SUMMERHILL PANORAMA

A Magazine of HP University Alumni Association

Vol. 1 No. 1, July, 2022



Inaugural Issue

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Patron

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Vice-Chancellor

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Prof. P.K. Ahluwalia

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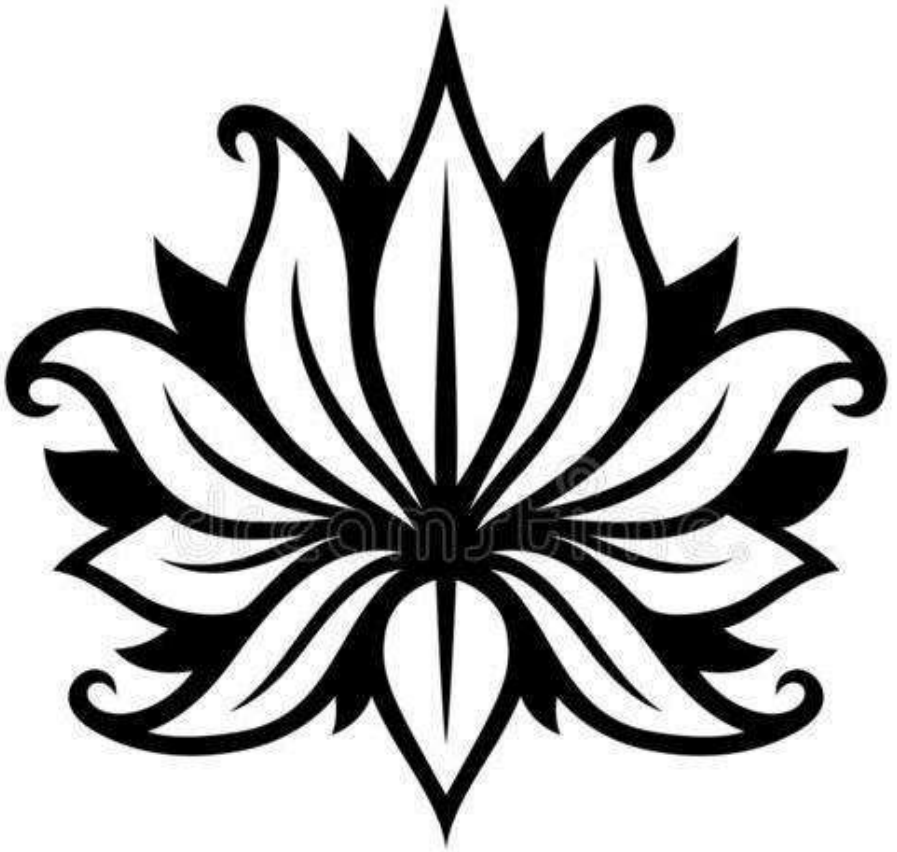
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To our alma mater

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Vice-Chancellor's Message



I congratulate the Alumni Association on bringing out the first issue of *Summerhill Panorama* on the occasion of Alumni Meet-2022. The illustrious journey of HPU, which started about 53 years back, has chased the dreams of thousands of its students. I am happy to hear from our Alumni about their experiences and the milestones they achieved in life. The HP Alumni Association is a platform for all the Alumni to reunite, connect and come together. Through the contribution and support of our alumni, HPU can become one of the leading universities offering career insights and mentoring students. I hope that the university will continue playing its role and help its alumni excel in their professional life.

The accomplishments and milestones of alumni can be the source of inspiration for millions of other students. I request the HP Alumni Association, to keep this valued association steadfast and keep nurturing the traditions.

Prof. S. P. Bansal
Vice-Chancellor

Message of Pro-Vice-Chancellor



I am happy that HP Alumni Association is bringing out *Summerhill Panorama*, which will provide a platform for alumni to cherish their memories. Alumni of any institution play a very significant role in taking it to new heights. Being the first state university, HPU has always been at the forefront of imparting knowledge and skill, which has turned out to be beneficial in building the careers of hundreds of its alumni, and today they are excelling in every field. I hope that alumni will be proud of the evolution, progression, and success of HPU in five decades of its existence and our alumni will contribute significantly to furthering its growth.

Prof. Jyoti Parkash
Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Message of Dean of Studies



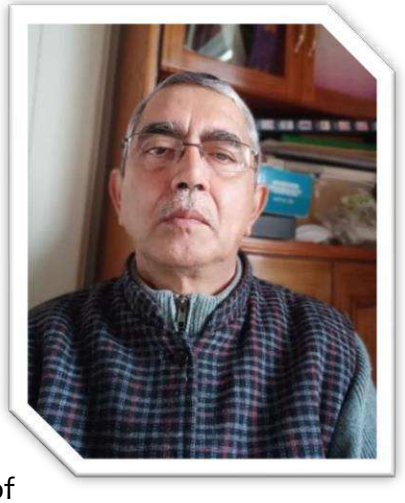
It is a matter of pride for HP University that the HPU Alumni Association is bringing out the First Issue of *Summerhill Panorama*, on the occasion of the 1st Alumni Meet-2022. HPU alumni are doing extremely well in all the fields and achieved important landmarks in their life, not only at the national level but international level. Alumni of any institution are always a source of inspiration to the newcomers to outshine in diverse fields. Their experience and achievements always set an example for everyone to imitate. After completing more than fifty years of existence, HP University has a big alumni family and the way it is interwoven is remarkable. Alumni meet is an exceptional occasion to reinforce the bonds of the alumni with their alma mater where they share memories, experiences, and accomplishments. I wish all the alumni all the success and extend my best wishes to HP Alumni Association on this occasion!

Prof. Kulbhushan Chandel
Dean of Studies



Summerhill Panorama: A Connect with Our Alma Mater

-Prof. P. K. Ahluwalia
President, HP University Alumni Association
Prof. (Retd.) Department of Physics, HP University



Beginning of the seventh decade of the 20th century marks for the history of Himachal Pradesh an epoch in big dreams for the people of this remote hilly territory. Two very important projects were launched to bring together people of Himachal Pradesh; one was via medium wave radio transmitter built at Baldeyan connected to Akashvani Studio at Chaura Maidan, and the other to bring higher education to the doorsteps of *Himachali* youth. These were indeed two smart projects. Smart in their vision and in their sweep. Foundation of these two projects was laid almost simultaneously, studio was built fast to be ready for inauguration by the then, Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi on 25th January 1971 on the day of Statehood to Himachal Pradesh. Since then Himachal Pradesh University has been a work in progress, a dream project of Dr. Y. S. Parmar the first chief minister of Himachal Pradesh. Living in the adjoining suburb at Boileauganj, a gateway to the University, these two sites, one in Chaura Maidan where AIR studio stands today and the other to Summer Hill, provided a unique opportunity for me to witness these developments. AIR Studio was being built on the site of burnt down Himachal Dham about which people of Shimla are still nostalgic and the other, Himachal Pradesh University was conceptualized on one of the very enchanting spurs of Shimla, famous for Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur's mansion Manorville, where Gandhi Ji stayed during his sojourns to Shimla between 1935 to 1946, presently known as Gandhi Smriti (also known as Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur Bhavan, AIIMS Guest House).



Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur Bhawan



Kingswood Hall

Starting a University required both infrastructure and human resource. The responsibility of undertaking this task was entrusted to the first vice-chancellor, Prof. Ram Karan Singh, a great educationist with vast experience in academic governance. He, on the one side, started searching for best minds across the world to come and join in his dream of building a hill University, and the other was to start courses and create infrastructure to hold classes. Proceedings of the executive council of those early times are full of freedom and autonomy, which Vice-Chancellor enjoyed with lofty ideals to gather best brains to ignite the young minds. Creating spaces for running day to day activities was a daunting task, thanks to Dr. Parmar, a campus scattered over many buildings in Shimla was handed over to the University to engage with the task of teaching, learning, and research. The main campus stretched from North to South with Deodar and oak trees giving it a look of huge forest garden, which ignites with the red colour of the rhododendrons during March and April. Surrounded by classical nature walks, it is a nature walker's delight. Dr. Parmar handed over his own residence Ava Lodge, at Chaura Maidan to start law faculty, printing press of the President's Estate was given to start Department of Bio-Sciences, The Manse and Gandhi Bhavan near General Post Office on the Mall, housing Panjab University Regional centre became the abode of Departments of Physics and Chemistry. And a Post Graduate Centre came up in Summerhill with a courtyard surrounded by temporary tin sheds housing classrooms on one side and small cubicles to seat professors and support staff of the Departments on the other. These departments mainly belonged to arts faculty and social sciences, became a hub of intellectual pursuits with close proximity of teachers with their students, a sort of Shanti Niketan in the hills. Lack of faculty in the departments was compensated by very senior faculty working in Government Boys College Sanjauli. This PG Centre remained a land mark till recently when it gave way to a new block which is fast coming up there. Another very important institution enabling education to local working population worked as University Evening College in Rana Padma Chandra Sanatna Dharma Bhargva College, presently housing Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyala.

To accommodate students from outside Shimla two hostels were started, for boys in a stable of Viceregal Lodge near its gate named *Him Kirit* Hostel for boys and Chandrabhaga Hostel for girls. Facilities were lacking but spirit was high. There was no local bus facility and students and teachers mostly walked to the campus or came by local rail shuttle to the campus. Offices were housed in British Raj Buildings next to Manoreville. The Kingswood hall a property of a building contractor of Shimla Tirath Ram was chosen as residence of Vice-Chancellor, now housing Department of Research and Interdisciplinary studies.

Slowly and steadily the campus started taking shape. One of the first priorities of Prof. R. K. Singh was to make faculty comfortable in the tough terrain of Shimla, and below the Summer Hill Railway station came up teachers' colony known as Jutogh View. These were followed by the construction of the boys hostel on the slopes of Potter's Hill and girls hostels on the eastern slopes of Summer hill.



Prof. RK Singh, Prof. GL Sharma and Prof. KK Malhotra

Soon architects lead by Ar. Dinkar Warde started with their creative zeal to think about a University campus with all the challenges intrinsically present in hill location. Today, Jawahar Bhavan, housing University Library in the shape of Pagoda also sometimes described as a replica of India's first satellite Aryabhatta is an imposing structure doting the western horizon of Shimla city. Earlier this site was having Grassmare building housing the administrative wing of the University. Later Ar. Arun Seam took over to give it a shape as it looks today with beautiful landscaping surrounding it. Prof. Him Chatterjee and his students have added beautiful murals as one climbs up the hill in the campus. Later all the Vice-Chancellors who followed tried to add new ideas and possibilities despite many physical and financial constraints. Prof. K. C. Malhotra in his six year long term initiated raising of new buildings namely Ambedkar Bhavan, Law Block, and Gandhi Bhavan. Spirit of contributing by faculty, teachers, non-teaching staff has never diminished and it speaks of their dedication and dreams for a work in progress. One of the most modern hill campuses equipped with state of the art high tech connectivity holds a place of pride among the Universities of the country.

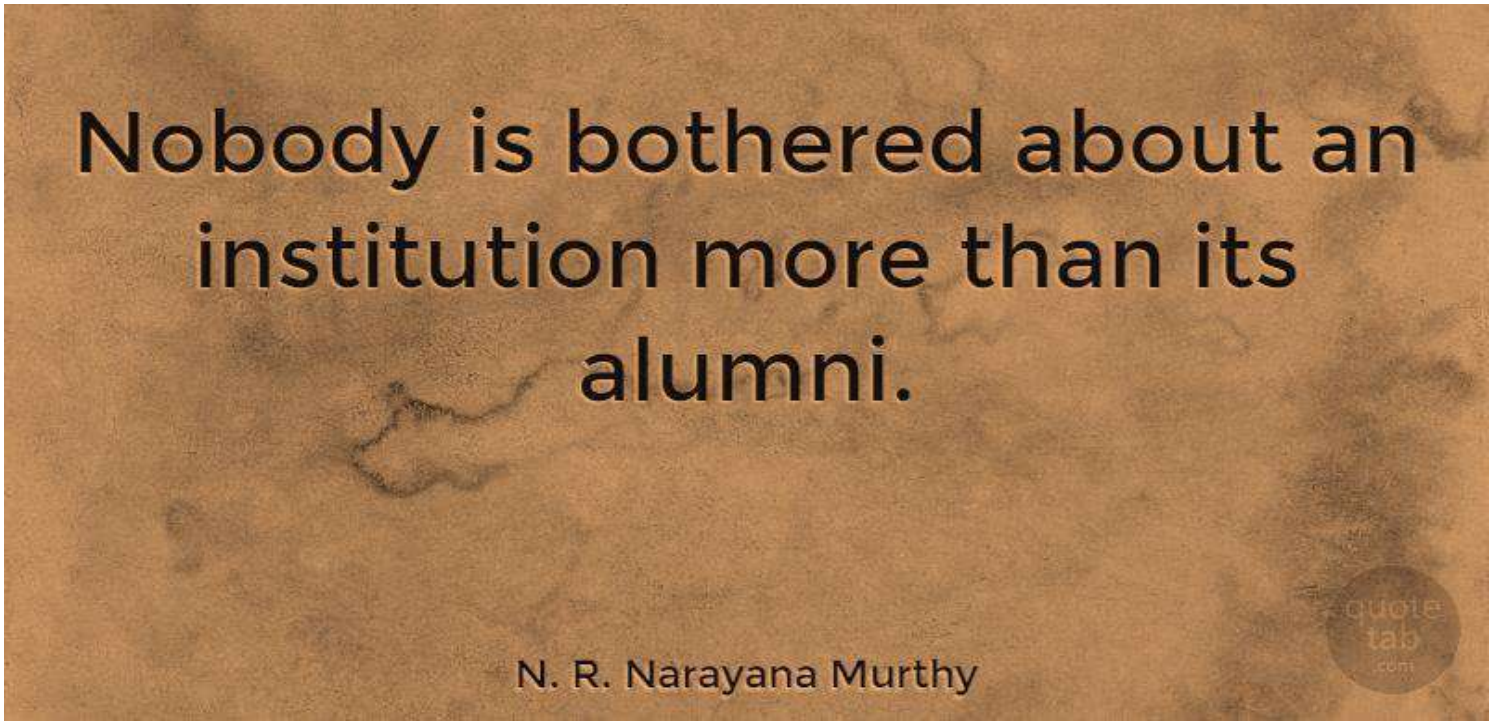
Recollection of these places is like living in those moments from where we as students passed out to carve a place for ourselves and conquer the challenges of life in our own humble ways. Summerhill Panorama is a place for reliving those memories from the memory banks of the alumni, and the faculty and the visitors to the

