

Shri V. G. Kulkarni (1932-2002)

Shri V. G. Kulkarni began his career in 1953 at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. At the peak of his career as a solid state and nuclear physicist, he decided to devote himself to the cause of science education in the country. Under the guidance of Prof. B. M. Udgaonkar, he founded and nurtured the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE). He was its Director from 1974 until his retirement in 1994.

During his distinguished career as a scientist and educationist, Shri V. G. Kulkarni was connected with several educational institutions and organizations and was a recipient of many honours and awards including the Dr. Govardhandas Parikh award in 1985. With his students and colleagues he undertook many significant research projects especially for improvement of science and mathematics education of children from disadvantaged sections of the society. The place of language in education was a major focal point of his research. He wrote extensively, simply and convincingly in Marathi and English on science and the need for a scientific culture in society. A lover of books, he was a brilliant orator, known for his scholarship, mastery of words and a refreshing sense of humour. Shri V. G. Kulkarni expired on July 13, 2002. As a tribute to him, HBCSE has instituted a series of annual memorial lectures. These lectures, given by eminent scientists and educationists, deal with central issues in science, technology, education and society.

SCIENCE AND SENSIBILITY: REFRAMING A KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

There are concerns worldwide about the quality of education of countries being 'measured' through 'standardised' tests only in three learning areas of school - language, science and mathematics. India had resisted being pushed into international testing while focusing on equitable provision for all children, but has now declared its entry into PISA 2021. This presentation looks at the implications of global competition and 'standardisation' of science and mathematics education from a quality and equity perspective. It also looks back to interrogate what has historically constituted 'official' knowledge in science, distanced from people's social and cultural modes of knowledge production, creating hierarchies within disciplines, learners and societies. In this light, it is significant to understand some attempts made to democratise science education to depart from its gatekeeper role of 'filtering the talented few'. The challenges are profound, to reframe its 'knowledge commons', through pedagogies of situated activity and a vision for transformative community action. How do we engage with complex issues of social justice, in the face of increasing privatisation? How do we eradicate deep hierarchies of 'skill' vs 'knowledge', 'talent' vs 'low ability', or 'academic' vs 'vocational'? What could be a vision for sustainable development, encompassing an informed inclusive understanding of people's science and indigenous knowledge, without uncritical valorisation of the past?



Prof. Anita Rampal

Prof. Anita Rampal has a Ph.D in Theoretical Physics and was Head and Dean at the Faculty of Education, Delhi University, India. She has been a Fellow of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, a U.G.C. Research Scientist, the Nehru Visiting Professor at the University of Baroda, and the Director of the National Literacy Resource Centre, LBS National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

Prof. Rampal is on the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Mathematics Instruction (ICMI) and has been part of several national and international committees. She has been deeply involved with the Hoshangabad Science Teaching Programme, the National Literacy Campaigns, and the People's Science Movement.

She was on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) and was also the Chairperson of the Textbook Development Teams at the Primary Stage. Having worked in participatory development of child-centered curricula, including writing textbooks and conducting culturally responsive assessment, she has co-authored books such as the Public Report on Basic Education, Textbooks for Sustainable Development: A Guide for Embedding, Numeracy Counts! and Zindagi Ka Hisaab.

She has written research papers and articles in English and Hindi, and produced films on women's education and participation. Her special interests include curriculum studies, science-technology-society and critical mathematics education, teacher education and policy analysis.

Programme: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

- **Welcome**
Prof. Savita Ladage
- **Science and Sensibility:
Reframing a Knowledge Commons**
Prof. Anita Rampal
- **Vote of thanks**
Prof. Sugra Chunawala

**Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**
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**The Eighteenth
V. G. Kulkarni Memorial Lecture**

SCIENCE AND SENSIBILITY: REFRAMING A KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

Prof. Anita Rampal

Formerly Professor at the University of Delhi, India

Monday, September 23, 2019

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

V. G. Kulkarni Auditorium

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR)
V. N. Purav Marg, Mankhurd, Mumbai- 400 088