

BRIEF BIODATA OF PROF. KISHORI NAYAK K.,

Dr. Kishori Nayak K. is a Professor of English and has chaired the Department of PG Studies and Research in English at Mangalore University for several terms since 1998. She was the Founding Director of the Centre for Women's Studies of the University and held its charge for about ten years from 2004-05 onwards. She has had a brilliant academic career with laurels in both curricular and extracurricular activities being awarded Govt of India merit scholarships right from her high school days, with a gold medal and a rank during her graduate and postgraduate days. She holds an advanced diploma in German and also is a Vidwat in Hindustani Vocal Music, having topped in the state in the special music exams of 1976 and 1979.

While she has specialized in American literature for her Ph.D. from Mysore University, she also holds a Diploma in the Teaching of English with distinction from CIEFL (now EFLU), Hyderabad. She was a Commonwealth Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K. during 2000-01, during which time she worked on Feminism/s, multiculturalism and women's writing with the famous feminist and translationist Prof. Susan Bassnett.

Dr. Nayak has been abroad several times – as a Rotary GSE team member during 1991, and also to present papers at various international forums. She has presented about 25 papers in various national and international conferences and published most of them in journals of repute, besides being invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the ICAFI Journal of Commonwealth Literature. She has authored two books in English : *American Fiction : the Black- White Encounter* and *Transforming Multiple Hierarchies: Multicultural Women Writers* and a monograph on Feminism in Kannada, and edited eight more books on literary/women's issues. Her current interests include Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, Indian Writing in English and the Teaching of English.

Dr. Nayak has been associated with several research organizations and six students have completed their doctorate with her supervision, while eight more are working on various topics. She successfully organized an International Conference on

contemporary critical theory in collaboration with the Forum on Contemporary Theory , Vadodara during December 2005. As co-investigator, she has completed a UGC Major Research Project which has focused on translating feminism/s from the developing world into Kannada from English along with Dr. Sabiha earlier of the Kannada Dept, Mangalore University and now Vice- Chancellor of Akkamahadevi Women's University, Vijayapura. More recently in 2016, she has been awarded a UGC Major Research Project on multicultural women's life narratives.

Dr. Nayak has organized several regional and national workshops in the area during her directorship at the Centre for Women's Studies of Mangalore University. A **state-level colloquium** on " Women's Studies in Karnataka : Challenges and Prospects", March 30 –31, 2005 was organised as part of the Women's Studies Centre's inaugural activities. The Centre also conducted successfully a **2 day regional workshop** on "The Education of the Girl Child", in November 2006 and a **3 day National Workshop** on "Mainstreaming Gender in the Curriculum" during March 2007. It has organised a **meet of women panchayat members** from the 3 districts of the University during September 2007 with a specific focus on the Panchayati Raj Act. The Centre has conducted a workshop on documentation of Kannada women writers' lives in 2011 and organized a National Seminar on Women and Development in March 2012. In March 2013, it conducted a state level convention of women activists to protest the increasing violence against women in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya incident.

Under her stewardship, the Centre held several **gender sensitization workshops** (**62 two day workshops**) and a **series of lectures (about 80)** on women's issues. It has been responsible for the inclusion of **Gender equity as a compulsory component of the General Studies course** (for the first time in the state) at the undergraduate level in the Mangalore University from 2006-07. **Two textbooks on Gender Equity** (in English and Kannada) have been published besides the proceedings of the 2005 colloquium in Kannada. The Centre has also undertaken **6 data collection projects** on women of the region on themes such as Single Women, Women in the Consumer and Human Rights Movements, Women in Panchayati Raj, Self-help Groups and Women, Self- employed Women and Quality of Life of Women Managers, which have been collected and published as two monographs. The proceedings of the national workshop on

Mainstreaming Gender held in 2007 and of the Women's literary fest held in 2010 to mark the fifth anniversary celebrations too have been published by the Centre. A project on Anganwadi workers was carried out by the Centre during the 11th plan.

Dr. Nayak is also trained to take up sessions in and organize workshops in the UGC special scheme "Capacity Building for Women Managers in Higher Education" and has organized 2 such prestigious regional workshops programs and participated in many more as trainer.