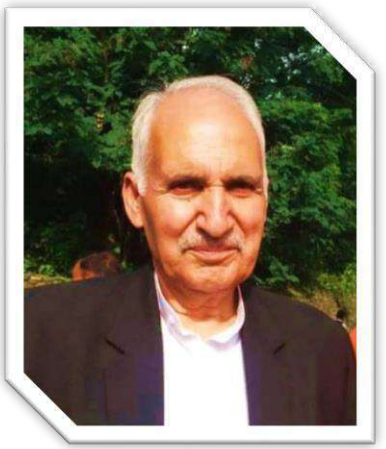
University. It is also an effort to recreate a history of those five decades in which lot of churning in intellectual space has happened under the roof of our Alma Mater. Each of the articles in this issue has emerged from reminiscences which are beautiful stories worth sharing with the new generation, lest we forget.

We invite you all to enjoy these everlasting memories narrated by your friends and colleagues for which Himachal Pradesh University Alumni Association has made a humble effort in this inaugural issue which will be published as a quarterly. Both the contributors and the editorial team has worked hard to present this collage of memories in this e-magazine to our alumni spread all over the world.

I am happy to invite you to dig deep into your memories and share the moments and events which shaped you and your Alma Mater in future issues of Summer hill Panorma.

Wishing you a happy reading and *Jai Ho* to our alma mater





समरहिल

▫ कुमारकृष्ण

मैं हूं समरहिल - गुरुकुल का पहाड़
पचास साल पुरानी भटनागर की स्लेट
आर॰ के॰ सिंह की तरुणी
बाबू राम चौहान का काला कोट
शेरगिल की शिल्पशाला
शायद तुम नहीं जानते -
पूरी दुनिया को गुलाम बनाने के सपने
यहीं देखता रहा माउंटबेटन
गोरों के सपनों को खत्म करने का खाका
यहीं बनाते रहे गांधी राजकुमारी अमृत कौर के घर में
कुम्हारों के परिवार यहीं छुपाते रहे अपने घड़ों में
पहाड़ी नदियों के आंसू
यहीं बनाती रही अमृता शेरगिल अपनी अद्भुत तस्वीरें
मैं समरहिल - बुरास के पेड़ों पर खिला आग का फूल हूं
आज भी याद है मुझे पचास साल पहले का वह दिन
जब किताबों के बस्तों के साथ -
पहली बार आए थे आर॰ के॰ सिंह मेरे पास
मेरे बन्द कानों में गूंजी थी घंटियां
पहली बार मिला था पहाड़ को गुरुकुल
अकेले नहीं आए थे वह
उनके साथ आए थे बच्चन सिंह, बलदेव सिंह, आर॰ एन सिंह
पी॰ एल॰ भटनागर, आर॰ के॰ जैन
वह ले आए थे अपने साथ धर्मेन्द्र सिंह कुशवाह
बाबू राम चौहान, आर॰ एन॰ तिवारी
शांतिनिकेतन से दौड़े चले आए थे चटर्जी
विलायती भाषा के गीत गुनगुनाने
मैं बहुत खुश हुआ
मेरे रोम-रोम में फैल गई किताबों की खुशबू
मैं वनस्थली से बृहस्पति हो गया
मैं बन गया एक ब्लैक बोर्ड, एक प्रयोगशाला
करने लगा हल आने वाले कल के सवाल
बच्चन सिंह बोते रहे आलोचना के बीज शब्द
एल॰ पी॰ पाण्डे समझाते रहे भारत में सूर्य पूजा का इतिहास
श्रीराम मेहरोत्रा आधुनिक इतिहास बांचते-बांचते यहीं हो गए बूढ़े

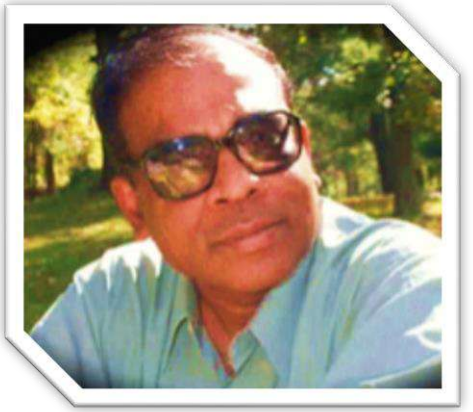
मैंने पैदा किए न्यायाधीश, हाकिम, रसायन शास्त्री, भौतिक विज्ञानी
पैदा किए रचनाकार, अर्थशास्त्री, चित्रकार, पत्रकार
बहुदर्शी आते रहे - जाते रहे, मैं बनता-चला गया विद्या-विहार
जब-जब गूंजा नारों से गुरुकुल तब-तब निकले अनेक राजनेता
कब विशाल महल में बदल गया मित्तल साहब का छोटा सा किताब-घर
मुझे पता ही नहीं चला
सोचता हूं बार-बार -
आखिर क्यों भूल गए हैं लोग पुस्तकें उपहार में देना
क्यों भूल गए हैं चिट्ठियों में प्यार छुपाना
डिजिटल सदी ने एक झटके में खत्म कर डाला
तख्ती-स्लेट का रिश्ता
खत्म कर डाला काग़ज़ का चिट्ठी बनना
सोचता हूं मेरा गुरुकुल कैसे बचा पाएगा-
श्रद्धा, राजकता, आस्था, खिदमत के बीज
कब तक छुपा पाएंगे मेरे देवदार अपनी जड़ों की संदूक में बादलों के कोट
बस मेरी पीठ पर बनते रहें भाषाओं के पुल
खटखटाते रहें लोग एक दूसरे के दरवाजे बार-बार
खुलते रहें पूरी धरती पर प्यार के द्वार
शायद फिर से आ जाए कोई अमृता शेरगिल किसी रोज मेरे पास
सुनो थोड़ा ध्यान से सुनो -
मैं देवदार की टहनियों पर टंगी पुरानी कमीज हूं
जिसे नये सुई-धागे का इन्तजार है
मैं माउंटबेटन की पुरानी धूप-घड़ी हूं मुझे नये सूरज की तलाश है
मैं समरहिल - नयी-पुरानी किताबों की बहुत बड़ी उम्मीद हूं
मुझे प्यार भरी हथेलियों की दरकार है
सुनो कुछ राज की बातें भी सुनो -
मैं थोड़ा किताब में हूं थोड़ा दीवार में हूं
थोड़ा नारों में हूं थोड़ा अखबार में हूं
थोड़ा सड़क पर हूं थोड़ा दरबार में हूं
थोड़ा बुरास में हूं थोड़ा देवदार में हूं
थोड़ा धुंध में हूं थोड़ा बर्फ की फुहार में हूं
थोड़ा स्वच्छन्द हूं थोड़ा सरकार में हूं
तुम चाहो तो मुझे थोड़ा चाय-घर, थोड़ा डाकघर में ढूंढ सकते हो
मैं रेल की आवाज, पहाड़ का नाज हूं
मैं समरहिल - गुरुकुल की आस हूं विश्वास हूं
सच कहूं तो मैं पंडुजी के बेसन की मिठास हूं।

22-7-22

पूर्व अधिष्ठाता भाषा-संकाय
पूर्व छात्र कल्याण अधिष्ठाता
पूर्व प्रोफ़ेसर एवं अध्यक्ष, हिन्दी-विभाग
हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय, शिमला

Dr. Ram Karan Singh - An Unparalleled Educationist

-Prof. A. N. Maheshwari
Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Science and Technology Cochin, Kerela



My first contact with Dr. R. K. Singh, Uncle, was when I was 13 years old. He and his family had come to New Delhi from Agra and lived in the same group of flats then called Diplomatic Enclave. He knew my parents, as I later learned my father had stayed at his house with him for some period when he was posted at Agra. When he first met me, he looked at me with a loving smile and encouraged me to come to his flat for playing with his son, Kiran, who was of my age. It is not for me to comment on what he saw in me. I could not converse in English then and was an ordinary school student perhaps with above average mathematical abilities. There were a few other elders who had encouraged me to bring out the best in me.

Kiran had an air gun. I liked to play with it and occasionally visited Uncle's flat as it was no more than 100m from our flat.

He returned to Agra after completing his assignment at New Delhi. My father was posted to Simla and after completing school education I was living in hostel as I had joined the University of Delhi for first doing my B.Sc. (Honours) in Physics and later M.Sc. in Physics. Perhaps, my father was in touch with him as he played a crucial role in my sister's life. He told me about it when he was at Gary, Indiana, and I was at the University of Chicago. I will come to it shortly.

On 1 July 1964, Uncle came to New Delhi for attending my sister's marriage. He was happy to see me. Excitedly, I told him that shortly I would leave for Chicago to join the University of Chicago for doing Ph.D. in Physics. I did not know that Uncle had done his Ph.D. from Harvard University thirty years ago.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter from Uncle asking me to spend the Thanksgiving Weekend with him at Gary, Indiana. I think the year was 1966. I had then recently acquired a driving license and a car. I needed driving practice. I decided to drive to Gary as it was not far from Chicago without experience of driving on a highway. I reached safely. There were many other guests other than me visiting him. Uncle told me that your father was thinking of getting your sister married but I advised him to let her get her

matriculation certificate first and follow it by getting her bachelor's degree. She did exactly what Uncle wanted.

I may have visited Uncle at Gary several times during his stay there. In 1969 I received a letter from Uncle offering me a Reader's position at Meerut University. He knew that I would decline it and had written me a persuasive letter. I was not ready for teaching assignment and was keen to go to the University of Tokyo for post-doctoral study. I could not accept the offer of appointment he had offered me. In July 1971, Uncle visited me at my father's home in New Delhi as I was spending a year with my parents. Uncle had brought with him an application form for teaching position at the Himachal Pradesh University at Simla. He had assumed office as its first Vice-Chancellor. I was reluctant to apply as I was going abroad in the third week of September to spend a year at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy. He asked me to sign the application form and give him my biodata. He said that I should leave the rest to him as he would ensure that I keep up my commitment to spend a year with Professor Abdus Salam. I received notice from the Registrar of the University to appear before the selection committee of the University for Appointment of Associate Professor of Physics which was scheduled to meet in the campus of the IIT Delhi. I did that and a letter of appointment followed with a letter from uncle asking me to come to Simla for a day and join the teaching position.

I reached Simla. I was disappointed to see the facilities of the Physics Department of the University. It was housed in a dilapidated building called the Manse House. When I met the teachers there, I felt totally unsettled. There were teachers who were absorbed in the University from the earlier Post Graduate Centre of Panjab University that was functioning there. I gave my feedback to Uncle. He asked me to apply for leave of absence and allowed me to go to Trieste.

In July 1972 I returned to India and went to Simla to take up my teaching assignment as the academic session had commenced. I stayed in the Guest Room of the Post and Telegraph Department close to the Manse House. I was allotted a furnished accommodation in St. Bernard House. It was a holiday home of the Panjab University. I fixed appointment with the Executive Engineer of the University for handing me possession of the accommodation. I had to wait for more than an hour for him. When he reached, he had not brought its key. He broke open its door using his umbrella. I asked him to show me its water supply. He took me to a tank which was filled with water unfit for human consumption. I asked him to drink a glass of water from this tank before giving me possession of the allotted flat. He was taken aback and reported the matter to the Vice-Chancellor. In the evening I got a telephone call from Uncle. He said, "Amar Nath, I know you are upset but it is a new University bear with me for some time."

He was a persuasive Vice-Chancellor and had managed to bring together outstanding academics to the new University. I will name a few of them. Among those I still remember after forty years were Prof. P. L. Bhatnagar, an eminent mathematician who was a former Vice-Chancellor, Dr Ravinder Kumar and Dr R. N. Mehrotra distinguished historians, Dr V. R. Mehta and Dr. Kuldeep Kumar to the Department of Political Science, and Dr. Kalyan Banerjee to the Department of English, and Dr. Hariom Agarwal to Department of Botany and many other competent teachers. Any other new University in India would have been proud to have teachers of the calibre selected by the first Vice-Chancellor of the Himachal Pradesh University. I have written elsewhere my experience at Simla.

