushik highlighted the significant role being played by various partnering institutions for the rural development particularly in the field of education, employment and health. She also summarized the outcome of the session and said that crafting strategies for sustainable and participatory rural development in India is the need of the hour and the academia should work together to promote the same.

### Valedictory Session

Just after the prayer song participants in the valedictory session were greeted with a warm welcome by Dr. R. Venkataravi. This was followed by handing over of the Certificates of Participation by Dr. K. Parthasarthy, Dr. P. Adinarayana Reddy, Dr. A. Balakrishnan, Dr. L. Raja, Dr. R. Venkataravi, Dr. A. Rajesh and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik. Thereafter, the Presidential Address was delivered by Dr. A. Balakrishnan, Dean, School of Health

Sciences and Rural Development, GRI. A book entitled "ICT Tools for Vocational Skill Development Programme" authored by



Dr. M. Sankaramurthy, Dr. L. Raja and Dr. R. Venkataravi was also released jointly by Dr. P. Adinarayana Reddy and Dr. K. Parthasarthy. The book was introduced by Dr. R. Venkataravi. While giving the Valedictory Address Dr. P. Adinarayana Reddy, Treasurer, Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi emphasized the enabling role of partnership which puts a process into action. He said that collaboration paves the way to obtain the rural development on sustainable manner.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, Indian Adult Education Association, New Delhi.

## DU and IAEA to Collaborate for Unnat Bharat Initiative



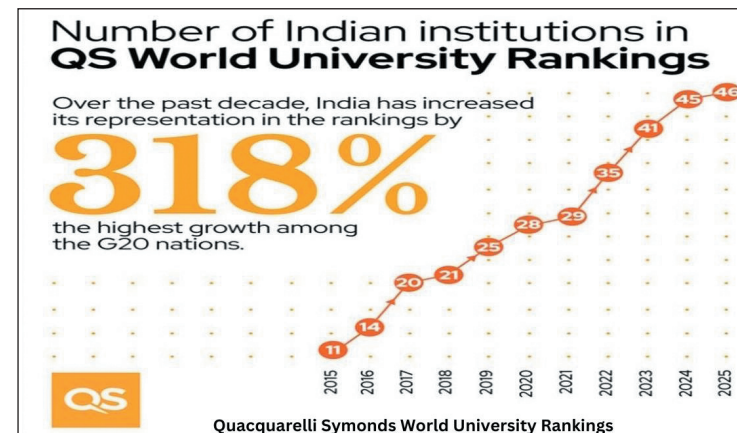
IAEA and the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi (DACEE) have a commitment to collaborate and work together towards the implementation of various adult education programmes and activities in the country. Moving forward in the above direction two meetings were organized successively on April 18, 2024 and May 10, 2024 at IAEA Headquarters, New Delhi.

On April 18, 2024 a team from DACEE, University of Delhi comprising Prof. Rajesh, former Head along with Dr. Gita Mishra, Associate Professor visited IAEA on April 18, 2024 and had detailed discussion on the Unnat Bharat initiative with Prof. S. Y. Shah, Vice President and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA. The discussion was an intense exercise to explore the scope and avenues for initiating collaborative ventures towards community engagement and sustainable solutions for addressing local challenges specifically in urban slums and other deprived areas. It was underlined that the rich experience of DACEE and IAEA will certainly help to design and implement target-oriented activities and programmes under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan enhancing its impact. Accordingly, a plan was developed for undertaking a joint activity under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, University of Delhi by DACEE and IAEA in Anna Nagar slum



area and other such communities.

The meeting held on May 10, 2024 was participated by Prof. Rajesh, Prof. S. Y. Shah, Smt. Kalpana Kaushik and Dr. Kumar Ashutosh, a lifelong member of IAEA in which Smt. Kalpana assured that IAEA as an institution will try to help the scholars to get respectable placement wherever possible. She also invited scholars to utilize the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme of Julius Maximilian University, Wurzburg for enhancing their academic prospects.



## IAEA Delegation visited Gandhigram Trust



Shri K. Shivakumar, Managing Trustee, Gandhigram Trust, Dindigul on March 28, 2024. Shri. K. Shivakumar has been identified for conferring prestigious Nehru Literacy Award for the year 2022 and the delegation apprised him with the decision of the Award Selection Committee. Shri Shivakumar is known for his tireless efforts towards advancing adult education and skills initiatives which not only increased literacy rate and health standard but also empowered countless individuals with essential skills for personal and socio-economic development. This esteemed accolade is certainly a fitting tribute to his outstanding contributions in the field of adult education and his unwavering commitment to foster literacy and empowerment among adults, particularly in marginalized and underserved communities.

