



Dr. Niranjana A. Gokarn
Summary Curriculum Vitae

Touching through teaching – this is essentially what Dr. Niranjana Gokarn has been doing for thirty years in the academic profession. The first ten years of her academic career were spent in Kenya, the country of her birth and schooling upto Senior Cambridge. The next twenty years of this span was at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India, where she completed her masters and doctoral study. Dr. Gokarn retired as a senior most professor and Head of Social Work Education Practice Cell of the Institute. This new unit was set-up more than a decade ago, through her initiative and involvement. Main functions here were teachers training, curriculum innovation and indigenization, and also addressing the concern for appropriate teaching technology.

Her expertise is well-known in the following areas :

- Human Growth and Behavior.
- Counseling – Theory and Practice.
- Integrated Social Work Practice.
- Self-awareness for Personal and Professional Effectiveness.
- Management of Welfare Organizations.
- Curriculum Theory and Development.
- Technology of Education.

She has also written and published a number of papers and organized teacher refresher courses in these areas. More, she has introduced a number of experiential activities to enhance ‘here and now’ awareness for the movement towards developing spiritual sensitivities.

Enabling the mind through the higher regions of consciousness in an art –

Dr. Gokarn has a deep interest in spirituality, which she has interwoven into both her personal and professional life. She was a special invitee to write about spirituality and social work for the encyclopedia – India.

- She has an Asian Pacific Project titled, ‘Social Work and Spirituality’.
- She was a consultant for the research project, ‘Heart Care-Reversal of ischaemic changes’ of the International Board of Yoga, Santacruz, Mumbai.
- She was a consultant for Family Counseling Care Project of the Paraplegic Foundation, India.
- She has a private practice in Family and Marriage Counseling.

The Lions-Quest Skills for Adolescence Programme is her passion and she has been with it right from its inception—initially as a teacher, then with the Adaptation Committee and followed by

being a Teacher's Trainer. She has conducted workshops for teachers throughout India and was invited to initiate this programme in Nepal.

Harmonizing Relationships has been Dr. Gokarn's forte. She has traveled widely to conduct workshops, give lectures and present papers at conferences, and work in interactive groups. The places covered are the United Kingdom, Hawaii, the West Coast of America, the Asian Region to include Mongolia, China, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka; some places in Europe and Australia.

At the national level, Dr. Gokarn was the convener of the University Grants Commission Panel of Social Work Education for two terms, and the assignments "Third National Review of Social Work Education" and the National Curriculum Development Exercise of 1989 and 2001.

At the international level, she was a member of the Asian Team to draft Social Development Curriculum to be suggested by ESCAP, and was invited as an expert to China and Mongolia to help set up Professional Social Work Programmes.

Dr. Gokarn **has been a member of the World Consensus Committee for Social Work Education**, and the **Secretary of the Asia Pacific Association of Social Work Education** for two terms.

She has been residing in Mumbai over the last thirty years. Her family is her urosurgeon husband, daughter working with Education UK at the British Council, Mumbai and her sister who has spent years in Honorary Services for Mobile Crèches and the Chinmaya Movement.