Dr R. K. Singh extended respect to academics of distinction all over the world and sought their help in recruiting teachers for his University. On one occasion, when he was driving to Delhi on official work, he offered to take me along with him. He first stopped at Roorkee University and called on three eminent teachers of that University. As I had accompanied him I also paid courtesy calls. At each place we were offered tea. After taking two cups of tea I was reluctant to drink the third. He looked at me reprovingly and said that it is an honour to visit distinguished academics and never disrespect your host. I saw how a Vice-Chancellor built his institution by seeking help of those who could objectively assess talent. Later in life I also became a Vice-Chancellor. I followed his approach in building my institution.

All teachers of the University had access to him. Teachers approached him for getting solutions to their grievances, even personal. Kalyan Banerjee, Associate Professor in the Department of English, who like me had obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Wiscosin, told him that he was a fish eater but fish were available only in Simla and not in the neighbourhood of Summer Hill. Dr. Singh sanctioned to him a loan for buying a scooter.

Dr. Singh protected his institution from political intrusion. I distinctly recall in meetings of the Academic Council on one occasion when I was also its member that Dr. Singh would say in his words of welcome requesting its nominated members with political backgrounds that you have entered the temple of learning and I expect that you would have left your politics outside its portals. I was aware that he was under political pressure, but he never shared it with his faculty. I followed the same principle when I became a Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Singh did not complete his full term in office and decided to return to Agra. After he left, the magnet holding many of us at the Himachal Pradesh University disappeared. Many of us followed and left the Himachal Pradesh University as our protective umbrella was no longer there.

I left for Mysore. I used to come to New Delhi for meetings. Once I missed Uncle so much that I decided to make a day trip to Agra to visit him. I went by the Taj Express and got down at Raja Ki Mandi Railway Station. He was a well-known figure. I had no difficulty in reaching his home. He had stepped out of his home. Aunty was delighted to see me. Sometime later Uncle returned, I remarked, "Uncle, are you keeping busy?" His response was, "I am wearing out my slippers. Busy persons are Dr. Naval Kishor and his son." I knew Dr. Naval Kishor, an eminent gynaecologist, as he was my father's friend. Uncle was disappointed that I was a Professor at the Regional College of Education at Mysore. He said that he would talk to his friends that a person of my caliber needs to be suitably posted. I did not say any word as I knew he loved me and was concerned about me. The same evening, I returned to New Delhi.

In April 1985 my father died. I sent a letter to Uncle. He condoled me and added that he was in the terminal stage of cancer and did not have much time left in life. I went to Italy soon after for my annual visit to Trieste. I read there in a newspaper that Dr. R. K. Singh had died. In a short span of time I lost my father and Uncle.

In 1990 I became the Vice-Chancellor of Cochin University of Science and Technology. In January 1991 I came to New Delhi to attend the annual meeting of vice-chancellors. There were not many universities in India then. I was pleasantly surprised that there were three other vice-chancellors who were my colleagues at the Himachal Pradesh University. This observation alone may allay doubts that Dr. Singh had been indulgent to me as he knew me from the time when I was a boy. He was selective in making recruitment of teachers and brought the best on recommendation of experts whom he trusted. He was the Principal of Balwant Rajput College, Agra. It is counted as one of the institutions of eminence in India. He had put it together and made it a leading centre of research in agricultural sciences.

Thirty-five years have passed since he died. My heart is filled with joy in remembering him as he was an unparalleled educationist of India. I was fortunate to have enjoyed support of several outstanding academics some of whom were Nobel Laureates but the role that Dr. R. K. Singh played in my life and later as a role model I cherish the most.

Striding the Echelons of Higher Education

-Prof. S. P. Bansal
Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Dharamshala
&
Vice-Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla



Memoirs give us ways to narrate small accounts and personal perceptions that make our life and simultaneously allow us to contemplate on the relics of reminiscences. Life is spectacular and full of incidences, each one having its own implication and lifetime experience to live, cherish and educe. Life makes us learn, gain, improve, and eventually leads us to self-realization. In the year 1958, a simple family of seven moved from Punjab and settled in Himachal. My father, who was a noble soul and left for his heavenly abode three years back, nurtured his children with utmost love and care. The values and ethics he inculcated have made me achieve the highest status in the academic sphere. After completing elementary schooling at Government School Sanjauli and secondary one from Senior Secondary School Lalpani, I pursued my graduation from the Government Degree College, Shimla, and higher learning from Himachal Pradesh University. My father, a government employee in the Education Department as a teacher, was a self-made man, and believed that I should complete my education and become self-dependent. He insisted to continue with my studies after Post-Graduation and I completed my M.Phil and Ph.D. My wife, Dr. Sunita is a real motivator and helped me realize my goals. She is an Ayurvedic doctor and has been contributing immensely to society by providing free medical consultations during medical camps. She has sacrificed her job for the sake of my family and career. My son, Nitish and daughter Shruti are also alumni of HPU and both of them have done B. Tech from the University Institute of Information Technology HPU and are well-settled now. The values imbibed by the university have not only provided wings to their career goals but shaped their outlook. Let me narrate a small incident. Two years back, on the occasion of Diwali, my son asked me how much money he can spend on buying crackers. I told him to get the crackers up to a certain amount. But later, he revealed that he is not going to spend the amount on crackers, instead, he donated the money to the needy people in an old-age home. The lives and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and Prof. Abdul Kalam have encouraged me to move ahead and face the challenges in life. Both of them have been great thinkers and nation builders. I am fortunate to have met and interacted with Prof Abdul Kalam. His dedication to the nation and struggleful life

has always been motivational. When he was elected as the President of India, he assumed his office with a small suitcase and on completion of his tenure, left the office with the same.

Cherished memories of the days spent at Himachal Pradesh University evoke visual images of people, places, and time spent on the campus. If I close my eyes, I can see and sense as if that time is not very far. From the moment I stepped into the HPU campus, I realized that I had taken the right decision. Having special connections with your teachers makes the learning experience more enjoyable, for they help you to recognize the hidden talent in you. When I was admitted to M.Com, I was introduced to an array of sub-areas of commerce and management. The ambiance and learning experience of the campus moulded my life and thought process. During my student life, I used to think that if destiny will permit, I will surely serve the university and society. It is a great moment for me that with the blessings of my parents and the Almighty, today I am the Vice-Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University, the campus where I spent my life both as a student and as a teacher.





As a student, I joined HPU in the year 1982 and since then my academic journey continues. I completed my M.Com, M.Phil. and Ph.D. from HPU. During the M.Com, I went through the entire process of listening to the lectures, visiting the library, and having a fruitful interactive session with fellow students and teachers. Along with these academic activities, in the two years of the M.Com Programme, two years of M.Phil. and later Ph.D. programme, I met diverse people, worked with everyone I came across, and most significantly, I discovered a different me. Working with student organizations during campus life taught me many things. After visiting various tourist sites during my student life, I developed a passion for tourism as a subject of my interest. Thanks to those moments, I am happy with the career and the life I have today. I still remember that when I was finalizing my Ph.D thesis it was severe winter and heavy snowfall in

Shimla. I used to walk to Tutu for typing the thesis all the way from Sanjauli. Typists were not readily available and the typing was done using old typing machines. It was a time-consuming task and required precision for avoiding mistakes.

The time spent during the doctoral work was equally memorable. I completed my doctoral studies under the supervision of Prof. Kulwant Rana. My Ph.D. topic was on hydroelectric power generation and the required data was not easily accessible; hence, to gather the information, I had to travel a lot within and outside the state. I visited Delhi for data collection and interacted with engineers and concerned experts working in the area of hydropower. Struggling for gathering the Ph.D. data was truly an unforgettable learning experience. Those years reinforced my conviction that the purpose of research is to search for something which can contribute to the development of society. It seems that in today's scenario this purpose is even more pressing when the information is readily available on the internet and a student has to make fewer efforts for gathering data. Today's students are confident about learning on their own. The internet and computers have helped the students' access information and work comfortably for their studies. In such a situation, the students do not value the significance of the research.

It is rightly said that student life is the golden period. Anyone who has been a student knows what academic life is all about. It is the most memorable time of acquiring knowledge that really shapes the life of an individual. My student life has been a delightful chapter in my memories because it taught me dedication, hard work, motivation, and self-actualization. As a student, I learned to cooperate and got inspired by teachers and friends. I still cherish the blessings I received from my teachers, for these have made me reach the position, I am holding today and I always thank the Almighty for showering His choicest blessings on me.

The time spent at my alma mater was a period when I started chasing my goals. The campus of yesteryear was different from the one we have today. I have closely witnessed the strides made by the university over the years. Earlier, the Masters of Tourism Administration Program was run under the Institute of Management Studies. In the beginning, there were few students and the resources were limited, both in terms of faculty members and infrastructure. I remember that some of the departments were lodged in temporary outbuildings. There were one or two small tea stalls and one book shop on the campus. The bus services to Summer Hill were limited and people preferred walking to reach the campus.

The university embodies a vital learning experience that instils self-confidence, and motivation, and blesses us with friends, teachers, and colleagues many of whom remain in our memories throughout life. There are countless memories as a faculty member. For me, those days are an invaluable treasure. One of my best days of the university was the day when I joined the Department of Commerce as a teacher. It was a moment of

great pride for me and my parents. In the year 1999, I joined the Institute of Vocational Studies as Associate Professor and Chairman. I still recall when Prof. Balram Dogra who was coordinating MTA called me and asked me to start the Institute of Vocational Studies as a separate entity. Starting with just seventeen students and meagre funds of only seventeen thousand, the Institute has seen many ups and downs. It was quite challenging to make ends meet with scarce funds and bring them to the level of the MBA department, which was at a high position at that time. But somehow, we coped-up with what was available. The Institute of Vocational Studies was started under the UGC scheme. It was supposed to run a number of Vocational programs, and we started the MTA course. Our first step was to initiate the placement process for the seventeen students. We tried to ensure quality placement of students, which fetched a good name to the institute as well as the course. Later, we created special seats for NRIs and SFS for mobilizing the resources. Gradually, we kept increasing the number of seats. Later, we applied to UGC for starting integrated programs in Tourism under UGC's innovative program, which was one of its kinds in the entire country. With the passage of time, the MTA department was selected under UGC's Special Assistance Programme.

Another interesting thing I would like to mention here is that the Institute of Vocational Studies was known for celebrating World Tourism Day and Tourism Quiz, which was organized every year on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Such initiatives not only helped in building the brand image of the department but provided exposure to the faculty members and students. Later, all the faculty members of the Institute of Vocational Studies completed their PhDs. I remember, one time we received 1400 application forms for 30 seats in MTA as the students used to show their interest and willingness to join the MTA program instead of MBA. During the Chairmanship of the Institute of Vocational Studies, I got an opportunity to work in close contact with the staff members and had hands-on experience with the various facets of organizing and arranging different events, like World Tourism Day, Indian Tourism Congress, seminars, conferences, and workshops. It is here that I met my most influential and life-changing role model who not only carved and shaped my life but continues to inspire me even today. A role model is a person who inspires and boosts us to strive for enormity, live to our fullest potential, and recognize the best in ourselves. I am privileged to meet experts, professors, and learned academicians. Each one of them inspired and motivated me. The ability to interact with people around the world made me realize the importance of communication, an open mind, and respect. They made me feel self-assured to take on future challenges, open to new experiences and ideas, and enthused me to become a socially cognizant citizen. Not only this, I tried to learn from my students as well.

I always had the habit of recording my daily experiences not on paper but in a diary that is etched in my mind. Every day, I recalled, self-introspected, and comprehended. It helped me pacify my pain and contented me

with self-confidence and courage. Some of my best moments, splendid accomplishments, and chosen memories are from the Institute of Vocational Studies, including some unforgettable personalities among my teachers and colleagues.







During my academic journey, I received many prestigious awards and opportunities to visit different countries. Paris visit has been a turning point in my life. After joining the MTA department, I got an opportunity to visit Paris. I was well-prepared for the lecture to be delivered to the students in Paris. I delivered the lecture for about twenty minutes followed by an interactive session during which a number of questions were asked. In order to satisfy the audience, I had to consult different libraries including the UNESCO library. Later, there was another interactive session, where the audiences were satisfied with my response. This changed my mind-set from blackboard teaching and rote learning to interactive teaching. We all know that India has a rich cultural legacy but my foreign visit to more than thirty countries was an eye-opening experience. I concluded that we must adopt the best from other cultures as well. After coming back, I completely changed my way of teaching.

As a Director and Chairman of the Institute of Vocational Studies, I got the opportunity to initiate many innovative programs with the government of Himachal Pradesh. With the help of DGP, Mr. Puri, and Mr. Ashok Thakur, Secretary of Tourism, Govt. of HP we could introduce the concept of Tourism Police in the state. When Mrs. Manisha Nanda was Secretary of Tourism, we jointly launched and promoted the concept of Home Stay Tourism in the state, which is unique and exceptional for a state like Himachal Pradesh.

In addition to my regular post as the Director of the Institute of Vocational Studies in HPU, I was given the additional charge of

Director, HPTDC, for initiating various capacity-building and training programs for different stakeholders, hoteliers, income-tax officers, police, *dhabhawalas*, and taxi drivers. These initiatives helped a lot and I was invited by other Indian universities to start different academic programmes in Tourism. The small strides taken at HPU level have gone a long way and even the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, recognized these efforts and I was selected as a member of the Board of Directors of ITTM. Even today, I am the Chairman of the Tourism and Hospitality Board, AICTE, Govt. of India.