A delegation from the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA) comprising Shri K.C. Choudhary, Chief Advisor; Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director met octogenarian

## Meeting to Explore Innovative Strategies for Literacy Movement

A meeting was convened jointly by the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA) and Ms. Mamta Mishra, former staff of the World Literacy of Canada (an organization which has become defunct now) on February 20, 2024 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Although World Literacy of Canada cease to exist as an organization the functionaries associated with it are still active and their presence in the meeting helped to have a constructive dialogue towards addressing the challenges before literacy movement in India. The meeting was also addressed by Shri K.C. Choudhary, Chief Advisor; Prof. S.Y. Shah, Vice President, IAEA; Dr. Naseem Shah and Smt. Kalpana



Kaushik, Director, IAEA. The participants attempted to explore innovative strategies to address literacy challenges in present scenario.

## Counselling Session for the Learners of IAEA Skill Centre



The learners in IAEA Skill Centre come from disadvantaged and deprived sections of society mostly inflicted with socio-economic crisis and stressed family/social relations. As a result, most of them have been compelled to

discontinue their study at a very rudimentary level. Lack of information and absence of sufficient moral or economical support at home have further curtailed their scope of progress. Hence, they need proper guidance and counselling which may help them to overcome the crisis they usually face. Keeping this in view a face to face counselling programme was organized for them on June 3, 2024 in which Ms. Meena, a Psychologist by

profession interacted with all of them and invited them for one to one discussion so that they feel free to share the problems they may be facing in their personal or family life. It was really a welcoming thing as it motivated them to reveal their state of mind. Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA assured the learners that every possible help will be extended to them so that they can solve the problems and can move towards economic self-reliance.

## Prof. Anita Priyadarshini becomes Director, STRIDE, IGNOU

Prof. Anita Priyadarshini was appointed as the Director, Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi on June 1, 2024. She is a Life

Member of IAEA and has a profound academic experience spanning 37 years long professional journey during which she has served institutions like SRC, NIOS and IGNOU. She is known for developing Open

Basic Education programme (OBE) which was adopted in 1995 by the Government of India as an Equivalency Programme for Adult Neo-literates under NLM's Scheme of Continuing Education.



## Prof. L. Raja Superannuated from the Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI)



Prof. L. Raja, a Gandhian by philosophy and adult educationist by profession superannuated at the age of 65 from Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram. He has been an ardent advocate, votary and practitioner of Gandhian philosophy which he tried to nourish and realize through engaging himself with various grassroots level activities conceptualized and implemented by the scholars and students of GRI. His active association with IAEA truly reflects his commitment for the proliferation of adult education activities in the country and abroad. This engagement of his motivated his friends, colleagues, students and associates to come forward and organize a send-off party on March 28, 2024 at Silver Jubilee Hall, GRI and a get-together party on March 29, 2024 at Vivera Hotel, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu in his honour.

The send-off party was graced by the presence of Padma Bhushan Awardee Smt. Krishnammal Jaganathan who not only

blessed Prof. L. Raja but also spoke a volume of about his academic and social journey. The programme was also participated by Shri K.C. Choudhary, Chief Advisor, Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA, Dr N. Markandan, former Vice-Chancellor and Prof. G. Palanidurai (Retd).

Along with the representatives of IAEA and other well-wishers the get-together party was also participated by Prof. S. Ramasamy, Advocate Virumandi, Shri Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi; Dr Vinu Aram, President, Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore; Prof. A. Suriakanthi (Retd); Prof. Massilamani, Shanti Niketan, Kolkata and Dr. Jim Jesudas, Executive Director, Vidyal NGO, Madurai. All the 3 representatives from IAEA spoke on the positivity that Prof. L. Raja stood for all through his journey till date. The programme was conducted by Ms. Kaveri and Shri Suthir, his daughter and son in law who came all the way from Germany.

## Association's Delegation was called on by Krishnammal Jagannathan



The visiting delegation of IAEA was also called on by Krishnammal Jagannathan, a recipient of Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian Award. The delegation comprising Shri K.C. Choudhary, Chief Advisor, Prof. L. Raja, President, Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary and Smt. Kalpana Kaushik, Director, IAEA met Krishnammal at her residence on March 30, 2024 and discussed in details on a number of pertinent issues related to adult and lifelong education and up-liftment of people residing at the fringe of socio-economic development circle.

During the discussion Krishnammal, who is widely known for the advocacy of Gandhian principles and her crusade for the up-liftment of marginalized communities, shared in brief, the major turning points as well as achievements which paved the pathway of development for a large number of men and women coming from disadvantaged section of society. She recounted her remarkable struggle for women's rights in Bihar. In a candid exchange, she detailed her personal journey and experiences advocating gender equality and empowerment in the

region. With a deep sense of conviction and determination, she narrated the challenges faced by women in Bihar and the system related barriers hindering their access to education, healthcare, and basic rights. Drawing from her decades of grassroots activism, she highlighted the importance of community mobilization and grassroots initiatives in addressing these pressing issues.

Set against the backdrop of Gandhigram, a symbol of Gandhian ideals and community engagement, the meeting epitomized the spirit of collaborative efforts towards a more equitable and informed society. The interaction between IAEA delegation and Krishnammal Jagannathan was truly inspiring and signifies the convergence of local activism and institutional support for fostering positive change and sustainable development in the changing scenario.