

DR. TAV MURTHY: A PROFILE



Dr T A V Murthy, a library professional, an academician and an administrator, whose writings and candid works represent an extended reflection upon, automation of libraries effects of modernity and technological advancements. He was undoubtedly a great visionary, thinker of our generation with significant representation of modernization of Libraries in India, in particular. He was a forerunner of the growing interest in IT applications to the library world. Further, he was an exemplary interdisciplinary scholar demonstrated by subject matter of 250 writings, several books, and their influences. He was born into a distinguished family from the Madras presidency of British India in early 1946. He had formal education in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi and the USA. His steady rise to international stature as a distinguished scholar in Library Information Science resulted from excellence of his works, member of international committees, visiting professor of several Indian and international universities and bodies, teaching and research in the domains such as Information Science, Forecasting, Database Management, manuscriptology, Cultural Informatics, Computer-based Information Retrieval Systems, Networking, Digitization , E-Learning and E-Education.

His pioneering work under the UNESCO in conducting many innovative conferences, design and the development of CHIN for SEA [Cultural Heritage Information Network for South East Asia] and expert status in bibliographic databases brought great recognition. As a result, he was elected to IFLA as a member from Asia, where his contributions in Art Libraries were clearly visible. He extensively traveled across the world (around 40 countries) and almost all the 300 universities in India. He was a major mentor to all and guiding light to his nine Doctoral students. His warm personality, wit, generosity and simplicity touched many people. He is always seen with full of energy and a thoughtful and meticulous person showed genuine concern and helpfulness to others.

He left an urging mark on his colleagues, students, scientist, faculty, users and seniors both through his professional accomplishments and his quiet mentoring, guiding and dedicated to the interdisciplinary approach to the Library and Information Science field. He preached and followed his Guru' s (J H Shera, B S Kesavan and Deshpande) words that THE WORK OF LIBRARIES ARE TO BE ONE OF HUMANISTIC ENDEAVOUR.

He wrote and spoke extensively across the world every type of librarianship from public to special/academic and the special interest to him was the effect that modern culture has had in the shaping of the library and the effect that libraries have had on their host societies in turn. He wrote numerous books, and articles and served as editor of a number of volumes in Library & Information Science related journals as well. He

championed technology and implemented for the first time at a global level at the University Grants Commission Information Network (UGC Infonet) E-journal consortia among 250 Indian Universities and these programmes were inaugurated and dedicated to the nation by the then President and Prime Minister of India in 2003 and 2004.

He happened to be the first library professional to head as the Director of INFLIBNET in the rank of a Central University vice chancellor for 5 full years, with a jurisdiction spread over the Indian union university libraries. Here he has discharged innovative hundreds of tailor made national and international training programmes, conferences, workshops across 29 states of India, while heading the world's largest academic library network. He had the distinction of being a subject expert to several Government and non-governmental bodies. During his professional life he has completed several projects and programs funded by organizations like FAO, World Bank, AGRIS, NISSAT/CSIR, SENDOC, ICAR etc.

He is a multi-lingual personality in English, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Gujarathi and Russian. He was one of the prominent library professionals on return from his studies in USA, spreading the period 1976 to 2006 and served several institutions with his active life long energy, enthusiasm, resulted in an invaluable gift to the University of Hyderabad, Small Industry - Extension Training Institution (Hyderabad), Indian Agricultural Research Institute,(New Delhi) National Library (Calcutta), Indira Gandhi National Center For Art (New Delhi), Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages (Hyderabad)and Inflibnet (UGC-Ahmedabad). Besides, he also served in many capacities with ADINET (Ahmedabad Information Network -Hon Secretary), EMRC (Education Media Research Center of UGC -Hon Director) and SIS (Society for Information Science- President). All these organizations Institutions greatly enhanced their outlook and benefited with his untiring contributions. He is the recipient of the STAKAL National Librarian Award, SIS National Fellowship, Sushil & Harish Chandra National Librarian award and so on.