During my tenure as the Director of the Institute of Vocational Studies, I started Indian Tourism Congress in the year 2002 and remained the Founder Secretary of the same. As a Secretary, of the Indian Tourism Congress I organized a number of conventions in India and abroad. Presently, I am the President of Indian Tourism Congress. With the help and support of people, we successfully organized ATLAS, in which 33 countries participated. Indian Tourism Congress has organized conventions in different parts of the world. I am holding the position of SAARC President, Tourism and Hospitality Educators and Researchers Association of ASIAN Countries, which is involved in organizing various activities.

These initiatives not only provided me with exposure to new avenues but enriched my experience as a teacher. When I was nominated to visit Switzerland for a period of one month, I visited different institutions and realized that we are equally good as other countries but the only thing that lacks is the thinking of structured, strategic planning and the execution of the same. After these exposure visits to different countries, I concluded that there is a gap between demand and supply. Before initiating any academic programs, it is important to assess the market's demand. If the demand is 100, we must fill only 100 seats and not 200, because this will disrupt the demand-supply chain. Another thing that I observed is that there is a lack of skilled personnel, especially in the Tourism and Hospitality sector. These suggestions were later proposed to the Ministry of Tourism for considering the same in the Indian context. I always owe my special gratitude to HPU for shaping my career goals, enhancing my academic and professional skills, and eventually helping me reach the highest positions. The opportunities provided by the university to move around the world have really been very beneficial. I have visited about fifteen topmost universities in the US and I have tried to implement the best I have acquired from them during the interactive sessions with the topmost academicians of the world. Holding the position of a Vice-Chancellor not only gives you administrative experience but brings you closer to the academic world, where you have to make decisions on the execution of rules, regulations, and policies. I remained as the Founder Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Agrasen University, Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Haryana State University, Meerpur, Rewari, with additional charge of Vice-Chancellor, BPS Mahila University under Haryana State University, Sonepat, Vice-Chancellor Himachal Pradesh Technical University,

Hamirpur (HP) and am presently, the Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh. While initiating new academic programs in different universities, I have followed the guidelines and took necessary approvals from the concerned government bodies. I tried to give the best in each institution I served, whether it was regarding the raising of funds or the creation and filling of teaching posts. I introduced the concept of value education and skill development. As a Vice-Chancellor of Technical University, I tried to reach my students even during the COVID-19 pandemic through online courses and e-content, which was developed some time back before the pandemic and this effort was appreciated by the then governor of Himachal Pradesh, Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya.

As a part of the extension activities, reaching the communities through the village adoption programs was yet another experience. As a Vice-Chancellor of different universities, I have made administrative reforms and tried to introduce the concept of e-governance, automation, examination reforms, ERP, and many more. At Technical University, I had to deal with bureaucracy, which was one of the toughest times I had. There were confrontations with the bureaucrats but ultimately we managed to do what best we could. My faith in God and the blessings of my parents and support of my wife and children helped me in coming out of difficult situations in life. I was involved in the framing of the NEP-2020 and it was a wonderful experience to work with a team of experts from India and abroad. I am committed to my work and always keep transparency in doing things. As an academician, my efforts would be to contribute more to society in the future as well.

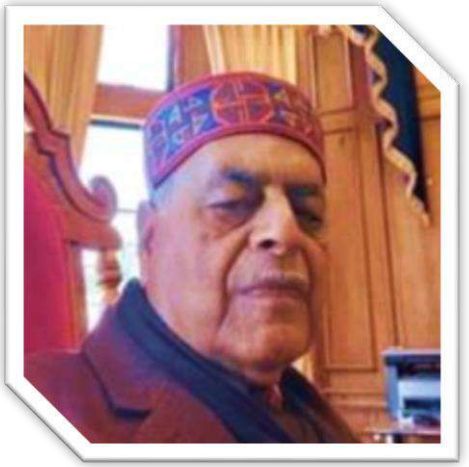
My experiences at the campus have been unforgettable, yet edifying. It enabled my personal development and revealed diverse attributes of life. I still yearn for people I learned from, my bygone days, places, and reminiscences... I can relate to everything I left behind…

Time changes and life goes on without a halt. Some moments are low while some are high, but life keeps going on for it is beautiful in its own ways and memories are like the dried petals of a rose, which remain fragrant even after drying… “If there is bliss on earth, it's here, it's here, its here-- in the tranquil vales of Himachal and I would always aspire that I be here…

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के साथ मेरा जुड़ाव. विभिन्न स्मृति चित्र

–प्रो० चमन लाल गुप्त

पूर्व भारतीय उच्च अध्ययन संस्थान, राष्ट्रपति निवास, शिमला, कार्यवाहक निदेशक



बन्धुवर पी. के. आहलुवालिया जी के अनुरोध पर, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के साथ अपने पचास वर्षों के जुड़ाव को शब्दों में बाधंने के लिए बैठा हूँ। सन् 1971 से आज तक, निरन्तर विश्वविद्यालय की गतिविधियों का हिस्सा रहा हूँ। वर्ष 2006 में औपचारिक रूप से अवकाश प्राप्त करने के पश्चात् भी निरंतर विश्वविद्यालय की गतिविधियों में भाग लेता रहा। हि.प्र. विश्वविद्यालय, पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के क्षेत्रीय अध्ययन केन्द्र और शिमला स्थित सांध्य कालीन महाविद्यालय, हिमाचल को सौंपे जाने के साथ वर्ष 1971 में स्थापित हुआ। मुझे वर्ष 1969 में क्षेत्रीय अध्ययन केन्द्र में पढ़ने और वर्ष 1970–72 में सांध्य महाविद्यालय में हिन्दी पढ़ाने का अवसर मिला। समय के साथ यहाँ के पत्राचार निदेशालय में 14 वर्ष और विश्वविद्यालय के हिन्दी विभाग में लगभग 20 वर्ष अध्यापन का अवसर मिला। कालगति से विश्वविद्यालय की छात्र राजनीति आरै अध्यापक–संगठनों की राजनीति को समझने, उसमें सहभागी होने और निर्देशित करने का अवसर मिला। मरे मित्र और शिष्य, विश्वविद्यालय के उपकुलपति बनते रहे। मेरा सम्पर्क विश्वविद्यालय से सदैव बना रहा और आज भी है। इन स्मृतियों को अगली पीढ़ी को सौंपना आनंददायक है।

(1) सन् 1969, पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय का रीज़नल सेन्टर, अंग्रेजों के समय की बनी पुरानी, लकड़ी की दो–मंजिला इमारतों में स्थित था। निदेशक जगदीश चन्द्र जी थे जो अंग्रेजी के प्रोफ़ेसर थे। आर्टस एम.ए. की कक्षाएं वहीं लगती थीं तथा रीज़नल सेटंर की विज्ञान की कक्षाएं माल रोड़ स्थित उस भवन में से चलती थीं जहाँ आजकल विश्वविद्यालय का सांध्य महाविद्यालय चल रहा है। मैं एम.ए. हिन्दी का विद्यार्थी था और डॉ0 गणपतिचन्द्र गुप्त जैसे हिन्दी के दिग्गज विद्वान हमारे विभागाध्यक्ष थे। सभी विभागों में गहरी आत्मीयता थी। घर छोटा था, परंतु दिल बड़े थे। एक–दूसरे विभाग के स्थान का प्रयोग भी आवश्यकतानुसार कर लेते थे। एक ही स्टाफ रूम में सभी विभागों के अध्यापक बैठते, चर्चाएं करते। निजी स्पेस की मांग तब नहीं थी। मैं विभाग में प्रथम श्रेणी में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त कर प्रसन्न हुआ था, परन्तु तीन अंक से विश्वविद्यालय में प्रथम स्थान से चूक गया, इसलिए प्रसन्नता अधूरी रह गई।

(2) सन् 1970 में पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के ही सांध्य विश्वविद्यालय में हिन्दी प्राध्यापक का अस्थाई पद खाली था और रीज़नल सेटंर, शिमला के निदेशक जगदीश चन्द्र जी ने सेंटर में प्रथम आने के कारण यह पद मुझे पेश किया। मैं अपने स्कूल अध्यापक की स्थाई नौकरी छोड़ नितान्त अस्थाई पद पर आ गया। पद तब तक था जब तक कोई स्थाई अध्यापक चयनित होकर न आता। अप्रैल 26, 1972 तक इस पद पर रहा। सांध्य महाविद्यालय वर्तमान शासकीय कन्या महाविद्यालय में चलता था जहाँ दिन

में एस.डी.बी. कॉलेज की कक्षाएं चलती थी। सायं 5:30 से 9:40 तक पढ़ाना आरै रात्रि को 10:30 घर पहुँचकर कुछ नया पढ़ना–लिखना सुखद लगता था। महाविद्यालय के प्राचार्य सेठी साहब और के.के. मल्हात्रेा के साथ समय अच्छा बीता। दोनों अच्छे अध्यापक और प्रशासक थे मेरा दो वर्ष का कार्यकाल विश्वविद्यालय सवेा में नहीं जुड़ पाया।

(3) 22 जुलाई 1971 को हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय अस्तित्व में आ गया। हिमाचल निर्माता यशवतं सिंह परमार की दूरदर्शिता और शिक्षा प्रेम का यह स्मारक एक जाने–माने शिक्षाविद् प्राफेसर रामकरण सिंह के हाथ में सौंपा गया। विश्वविद्यालय के संस्थापक उपकुलपति के रूप में ऐसे असाधारण कर्मठ, विनम्र, मानवीय गुणों से युक्त शिक्षाविद् को पाकर विश्वविद्यालय धन्य हो गया। उन्होंने वर्ष 1975 तक अपने कार्यकाल में विश्वविद्यालय के प्रमुख भवन और अध्यापकों के लिए आवास ही नहीं बनवाए, बल्कि विभागाध्यक्षों और आचार्यों के रूप में देशभर से श्रेष्ठ अध्यापक भी आमंत्रित किए, चयनित किए। अंग्रेजी विभाग में वी.वाई कण्टक और चटर्जी, गणित में भटनागर जी, रसायनशास्त्र में के.सी. मल्होत्रा, हिन्दी में उदयभानु सिंह जी जैसे श्रेष्ठ विद्वानों ने यहाँ के विभागों को मजबूत आधार दिया, अच्छी परंपराएं स्थापित कीं। रीजनल सेटंर और सांध्य कालीन महाविद्यालय के अध्यापकों को पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय ने हिमाचल विश्वविद्यालय के अधीन रहने अथवा पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय में लौट आने का विकल्प दिया था। पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के अनेक अध्यापक यहाँ के विभागों में अवकाश प्राप्ति तक बने रहे नए अध्यापकों का मार्गदर्शन करते रहे। मजबूत नींव पर सुन्दर भवन ऊपर उठता चला गया।

(4) पत्राचार निदेशालय का गठन

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के जन्म के साथ ही वर्ष 1971 में पत्राचार निदेशालय की स्थापना की घोषणा भी हो गई। स्नातक, स्नातकोत्तर के अधिकांश विषयों के साथ बी.एड. आरै एम.एड. की कक्षाओं की घोषणा भी कर दी गई। एक अवकाश प्राप्त प्रिंसिपल को कार्यभार सौंपा गया और एक डिप्टी डायरेक्टर (के.डी. गुप्ता) को नियुक्त किया गया। देशभर से 75000 छात्रों ने प्रवेश के लिए आवदे न किया। उनके लिए पाठ्य सामग्री तैयार करना, उनकी उत्तर–पुस्तिकाओं का मूल्यांकन करना तथा परीक्षा संबंधी कार्यों को सम्पन्न करना टेढ़ी खीर था। प्रदेश के महाविद्यालयों और विश्वविद्यालय के अध्यापकों ने यथाशक्ति सहयोग दिया परंतु अव्यवस्था बनी रही। अप्रैल 1972 में पत्राचार विभाग में 33 प्राध्यापकों को एक साथ नियुक्ति पत्र मिले और उन्हें प्राध्यापक का वेतनमान देकर भी "इवैल्यूएटर" पदनाम दिया गया। 14 अप्रैल से 26 अप्रैल तक सभी प्राध्यापकों "इवैल्यूएटेरों" ने कार्यभार संभाल लिया। शिमला में रहते हुए भी मैं कार्यभार संभालने वाला 31वाँ था। याद आता है कि मेरे प्रिंसिपल महोदय अंत तक आश्वासन देते रह कि मुझे सांध्य कालीन महाविद्यालय में समायोजित करवा देंगे। 25 अप्रैल को सांध्य कालीन महाविद्यालय का वार्षिक उत्सव सम्पन्न हुआ जिसके सांस्कृतिक कायर्क्रमों का भार मुझ पर था। 26 अप्रैल को उन्होंने अपनी असमर्थता व्यक्त कर दी। पत्राचार विभाग में पूरे भारत से आकर 30 अध्यापक पद सभंाल चुके थे और मैं सबसे जूनियर "इवैल्यूएटेर" बन गया।

(5) पत्राचार निदेशालयः मधु–तिक्त स्मृतियाँ

26 अप्रैल, 1972 को अवॉलॉज में कार्यभार सभंालते ही पाया कि पत्राचार निदेशालय में एक लम्बे हॉल में मेज लगे थे जिसके दोनों ओर कुर्सियाँ लगी थीं। हम विभिन्न विषयों के 33 इवैल्यूएटेर, अवॉलॉज में छात्रों की 'असाइन्मेन्ट' के ढेरों को देख रहे थे जिनपर धूल की मोटी पर्त भी थी। मूल्याकंन करके अभ्यास पुस्तिकाएं छात्रों को समय पर लौटाई जानी थी। वर्ष 1971 में ही

