NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS IN INDIA



NAPSWI Lifetime Achievement Award -2019

for the most distinguished contribution to social work education, and profession

is conferred to

Prof. Armaity S Desai

(Former Chairperson, University Grants Commission, and former Director Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

in special felicitation ceremony held on November 29, 2019

at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Prof Sanjai Bhatt President, NAPSWI Prof Suresh Pathare Secretary, NAPSWI

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Scroll of Appreciation

Prof Armaity S Desai



Born on April 28, 1934, in Mumbai, India, Prof. (Miss) Armaity S. Desai graduated from Mumbai University and received a Diploma in Social Service Administration, from the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in 1955-1957. She pursued her M.A.(1958-59) and Ph.D in Social Work (1965-69), both at the University of Chicago. She did a brief stint of work while in the US for studies with the Chicago Child Care Society (1959-61) to learn about adoption and foster care; teaching and field instruction at the School of Social Work, Loyola University, Chicago (1967-69). She taught at the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, where she joined as a young teacher in 1955 and rose to the position of Vice Principal and Principal. From 1982 to 1995, she was Director at TISS and later on she held the position of Chairperson of the University Grants Commission (1995-99).

Dr. Desai has been the Founder President of the Asia and Pacific Association for Social Work Education and the Vice-President of the International Association for Schools of Social Work (IASSW). As Chairperson of the UGC Second Review Committee on Social Work Education

(1980), she emphasised that the profession's main concern would have to be social change for the removal of poverty rather than adjustment to the societal process. She recommended that social work had to transcend its limited concern with social welfare in cities and industries and shift its attention to a wider spectrum of welfare and development. As UGC Chairperson, she introduced women's studies centres and advocated strongly for increasing women's leadership in higher education. She chaired a UGC Committee for a decade on the capacity building of women managers in higher education. After her retirement in April 1999, she has been consistently involved in activities related to higher education and social work. She has been on the boards of many academic institutions, non-government organizations, Task Force for Higher Education, and Government appointed Committees. She has several published papers, presentations at meetings, seminars, conferences memorial lectures and convocation addresses.

Prof Desai was the first recipient of the IASSW Katherine Kendall Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contribution to Social Work Education (1992), and achieved the Professional Achievement Citation of the University of Chicago Alumni Association (1993). The S.N.D.T. Women's University (Mumbai) and the Karnataka State Open University has decorated her with Honorary Doctorates. The Inter-University Consortium for International Development Award for Inspired and Dedicated Leadership in the area of Social Development in India was conferred upon her in 2004. She had also received the APASWE Award as the Founder President of the Asia Pacific Association for Social Work Education in 2013.

The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India takes immense pride in claiming Dr Desai as one of India's most distinguished educators, at the national as well as international levels. Her notable contribution in the field of higher education in general and social work education and practice in India in particular is at par excellence and exemplary.

It gives us immense pleasure to confer, NAPSWI Life time Achievement Award upon Dr A S Desai at the special function held on 29th day of November 2019 at TISS, Mumbai.

Prof Sanjai Bhatt President, NAPSWI



Prof Suresh Pathare Secretary, NAPSWI