शिक्षाविद् के. पी. पाण्डे निदेशक नियुक्त हो चुके थे उनके योग्य निर्देशन में पत्राचार के लिए पाठ्य सामग्री लिखना सीखा। कुछ विषयों में तो एक–एक अध्यापक को 60–60 पाठ भी लिखने पड़े। याद आता है लम्बा संघर्ष जो हमने अपने साथियों एस. के. गुप्ता, अनिल राकेश, एस.एस. राणा, नरेन्द्र शारदा, सुनील नागपाल तथा अन्य साथियों के साथ मिलकर किया, जिसका सुखद परिणाम यह है कि आज पत्राचार विभाग 'आईसीडियोल' कहलाता है। यहाँ के "इवैल्यूएटेर" आज प्राध्यापक से प्राचार्य तक की यात्रा सहज ही कर रहे हैं। उन्हें भी विश्वविद्यालय के अध्यापकों की तरह शरद अवकाश मिलता है, रहने का आवास मिलता है, निर्देशन के लिए शोधार्थी मिलते हैं। वर्ष 1972 से लगभग 2000 तक यह संघर्ष चला, तब जाकर पत्राचार के अध्यापकों को विश्वविद्यालय के अन्य अध्यापकों के जैसा सम्मान मिल सका। मेरी पीढ़ी का संघर्ष देशभर के पत्राचार विभागों के लिए आदर्श बना। हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय को हिमाचल से बाहर पूरे भारत में केवल पत्राचार निदेशालय के कारण ही जाना जाता था। मुझे अपने छात्रों को चेन्नई, बंगलुरू, कलकत्ता, दिल्ली, चण्डीगढ़ और हिमाचल के अन्य शहरों में जाकर पढ़ाने का अवसर मिला। सैंकड़ों विद्वानों से देशभर में संपर्क हुआ। उनसे सीखने को मिला और विपरीत परिस्थितियों में अपने ऊपर निर्भर रहना आ गया। वर्ष 1986 तक मैं पत्राचार में पढ़ाता रहा। वह मेरे व्यक्तित्व निर्माण का सुनहरा काल था। कलकत्ता में विष्णुकांत शास्त्री जी एक अध्यापक के नाते हमारे छात्रों को पढ़ाने आते थे।

कल्पना करें 32–33 युवा, देश के विभिन्न स्थानो ं से एक साथ आकर, एक नई प्रकार की शिक्षा प्रणाली के पुरोधा बने। एक दो छोड़कर सभी 25–30 आयु वर्ग के थे। जो आत्मीयता वहाँ विकसित हुई उसकी मधुर यादें आज भी मेरे साथ हैं। पत्राचार निदेशालय, विश्वविद्यालय के लिए लम्बे समय तक दुधारू गाय बना रहा। विश्वविद्यालय का मलू भतू ढाचां निर्मित करने में, पत्राचार निदेशालय की करोड़ों की कमाई काम आई परंतु वहाँ के अध्यापकों को अपना उचित अधिकार पाने के लिए हर कदम पर संघर्ष करना पड़ा। पत्राचार निदेशालय की एक प्रारम्भिक स्मृति यह भी है कि बोरीयों में भरी उत्तर–पुस्तिकाओं में कुछ बोरियां पोस्टल आर्डर की भी निकली थीं। छात्रों के आवदेन–पत्रों से अलग किए गए पोस्टल आर्डर बोरियों में भरकर न जाने कैसे स्टारे में फेंक गए थे। हमने उन्हें छंटाई कर डॉकखाने में भेजा और कायार्लय ने समयावधि पार कर चुके पोस्टल ऑर्डरों के लिए पास्ट ऑफिस से पत्र–व्यवहार किया था। बिना पूर्व तैयारी के कैसे काम किया जाता है, इसका सजीव उदाहरण हमारा पत्राचार निदेशालय बना था, यह एक कटु–स्मृति बनी हुई है। स्नातकोत्तर कक्षाओं और बी.एड., एम.एड. की कक्षाएं चलाने वाला हमारा पत्राचार निदेशालय, देश में प्रथम था। समय के साथ पत्राचार निदेशालय में बहुत परिवर्तन हुए, इसे अपना एक नहीं, दो–दो भवन मिल चुके हैं। आज वह देश के श्रेष्ठतम विभागों में से है। पत्राचार विभाग के विकास में चतुर्थ श्रेणी की कर्मचारी महिलाओं का योगदान भुलाया नहीं जा सकता। पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के बी.एड. कॉलेज को जब हि.प्र. विश्वविद्यालय ने अपने शिक्षा विभाग में लिया तो बिमला मौसी जैसी तीन–चार महिलाएं भी वहां कर्मचारी थीं। पत्राचार विभाग के हम 32–33 आरै आगे चलकर 40–50 अध्यापकों को चाय–पानी पिलाने से लेकर कमरों की डस्टिंग आदि का काम वही करती रहीं। वैधव्य का कष्ट भोगती फिर भी सहज भाव से सबका काम करती और किसी से कोई अपेक्षा न रखने वाली बिमला मौसी ने हमें निष्काम कर्म का पाठ सहज ही पढ़ाया। बी.एड. कॉलेज में काम करने वाली चतुर्थ श्रेणी की महिलाओं को मौसी पुकारने की परंपरा, हिमाचल की महान् शिक्षाविद् और बी.एड. कॉलेज की प्रिंसिपल रहीं मिस के. पसरीचा के समय से थी। पसरीचा मैडम हिमाचल शिक्षा विभाग की निदेशक भी रहीं।

(6) स्मृतियाँ छात्र सगंठन की हिमाचल प्रदेश में काग्रेंस और दक्षिणपंथ से जुड़े छात्र संगठन एन.एस.यू.आई और अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद कुछ कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालय में उपस्थित थे। वामपंथी छात्र संगठन सातवें दशक के मध्य में उभरे जिनमें ए. आई.एस.एफ. और एस.एफआई. प्रमुख थे। आपसी वर्चस्व की लड़ाई में आपातकाल के पश्चात् एस.एफ.आई. अधिक उभरकर सामने आई। हि.प्र. विश्वविद्यालय और प्रथम छात्र आंदोलन–विश्वविद्यालय के संस्थापक उपकुलपति ने स्नातक और स्नातकोत्तर स्तर पर समेस्टर सिस्टम लागू करने की घाषेणा वर्ष 1972 में कर दी। स्नातक स्तरीय कॉलेजों में अध्यापकों और छात्रों ने इसका विरोध किया। अध्यापकों को भय था कि कुछ अध्यापकों की छंटनी संभव है और छात्रों को लगता था कि इसके कारण छात्र राजनीति के लिए आम छात्र के पास समय नहीं रहेगा तो भीड़ कैसे जुटेगी। तर्क यह भी दिया गया कि समेस्टर प्रणाली परीक्षा केन्द्रित होने से हिमाचल की भौगोलिक मौसमी विविधता को देखते हुए, यह प्रणाली उपयुक्त नहीं। अंततः स्नातक स्तर पर इसे वापिस लिया गया। यह पहला छात्र आदोंलन था जिसमें सभी विचारधाराओं से जुड़े छात्र एक मचं पर आए। इसके पश्चात् वे किसी छात्र आन्दोलन में एक साथ नहीं दिखे।

आपातकाल के तुरंत पश्चात् उपकुलपति गणपतिचन्द्र गुप्त के कार्यकाल में एक बड़ा छात्र आदोंलन उन्हें हटाने के लिए 52 दिन तक लड़ा गया। 'छात्र–अध्यापक–कर्मचारी एकता' जिन्दाबाद के नारे लगे और जनता दल सरकार की अस्थिरता ने इसे पुष्ट किया। छात्र विजयी हुए और गणपतिचन्द्र गुप्त को जाना पड़ा। जिनके विरोध के चलते गुप्त जी ने हि.प्र. विश्वविद्यालय छोड़ा, उन्हीं के समर्थन के चलते वे बाद में कुरुक्षेत्र विश्वविद्यालय के उपकुलपति भी बने। अध्यापकों के लिए समयबद्ध, अनुपातिक पदोन्नति जिसे बाद में पूरे देश ने अपनाया, उसे सबसे पहले गुप्त जी के समय में 'पर्सनल प्रमोशन स्कीम' के रूप में वर्ष 1977–78 लागू किया गया था।

हिमाचल प्रदेश में छात्र राजनीति का एक अध्याय आर.के. सिंह जी के साथ भी जुड़ा है। विश्वविद्यालय कैम्पस में एन.एस.यू.आई. के आमंत्रण पर सत्यवती डांग (कांग्रेस नेत्री) आईं। उपकुलपति की उपेक्षा कर उन्हें बुलाया गया था। उन्होंने तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री से संभवतः विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन द्वारा उचित सम्मान न दिए जाने की शिकायत भी की थी। कहा जाता है कि प्रथम कुलपति द्वारा अपने कार्यकाल की समाप्ति से पूर्व ही त्याग पत्र देने के पीछे इस छात्र राजनीति का भी कुछ हाथ था।

मैं छात्र राजनीति का समर्थक रहा हूँ क्योंकि युवा यदि सचेत होकर सामाजिक–राजनीतिक–आर्थिक जीवन से जुड़ेंगे तो राजनीतिक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से उन स्थितियों को बदलने का प्रयास भी करेंगे। हिमाचल विश्वविद्यालय में एन.एस.यू.आई, एस.एफ.आई. और ए.बी.वी.पी. छात्र संगठन इसके स्थापना काल से ही सक्रिय रहे कांग्रेस का छात्र संगठन, विश्वविद्यालय में कभी प्रभावी नहीं रहा, यद्यपि लम्बे समय तक कांग्रेस ही सत्ता में रही। एस.एफ.आई. वामपंथी संगठन है, परंतु सी.पी.एम. की उपस्थिति हिमाचल विधानसभा में नगण्य सी रही है। विश्वविद्यालय, छात्रसंघ–चुनावों में इसका सदा वर्चस्व रहा है, यद्यपि दक्षिणपंथी ए.बी.वी.पी. ने कड़ी टक्कर दी है और एक–दो बार विजयी भी हुई। मैं स्वयं ए.बी.वी.पी. की छात्र राजनीति का हिस्सा रहा हूँ, इसलिए विश्वविद्यालय में हुए छात्र संघर्षों का द्रष्टा और भोक्ता रहा हूँ। यहाँ की छात्र नीति टकराहट और हिंसा की अधिक रही, वैचारिक आदान–प्रदान, वाद–प्रतिवाद का स्तर नगण्य रहा है। हिमाचल की छात्र राजनीति का राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा अपहरण किया गया और उसे प्रदेश राजनीति का पुर्जा बनाने के प्रयास होते रहे हैं। हि.प्र. विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र संगठन, ऐसे वैचारिक मंच निर्मित करने में असफल रहे जहाँ विभिन्न विचारधारा के विचारक, नेता एक साथ आकर, विवादस्पद विषयों

पर भी ठण्डे दिमाग से तथ्य और तर्कों के साथ अपनी बात रख सके हों। क्या भविष्य में ऐसा हो पाएगा? संघर्ष के पश्चात सामंजस्य का दौर अवश्य आएगा, मैं आशावान हूँ। विश्वविद्यालय ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर ख्याति प्राप्त करने वाले छात्र नेता दिए। भारत के विदेश राज्य मंत्री रहे, कांग्रेस के नेता आनंद शर्मा, अस्सी के दशक में तथा श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा, नब्बे के दशक में विद्यार्थी परिषद् के लोकप्रिय नेता के रूप में उभरे। हमें एक साथ परिषद में काम करने का अनेक वर्ष अवसर मिला। वर्तमान में हिमाचल की राजनीति सक्रिय सभी दलों के नेता, हि.प्र. विश्वविद्यालय में राजनीति में दीक्षित हुए हैं।

(7) मेरे विश्वविद्यालय के अध्यापक और अध्यापक संगठनः एक स्मृति चित्र

वर्ष 1971 में पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के क्षेत्रीय अध्ययन केन्द्र और सांध्य कालीन महाविद्यालय मूलभूत अध्यापक संकाय को लेकर विश्वविद्यालय बना था और सभी विभागों में नई नियुक्तियों की प्रक्रिया प्रारभं हुई। प्रदेश में अपना कोई विश्वविद्यालय वर्ष 1971 से पूर्व नहीं था इसलिए सभी संकायों में अध्यापक पूरे देश के विश्वविद्यालयों से आए। श्रेष्ठ अध्यापकों को चुनने में संस्थापक कुलपति आर.के. सिंह की भूमिका महत्त्वपूर्ण रही। अध्यापकों में राजनीतिक विचारधारा के आधार पर गाले बंदी नहीं थी। समय के साथ–साथ अध्यापकों के चयन में धरती–पुत्र का सिद्धातं हावी होता गया और बाहर से अध्यापक की नियुक्ति होना कठिन होता गया। संभवतः यही प्रवृत्ति देश के अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में भी चलती रही। यूजीसी द्वारा समयबद्ध आतंरिक पदोन्नति की नीति से भी अध्यापकों का बाहर से आना कम हुआ। छात्रों के संगठनों की तरह राजीनीतिक दलों के 'अध्यापक सेल' यहाँ भी सक्रिय हुए। समय के साथ अध्यापक संघ के चुनावों पर दलीय राजनीति और आतंरिक तथा बाहरी अध्यापकों की गाले बंदी भी होने लगी। अध्यापकों के मुद्दों से अधिक राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता आरै पहचान अध्यापक संघों की पहचान बनी। अध्यापक संघ यहाँ पर बनते बिखरते रहे हैं। आज भी यहाँ पर एकाधिक संगठन हैं।

मुझे संयुक्त अध्यापक संघ 'हपुटा' का नेतृत्व करने का दो बार अवसर मिला। अध्यापकों के हित में कार्य करते हुए उनमें सद्भाव आरै सहयोग बढ़े, इसके लिए प्रयास भी किए। अवकाश प्राप्त करने वाले अध्यापकों की विदाई और उसी मचं पर नव नियुक्त अध्यापकों को सम्मानित कर, पूरे अध्यापक वर्ग से परिचित करवाना मुझे आवश्यक लगा। ऐसे समारोह सभी द्वारा सराहे गए और एक स्वस्थ परंपरा निर्मित हुई। आज विश्वविद्यालय में अध्यापक संगठनों में बिखराव है। आशा करता हूँ कि अध्यापक संघ अध्यापक–कल्याण का लक्ष्य लेकर एकजुट होकर काम करेगा इसी में उनके होने की सार्थकता है।

(8) मेरी स्मृतियों में बसे कुछ उपकुलपति और अध्यापक हिमाचल विश्वविद्यालय के पचास वर्ष के जीवन में दो दर्जन से भी अधिक उपकुलपति न्यूनाधिक समय तक कार्यरत रहे हैं। हिन्दी विभाग के अध्यापक के नाते, एक छात्र संगठन के डेढ़ दशक तक प्रदेशाध्यक्ष होने के नाते और फिर अध्यापक राजनीति दो दशकों तक सक्रिय रहने और नेतृत्व करने के नाते, प्रायः सभी उपकुलपतियों से किसी–न–किसी रूप में मेरा संपर्क रहा। अधिकांश के साथ मधुर–तिक्त संबधं एक साथ रहे। कुछ संस्मरण जो भुलाए नहीं भूलते।

- प्रथम उपकुलपति आर.के. सिंह को पुराने लकड़ी के बने दो मंजिल के प्रशासनिक भवन के 10'x 12' के कमरे से विश्वविद्यालय चलाते देखा। अपनी कुर्सी से उठकर बगल में रजिस्ट्रार के कमरे तक काग़ज ले जाते देखा है। सिंह साहब

को प्रायः रास्ते में गाड़ी रोककर पदैल चले जा रहे अध्यापक को गाड़ी में लिफ्ट देते भी देखा है। वह विनम्रता और मानवीयता दिल को छू लेने वाली थी, भुलाए नहीं भूलती।

- आर.के. सिंह के पश्चात् नियुक्त हुए बी.एस. जोगी जी की स्मृति उभरती है जो मलूतः कृषि विभाग से थे। पत्राचार के युवा इवैल्यूएटस' को ॲवा लॉज में उन्होनें सीख दी थी कि शोध–पत्र लिखो उसके स्तर की चिन्ता, पढ़ने वालों को करने दो। लिखने लगोगे तो धीरे–धीरे स्तरीय शोध पत्र लिखना सीख जाओगे। मैंने अपना पहला शोध–पत्र तभी लिखा और अपने सभी साथियों के सामने पढ़ा, जैसा कि जोगी जी का आदेश था।
- रसायनशास्त्र विभाग से उपकुलपति बने प्रोफ़ेसर के. सी. मल्होत्रा, विश्वविद्यालय के स्थापना काल से ही विभाग में थे। उन्होंने नए विभाग खोले, अनेक भवन बनाकर आधारभूत ढांचा विकसित किया। एक–एक भवन के निर्माण में व्यक्तिगत रूचि लेकर ऐसे जाँच पड़ताल करते थे मानों निजी घर बनवा रहे हों संभवतः सबसे लम्बे समय तक उन्हीं का कार्यकाल रहा। भाजपा और कांग्रेस, दोनों दलों के मुख्यमंत्रियों ने उन्हें उपकुलपति बारी–बारी नियुक्त किया।
- इतिहास विभाग के प्रोफ़ेसर एस. के. गुप्ता पत्राचार निदेशालय के हमारे सहयागी और मित्र थे। अनेक आन्दोलन उनके साथ मिलकर किए थे। वे उपकुलपति बने तो बहुत अच्छा लगा। उनकी आकस्मिक मृत्यु से विश्वविद्यालय ने एक कुशल प्रशासक और इतिहासकार खो दिया। मैं उन दिनों हिमाचल प्रदेश स्कूल शिक्षा बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष के रूप में धर्मशाला में प्रतिनियुक्ति पर था।
- ए.डी.एन. वाजपेयी का कार्यकाल भी विश्वविद्यालय के विकास की दृष्टि से महत्त्वपूर्ण रहा। नैक ने इसे ''ए''ग्रेड विश्वविद्यालय घोषित किया। अकादमिक गतिविधियों को बहुत गति मिली। के.सी. मल्होत्रा जी के पश्चात सबसे लम्बे समय तक उपकुलपति वही रहे हॉस्टलों से चलने वाली छात्र राजनीति पर नकेल कसने में उनका निर्भीक व्यक्तित्व काम आया। उनका आचरण अनेक प्रकार के विवादों से भी घिरा रहा। आकषर्क व्यक्तित्व और दृढ़ प्रशासनिक इच्छाशक्ति के लिए वे जाने जाएगें मैं तब तक अवकाश प्राप्त कर चुका था, परंतु विश्वविद्यालय से नाता बना हुआ था।
- संभवतः विश्वविद्यालय के सबसे युवा उपकुलपति होने का श्रेय प्रोफ़ेसर सिकन्दर कुमार को जाता है। विश्वविद्यालय के अर्थशास्त्र विभाग में आचार्य रहे सिकन्दरु कुमार ने लगभग चार वर्ष के अपने कार्यकाल में विश्वविद्यालय के आधारभतू ढ़ाँचें को विकसित करने, अकादमिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देने और शोध तथा साँस्कृतिक गतिविधियों को आगे बढ़ाने में उल्लेखनीय योगदान दिया। उन्होंने यह सिद्ध किया कि अवसर मिलने पर, ईमानदार और प्रतिबद्ध व्यक्ति चमत्कार कर सकता है।
- (9) कुछ वरिष्ठ साथी जिनकी यादें ताजा हैं
- अंग्रेजी विभागाध्यक्ष वी.वाई. कण्टक, शेक्सपीयर साहित्य के मर्मज्ञ विद्वान, शेक्सपीयर संबन्धी समारोहों में भाग लेने इंग्लैण्ड गए तो वहीं के होकर रह गए। स्वयं मात्र एम. ए. थे परंतु अनेक को भी पीएचडी करवा चुके थे।
- अंग्रेजी के ही विक्रमादित्य राय, बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय से पत्राचार के छात्रों के लिए व्याख्यान देने आए। रेलवे स्टेशन पर उनकी सादगी को देखकर चकित रह गया। धोती–चप्पल पहनने वाला वह विद्वान जब टी. एस. एलियट के 'वैस्टलैण्ड'

पर व्याख्यान रिकॉर्ड करने बैठा तो बिना किसी नोट के चार घण्टे धाराप्रवाह बोलता रहा। 'वैस्टलैण्ड' कंठस्थ था। उनका भाषण वर्षों तक हमारे छात्रों ने सुना, समझा और सराहा।

- अंग्रेजी विभाग का ही एक आकर्षक चेहरा चटर्जी साहब था। एक दिन प्रातः सफाई कर्मचारी से कह रहे थे– ''तुमने सभी के घर में आग लगाया, मेरे घर में क्यों नहीं लगाया।'' वास्तव में वे कहना चाहते थे कि मेरे यहाँ 'फायर प्लेस' में आग क्यों नहीं जलाई। सोम. पी. रंचन का छात्रों से अपनत्व और मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध गुरुकुल की याद दिलाता था।
- गणित विभाग के दिग्गज विद्वान एस.एस. भटनागर जो राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सम्मानित हुए उन्हें अपने सहकर्मी अध्यापकों की क्लास लेते देखा था। विभाग के कनिष्ठ साथियों का मार्गदर्शन और अन्य अध्यापकों का सहर्ष उनकी कक्षा में बैठना, सुखद अनुभव था। स्वयं आर.के. सिंह उनकी कक्षा में बैठने को उत्सुक रहते थे।
- सन् 1986 में, पत्राचार विभाग में 14 वर्ष काम करने के उपरांत मेरे चयन मूल हिन्दी विभाग में हो गया। विभाग पहुँचा तो एक वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर क्लर्क के ऑफिस में अपना कमरा खुलने का इंतजार कर रहे थे। उन्होंने मुझसे कहा' ''गुप्ता जी, आप अब विभाग में आ गए हैं तो यहाँ अब महाभारत होगा।'' उनका संकेत यह था कि विभाग में सीपीएम कार्ड होल्डर अध्यापक के होते मेरा उससे टकराव अवश्य होगा। मैंने उनसे कहा–''महाभारत, दुर्योधन के कारण हुआ, मैं उसकी भूमिका में नहीं हूँ परंतु यदि कोई यहाँ दुर्योधन की भूमिका में उतरेगा, तो महाभारत होने दो। ''उन्हें आगे चलकर निराश होना पड़ा क्योंकि उस वामपंथी प्रोफ़ेसर के साथ आपसी विश्वास और सहयोग का ऐसा रिश्ता बना कि लागे हैरान रह गए। जो सचमुच वैचारिक रूप से परिपक्वकता और अपने संगठन के प्रति समर्पित है, वह प्रतिबद्धता का सम्मान करता है, यह मेरी समझ में आया।
- मेरे विभागाध्यक्ष राजदेव सिंह रविवार के दिन एकाएक गभींर रूप से बीमार पड़ गए। एम्बुलंसे में उन्हें अस्पताल पहुँचाया। रविवार के कारण डॉक्टर छुट्टी पर थे, स्पेशल वार्ड मिल नहीं सकता था। मैं उनके पैरों की मालिश करते हुए उन्हें सांत्वना दे रहा था कि ठीक हो जाएंगे। अर्द्धचेतना की हालत में वे पड़े थे। उनका एक शोध–छात्र भी वहाँ पहुँच गया था परंतु कुछ समय पश्चात् उसे घर जाना पड़ा। रात भर उनके साथ रहा। भोर होते ही उन्हें स्पेशल वार्ड में शिफ्ट करवाया। राजदेव सिंह जी कुरुक्षेत्र विश्वविद्यालय में हिन्दी विभागाध्यक्ष बनकर चले गए। अमृतसर में गुरु नानक देव विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा आयोजित सेमिनार में हम वर्षों बाद मिले। रात्रि को मेरे कमरे में बैठे, बातचीत कर रहे तो अचानक बोले– ''गुप्ता जी, आप मुझे शमशान से उठाकर लाए। ''मैं हैरान रह गया कि क्या कह रहे हैं। वे आगे बोले– ''उस दिन अस्पताल में जब आप मेरे पाँवों को सहला रहे थे मुझे बहुत आराम मिल रहा था, इसलिए मैं आपको रोक नहीं सका, परंतु दिल से बहुत दुःखी था कि आपको ऐसा करना पड़ रहा था। शायद उसी का प्रायश्चित करने के लिए उन्होनें मुझे कुरुक्षेत्र विभाग की अनेक समितियों में भी रखा आरै प्रायः सभी बड़े कायक्रमों में भी आमंत्रित किया। मैं हिन्दी विभाग में रीडर था। सहकर्मी लल्लन राय के साथ भी ऐसा ही हुआ था, मुझे सेवा का अवसर मिला था। उनके साथ मैत्री भाव बना रहा।

अध्यापक राजनीति में वर्षों तक सक्रिय रहने के कारण अनेक ऐसी अनकही कहानियाँ हैं जो मेरे विश्वविद्यालय के अध्यापकों के मानवीय पक्ष को उजागर करती हैं।

Forty-Four Summer Sojourns at Summerhill: Some Nostalgic Musings

-Prof. Laxman S. Thakur

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It is extremely impossible to summarise the reminiscences of almost forty-four years spent at Himachal Pradesh University, Summerhill, Shimla in a brief note of this kind, however, it was proud privilege for me as a witness to the emergence of a temple of learning at the western end of the Shimla town, first as a student, and subsequently as a teacher. I joined the Department of History in 1976 as MA student because I secured highest marks in that subject at UG level and was lucky to be a student of the Department which was then headed by Professor Ravinder Kumar. The other members of the teaching faculty were globally known for their professional academic contributions in their respective arenas and joined Himachal Pradesh University coming from different continents. I passionately remember the strict class-room time management of Dr. Eva Mehrotra and the quality and method of teaching of other teachers. Professor Ravinder Kumar's lectures were so stimulating that how he would put off his watch on the table and inscribing down the topic of the day on the blackboard with a caption. I emulated that tenet of the class-teaching for my teaching profession from him. Whatever little I have learnt about historical research methodology, the credit goes to Professor S. R. Mehrotra, for whom even a full stop or comma was an author's mistake. My revered teacher Professor L. P. Panday had never imposed his personal views on his research students and nurtured in me an idea of independent thinking. Professor A. R.



Organizers of National Seminar on Guru Gobind Singh and Himachal in a cheerful mood with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S. K. Gupta. Photo shows from L to R Dr. Lakshman Thakur, Dr. Chaten Singh, Dr. Abha Malhotra and Prof. M. S. Ahluwali

Khan had always motivated his students to contribute papers and participate in conferences in India and abroad. On many occasions he had paid annual subscriptions and travel expenses of many research scholars to enable them to participate in the seminars.

Within limited infrastructure and finances the teachers were intensively involved in research and teaching. An episode that lingers in my memory time and again and I have narrated it to my students and colleagues, goes back to the year 1977. While going back to Shimla town on foot through wooded surroundings of Indian Institute of Advanced Study I met Professor Ravinder Kumar near Square's Hall while he was returning from the Institute with a leather bag stretched over his head in one hand and unfolded umbrella in the second hand. He smiled for a while and quickly realised that he had forgotten to unfold the umbrella. He was totally engrossed in the thought process. This reminded me of Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar's inspiring speech at the first convocation of Himachal Pradesh University on 2 April 1972: 'Magnificent buildings, campuses and equipment were no substitute for great teacher' (The Tribune Archive, Chandigarh). It was indeed a proud honour to be tutored under the guidance of such stimulating and credulous teachers who joined the University and made Shimla their home 'by choice' as Professor Mehrotra had simply put it.

I had spent very fruitful six years at New Boys Hostel in room no. 15 from 1979 to 1985. Going out in the morning hours for study in the thick forests of deodar, rhododendrons and pines near Potters' Hill has special place in my hostel-life and those wonderful moments vibrate so often in my mind. I made it a routine to reach the library at 9 am and usually used to be the last person to come out. Late Mr. K. K. Talwar and his gentle wife of Calm Café never treated me as their customer and sustained my cuisine requirements as their own family member for a couple of years. My special appreciation goes to both of them for serving me family dinners during winter months when café used to be closed for two months.



Delivering a lecture on Buddhist scriptures at Sichuan University in an International Conference in 2013, Harvard University Professor looks on

When I joined the department in 1985 as a lecturer there was no separate sitting room for teachers but later Arts Block Phase I was completed in early 1987 and separate room for each teacher was available. Research

was a passion and adventure of my entire teaching-career sojourn at Summerhill that culminated with many fruitful research tours, some of them with my colleagues Dr. Chetan Singh, Dr. R. S. Pirta and Shri V. S. Negi to the remotest and last villages of Himachal Pradesh, including Chamba, Lahaul-Spiti, Kullu and Kinnaur. We would frequently exchange our field experiences on Himachal's history, culture and environment at the dining table on finishing the day's journey. Most of these trips were completed on foot. Dr. Dilwar Sharma, who completed his doctorate degree with me, was surely the finest *kalyanamitra* accompanying me to Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur on more than dozen times and on foot journey of 84 km from Losar in Spiti to Gramphoo in Lahaul via Kunzam pass undertaken on 10 July 1994 is worth-mentioning and gives me rays of hope how to keep moving on in the journey of life.

Two locations in and around Summerhill always attracted my active attention: Amrita Shergil's cottage near railway station, and a much-dilapidated house 'Woodfield' near Boileauganj where Rabindranath Tagore spent some time in late 1890s and penned down his poems. I always searched for the 'creative auras' around these two cottages and the search continues even today.

Benevolent students of thirty-five academic sessions have persistently sustained my continued interest in teaching and research for over more than three decades. I used to sit late in the department and have been locked up many times in the Arts Block; once I jumped from the windows at the ground floor to come out when there was no response from university security to unlock me. Professor Jaidev of English department would sometime drop in my room to invite me for a cup of coffee in his room after 5 pm. I very much liked his persona and gentle scholarship without exhibiting it.

All these and many more sporadic events are still fresh in my memory and give me emotional stirrings while pondering over those momentous years spent at Summerhill.

पुरातन मधुर स्मृतियां- हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय

प्रो० विद्या शारदा
सेवानिवृत प्रोफेसर, संस्कृत विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्लाय, शिमला



स्मृतियां लहरों की भांति आती हैं, दिल को छू कर चली जाती हैं, बार-बार उस पीछे छूटे यादगार संस्थान में ले जाती हैं, एक मधुर सपने की तरह फिर घर पर छोड़ जाती हैं । जी हाँ ,पुरानी यादें न कभी विस्मृत होती है, न मरती हैं, न बोलती हैं, न साथ छोड़ती हैं, कभी सुकून देती हैं, कभी पश्चाताप कभी आनंदित करती हैं, कभी भयभीत, कभी दु:ख देती हैं, तो कभी लगता है, कि काश वह दिन फिर वापिस लौट आते, हम खुशी के गीत गाते, उन सभी अपनों से मिलते जो, आज सपने बनकर रह गए हैं ,वह घने वृक्ष ,पशु-पक्षी , इमारतें ,यहां तक कि मिट्टी की खुशबू भी कभी नहीं भूलती, जहां जीवन का सबसे अच्छा, ओजपूर्ण तारुण्य पूरित जीवन व्यतीत किया वहां का कण-कण आज भी बहुत याद आता है। यादें, प्रगाढ़ प्रेम और आदर का समन्वय आपको अपने हृदय में छुपे उदगारों को अभिव्यक्त करने की प्रेरणा देतीं है। मन में यह विचार उठता है कि मेरे अध्ययन केंद्र का पुरातन समय, परिस्थितियां, व्यवहार, वातावरण, और इतिहास हमारी दूसरी पीढ़ी भी जान पाए और इस शिक्षा मंदिर को उत्थान की चरम सीमा पर ले जाए।

पुरातन मूल्यों और संस्कारों के संस्मरण के साथ जो अच्छे लोग अपनी अच्छाइयाँ छोड़ गए, उन्हें भी विस्मृत न, करें उनसे प्रेरणा लेकर और भी अच्छे काम करें। आज मैं आपके साथ साझा करने जा रही हूं अपने विश्वविद्यालय की सबसे खूबसूरत और स्वर्णिम यादें जो 55 साल से मेरे मस्तिष्क में संजोए रखी हैं और भी मुझे जीने की प्रेरणा भी दे रही हैं। मैं सुदूर पहाड़ों की लड़की, जहाँ न तब बिजली थी न यातायात के साधन, अपनी अग्रिम पढ़ाई अपने स्वर्गीय पिता जी के आशीर्वाद से जालंधर से स्नातक और पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय, चंडीगढ़ से स्नातकोत्तर

परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण की। स्वर्गीय प्रोफेसर डी डी शर्मा जी ने मुझे पी0एच0डी के लिए संस्कृत के तत्कालीन विभागाध्यक्ष, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय शिमला के पास भेजा। स्वर्गीय प्रोफेसर डॉ बलदेव सिंह जी ने मेरा निर्देशक बनने की स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी और बस यहीं से मेरा विश्वविद्यालयी सफर आरंभ हो गया। उन यादों को मैं दो भागों में बांट रही हूँ।

पहले भाग में मैं अपने विद्यार्थी जीवन को साझा करूंगी, दूसरे भाग में इसी विश्वविद्यालय की अध्यापिका के रूप में संस्मरण। यदि वे पूरी यादें क्रमशः लिखी जाएँ तो न जाने कितने ग्रंथ बन जाएंगे ,यहां केवल कुछ बहुत विशिष्ट प्रेरणादायी और पुरातन समय की परिस्थितियाँ, वातावरण और आपसी सौहार्द की द्योतक स्मृतियाँ ही प्रतिपादित कर रही हूँ।

मैं मई, 1972 में अपने पिताजी के साथ तारघर से पैदल विधानसभा से चौड़ा मैदान वायसराय लॉज के नीचे जंगल के सुनसान रास्ते से समरहिल चौक पहुंची और वहां एक मंदिर, पोस्ट ऑफिस, कुछ गिनी-चुनी इमारतें, तथा टीन की छत वाले कमरे दिखे, फिर ऊपर पुरानी इमारत के पास पहुंचे जहां प्रशासनिक कार्यालय था। उसके साथ एक कैंटीन, लॉन और रास्ते के नीचे कुलपति निवास था। उसके पीछे कुलपति कार्यालय था। मेनयोर हाउस के पीछे डिस्पेंसरी थी और उस पुरानी इमारत में अध्यापकों के निवास थे। संस्कृत विभाग नीचे टीन की छत वाले दो कमरों में था और उसके सामने कक्षाएं लगती थी। अन्य विभाग भी वहीं थे। ऊपर एक पुरानी इमारत में अधिष्ठाता अध्ययन, अधिष्ठाता, छात्र कल्याण के कार्यालय भी थे। मैंने अपने गुरु जी से अपना फार्म हस्ताक्षरित करवाया पढ़ाई के लिए और लगा कि बहुत सुंदर प्राकृतिक स्थल है, फीस जमा की और वापिस शिमला चली गयी, बहुत शांत और अनुकूल स्थान है।

छात्रावास भी कुलपति कार्यालय के पास सड़क के ऊपर था, नाम था "चंद्रभागा" जो कि हमारी खूबसूरत कल-कल करती नदियों के नाम पर रखा गया था। वहां मुझे भी जगह मिल गई, बाहर एक पेड़ था, साथ में छोटी सी कैंटीन। छात्रावास में केवल 16 कमरे थे, जिसमें 50 के करीब छात्राएं रहती थीं और पीछे की ओर 10 कमरे बनाए गए थे। मुझे विश्वविद्यालय के विषय में बहुत कम जानकारी थी।



जून में मुझे यू.जी.सी. स्कॉलरशिप मिली उस समय में अनुदान गुण के आधार पर वितरित होने के कारण मेरा नंबर पहला था सो मुझे मिला, पर विश्वविद्यालय इसीलिए नहीं दे रहा था कि मैंने हिमाचल से एम. ए. नहीं की थी। हम अपनी समस्या लेकर तत्कालीन शिक्षा मंत्री जी के पास गए, उन्होंने कुलपति डॉ. आर॰ के॰ सिंह को फोन किया कि मैं एक छात्रा को आपके पास से भेज रहा हूँ, इसकी समस्या का समाधान करें, क्योंकि यहाँ उस समय छात्रावासों में सुविधा न होने के कारण इसे एम0 ए0 चंडीगढ़ से करनी पड़ी थी। फिर हम कुलपति जी के पास पहुंचे, मेरे साथ पिताजी थे। उस समय कुलपति जी अपने निवास स्थान पर थे, जैसे ही उन्हें हमारे आने की सूचना मिली उन्होंने हमें ऊपर अपने निवास पर ही बुला लिया। कार्यालय के पीछे से सीढ़ियाँ उनके निवास को जाती थीं। डॉ. सिंह अपनी पत्नी और अपनी बेटी गुज्जू के साथ रहते थे। हम वहां पहुंचे तो वे शीशे वाले एक छोटे से कमरे में बैठे थे। हमें वही अपने पास बिठा दिया, ऐसा लगता था कि वे हमें बरसों से जानते हों। उनकी विनम्रता देखकर हमारा सिर श्रद्धा से झुक गया। उन्होंने हमें बर्फी, काजू-बादाम के साथ चाय पान कराया और तुरंत मेरी समस्या का समाधान कराया। ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ कि हम एक घर के मुखिया से मिल रहे हैं। उनकी विनम्रता, विद्वता, प्रेमशीलता, अप्रतिम थी। उन्होंने इस विश्वविद्यालय का भरण-पोषण एक नव वृक्ष की भांति किया, जिसकी जड़ें उनके प्रयासों से बहुत मजबूत हुई और आज प्रदेश में ही नहीं, बाहर भी प्रख्यात विश्वविद्यालय बन गया है। यहां पर डॉ सिंह ने व्यक्तिगत रुचि लेकर हर विभाग की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाई।

यहाँ जरूर बताना चाहूंगी कि हर विभाग के अध्यक्ष बाह्य विश्वविद्यालय से चुन-चुन कर यहाँ लाए गए थे। हमारी अधिष्ठाता अध्ययन डॉ॰ भटनागर गणित के प्रख्यात प्रोफेसर एवं पुरस्कार विजेता थे। हिंदी के डॉ बच्चन सिंह, संस्कृत के डॉ बलदेव सिंह, इकोनॉमिक्स के डॉ डी डी नेरुला, राजनीतिक विभाग की डॉ॰ बी॰ रा॰ मेहता,

बायोसाइंस की डॉ॰ हरिओम अग्रवाल, केमिस्ट्री के डॉ के सी मल्होत्रा, हिस्ट्री के डॉ मेहरोत्रा, सभी विश्वविख्यात थे और इस विश्वविद्यालय की नींव को इन सब ने बहुत सुदृढ़ किया, जिसका फल आज की पीढ़ी प्राप्त कर रही है। उस समय विश्वविद्यालय का वातावरण पारिवारिक था, सब एक दूसरे को जानते पहचानते थे, प्रेम-पूर्वक संबंध थे और आपसी सद्भाव था। विद्यार्थी अपने गुरुजनों का बहुत आदर करते थे, उनकी आज्ञा का पालन करते थे। मुझे याद है कि एक बार वरिष्ठ अध्यापक ने अपने शोधार्थी को क्रुद्ध होकर थप्पड़ मार दिया था। कुछ लोगों ने उसे भड़काने का प्रयास किया, परंतु उसने कहा गलती मेरी थी, गुरु जी ने मुझे सुधारने का प्रयास किया माता-पिता भी अपने बच्चों को मारते हैं, गुरु जी भी पिता समान है। यह उस समय की गुरु-शिष्य परंपरा थी, जिसमें आज बहुत अधिक बदलाव आ गया है।

प्रारंभ में केवल तीन छात्रावास ही थे। छात्रों के लिए हिमकिरीट और ब्रेग हाउस तथा छात्राओं के लिए चंद्रभागा। नाम से अनुमान लगाइए कि विश्वविद्यालय का प्रकृति के साथ कितना जुड़ाव रहा है, बाद में मनीकरण को लड़कियों का छात्रावास बनवाया था। छात्र-छात्राओं का आपसी सद्भाव भी दर्शनीय था। होली, दीपावली सब इकट्ठे मिलकर मनाते थे। पार्टी कैंटीन के लॉन में हुआ करती थी। अध्यापक तथा संचालक-संचालिकाएं भी उस में भाग लेते थे। जब भी उत्सव होते थे तो भी कुलपति, वरिष्ठ अध्यापक सब अपने छात्र-छात्राओं का उत्साहवर्धन किया करते थे , हमारे साथ गायन-नृत्य में भी भाग लेते थे बहुत ही घरेलू माहौल था।

एक संस्मरण यह भी है कि सब छात्र-छात्राएं एक साथ मिलकर होली खेलने सबसे पहले कुलपति डॉ सिंह के घर जाकर होली लगाते, मिठाई खाते और उनसे पैसे लेते फिर सभी अध्यापकगणों को रंग लगाते थे। शाम को सब कैंटीन के पास एकत्र होकर नाच-गाना करते थे। वातावरण में समय के साथ-साथ परिवर्तन होता गया।

हमारा छात्रावास सड़क के किनारे था वहां से मार्ग प्रशासनिक शाखा तथा मनियर हाउस की ओर जाता था। छात्राएं कभी-कभी खिड़कियों से मजाक में कुछ कह कर छुप जाया करती थीं। एक प्रवक्ता थे, उनका निक नेम पप्पू था जब भी वह वहां से जाते थे, छात्राएं यह नाम लेकर उन्हें मजाक में पुकार कर चुप हो जाती थीं। वह

बेचारे ऊपर को देखकर जब कुछ नहीं देख पाते थे तो सिर झुका कर निकल जाते थे। छात्राएं ऐसी चंचल शरारतें करके मन बहलाती थीं ; क्योंकि छात्रावास के नियम काफी कठोर थे वह कभी उनका उल्लंघन नहीं करती थीं। डॉ सिंह ने छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए एस बी सी छात्रावास का निर्माण करवाया और उसके उद्घाटन में सभी छात्र-छात्राएं शामिल हुए थे। मिसेज सत्यवती परमार उस समय मुख्य अतिथि थी। डॉ सिंह की पुत्री गज्जू बहुत सुशील और मधुर भाषी थी। स्वयं डॉ सिंह शाम को घूमते थे और हर छात्र-छात्रा से बात करते थे। उनका कार्यकाल पूरा होने पर सब ने उन्हे भारी मन से विदाई दी और उनका ऋण इस विश्वविद्यालय पर सदैव रहेगा, क्योंकि उन्होंने इसे स्थापित करने में बहुत कठिन परिश्रम किया है।

हमारे कुलपति डॉ बी. ए. जोगी बने। हमारे यहां एक छोटा सा चिकित्सालय भी मेनेयरे हाउस के पास ही था जिसमें डॉ सुमन त्रेहन डेपुटेशन पर थी, वह भी बहुत अच्छी थी। छात्र-छात्राओं से बहुत प्रेम करती थी। और वह प्रकृति की भी बहुत प्रेमी थी। जब मैं पीएचडी कर रही थी, तब डॉ एल आर वर्मा हिम किरिट के संचालक थे और डॉ के सी मल्होत्रा डीन स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर थे। डॉ वर्मा की धर्मपत्नी सावित्री वर्मा के पिताजी हमारे परिवार को जानते थे, इसलिए डॉ वर्मा को मेरा लोकल गार्डियन बनाया गया था। मैं कई बार सावित्री दीदी के साथ हिमकिरीट में रहने आती थी। छात्र बहुत ही अनुशासित थे, कभी किसी ने एक भी शब्द नहीं कहा, न ही कभी आधुनिक काल की भांति कुछ कहने का प्रयास किया, ऐसा था उस समय का आचार-व्यवहार और शांतिपूर्ण वातावरण।

एक भयंकर दुखद संस्मरण बता रही हूँ। मई के महीने में मेनयोर हाउस, जहां आजकल प्रशासनिक भवन कार्यालय है, भयंकर आग लगी जिसमें डॉ एल पी पांडे जी की धर्मपत्नी जलकर खाक हो गई। डॉ मिस सुरेंद्र मान, डॉ चौहान डॉ हरिओम अग्रवाल, डॉ बलदेव सिंह जी के घर जलकर खाक हो गए। यह हादसा भी भयंकर था। एक बार मेरे एक शोध-छात्र का सरकारी कॉलेज के संस्कृत प्रवक्ता के रूप मे पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन में साक्षात्कार था। वह स्वर्ण पदक विजेता था, एम फिल मेरे साथ की थी वह मेरे पास आया, कहा कि आप किसी को कह सकते हैं, मैंने कहा बेटा अपना शोध कार्य साथ ले जाना, मैं आज ज्वाला माँ के दर्शन करने जा रही हूँ। कल तुम्हारे नाम से

प्रसाद चढ़ा दूंगी और तुम्हारी सफलता के लिए प्रार्थना करूंगी। उसी दिन उसका साक्षात्कार था। साक्षात्कारकर्ता उसके कार्य से बहुत प्रसन्न हुए और उसका चयन प्रथम स्थान पर हुआ। वह बहुत प्रसन्न था। आज भी बहुत आदर करता है।

शिक्षिका संचालिका आदि के संस्मरण

अब मेरा दूसरा अध्याय प्रारंभ होता है। मैंने पी एच डी सबमिट कर दी और 1977 मे कि मुझे डीसीसी पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम निदेशालय में प्रवक्ता के पद पर चयनित कर दिया गया। यहाँ पर हम दो प्राध्यापिकायें आईं थीं, डॉ उर्मिल शर्मा जी वहां पहले से काम कर रही थी। अब विश्वविद्यालय में छात्राओं की संख्या बढ़ने के कारण दो छात्रावास और खोल दिए गए एक मणिकरण, जिसमें हिंदी विभाग की डॉ रैना संचालिका थीं और नया छात्रावास गार्गी बन रहा था। एक चेरीटन बिल्डिंग भी छात्राओं के लिए ली गई थी। डॉ वर्मा ने मेरे भाई अरुण के पास मुझे संचालिका बनाने का पत्र भेज दिया और मैंने अपना किराए का घर छोड़कर चैरिटन में शिफ्ट कर दिया। वहाँ न कोई कैंटीन थी, न कोई गाड़ी आती जाती थी, पैदल का ही रास्ता था। वहां पर 40 से 50 छात्राओं के साथ मैं और मेरी माता जी आराम से रहने लगे। वहाँ अब देखिए समय का परिवर्तन, जोगी जी के कार्यकाल में बाहर के कुछ शरारती तत्त्व भी विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश कर गए थे। छात्रावासों का वातावरण भी परिवर्तित हो रहा था, संचालिकाओं को डराने-धमकाने का प्रचलन भी चल पड़ा था। कुछ छात्र-छात्रायें गलत हाथों में पड़ गए और छात्रावासों के नियमों को भी ताक पर रखा जाने लगा था।

मुझे याद है कि एक बार हिमकिरीट के वार्षिक उत्सव में संचालिका के साथ-साथ छात्राओं को भी आमंत्रित किया गया था। सब अधिष्ठाता, विभागाध्यक्ष तथा संचालकों को बुलाया गया था, क्योंकि प्रारंभ में संख्या काफी कम होती थी। मुख्य अतिथि कभी मंत्री तो कभी मुख्यमंत्री या अन्य गणमान्य बुलाए जाते थे। उस उत्सव में बहुत बढ़िया सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम की प्रस्तुति की गई, यहां तक कि प्राध्यापकों ने भी उस में भाग लिया। विभाग के वरिष्ठ प्रो बी आर चौहान ने गाना गाया "अभी तो मैं जवान हूँ", तथा झूम झूम कर नाचे सब विद्यार्थी हंस हंस के लोटपोट हो रहे थे।



हिमाचल प्रदेश के पूर्व गवर्नर प्रो0 विष्णुकांत शास्त्री एवं पूर्व कुलपति प्रो एस के गुप्ता



प्रो० विद्या शारदा को सम्मानित करते हुए



प्रीति भोज के दौरान श्री राधा रमन शास्त्री



प्रसिद्ध गणितज्ञ प्रो भटनागर छात्रावास के दौरे पर

मैंने उनके हाथों छात्रावास का उद्घाटन करवाया। अब हमारे कुलपति डॉ॰ एस एल नेगी जी बन गए थे, वे मेरे काम से बहुत खुश थे। मैंने सारे नियमों का अच्छी प्रकार से अध्ययन किया । छोटा छात्रावास था, छात्राएं भी 50-60 के करीब थीं। उन्हें एकत्र करके समझाया कि इन नियमों से कोई समझौता नहीं होगा, आपको उनका पालन करना पड़ेगा बाकी यह मेरा एक परिवार है, मैं आप सबको अपनी बहनों की तरह समझती हूं, मिलकर



प्रो० नरेंद्र शारदा एवं प्रो० विद्या शारदा, मित्रों के संग



पूर्व राष्ट्रपति, श्री शंकर दयाल शर्मा एवं प्रूव कुलपति प्रो० के सी मल्होत्रा



प्रो० विद्या शारदा, पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री, श्री शांता कुमार जी के साथ



पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री, श्री वीरभद्र जी के साथ

अनुशासित ढंग से रहेंगे, जिससे आप अपने उद्देश्य की प्राप्ति कर सको। मैंने छात्रावास के काम को सुचारू रूप से चलाने और छात्राओं के प्रतिनिधित्व के रूप में एक प्रिफ़ैक्ट बनाया उसका नाम था परमजीत जो बहुत गुणी और सुयोग्य लड़की थी। मुझे याद है कि एक दिन एक खूब लंबा-चौड़ा लड़का परमजीत को मिलने आया। शाम का समय था, मिलने का समय खत्म हो गया था, चौकीदार ने रिपोर्ट किया कि मैडम यह बहुत बड़ा दादा है और कह रहा कि मुझे अपनी बहन से मिलना है, मैंने कहा कि उसे मेरे पास ऊपर बुलाओ मैं बात करुँगी। बेचारा चौकीदार

घबराया हुआ गया लड़का आया और मैंने उसे बिठाया और छात्रावास के नियम बताए कहने लगा कि मैडम हम तो कभी भी किसी से भी मिल लेते थे। मैंने कहा देखो भाई ऐसा यहां नहीं चलेगा, नियम, नियम हैं, उनका उल्लंघन दंडनीय है, फिर मैंने उसे चाय पिलाई, समझाया और उसे मिलने के लिए छात्रा को दो मिनट के लिए अपने सामने बुलाया और आगे के लिए उसने स्वयं कहा कि मैडम हो हमेशा नियम के पालन में हम आपका साथ देंगे, आज के लिए क्षमा करना। मेरे पास एक लड़की सोलंकी थी, उसने चंद्रभागा से शिफ्ट किया था। एक रात को घूमता हुआ एक महानुभाव हॉस्टल में घुस गया। मैंने उसको स्वयं बाहर निकाला और उसकी शिकायत चीफ वार्डन और छात्र-कल्याण अधिष्ठाता से लिखित रूप में की वह लड़की बिना छुट्टी की अर्जी दिए हॉस्टल से गायब थी। मैंने रात को ही उसके माता-पिता को सूचित किया और उसके विषय में सब कुछ लिख कर हायर अथॉरिटीज को दे दिया। उसके भाई को बुलाया और पता चला कि वह लड़की स्मगलर गैंग में फंसी हुई है। शारीरिक शिक्षा के अध्यापक डॉ मही होते थे उन्होंने उसे फंसाया था बाद में वह शक्स विश्वविद्यालय छोड़कर पाकिस्तान भाग गया था। मुझे बड़ी धमकियां मिलती थी, ऐसी जगह मारेंगे जहां पानी भी नहीं मिलेगा। मैंने कहा हिम्मत है, तो सामने आओ, मैं अनुशासनहीनता कभी सहन नहीं करूंगी। मुझे ऐसा लगा कि शरारती तत्त्वों को कठोरता से ही नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है परंतु जो दादा छात्र थे, समझाने से ही समझ गए थे। उसके बाद लगभग डेढ़ वर्ष वहां छात्रावास चला, कभी कोई घटना नहीं घटी, किसी ने कभी नियमों का उल्लंघन नहीं किया। फिर एक नया छात्रावास बना, जिसका नाम गार्गी रखा गया और मिसेज रैना को उसकी संचालिका बनाया गया। चेरीटन को मनीकरन में शिफ्ट किया गया । मुझे वहां की संचालिका बनाया गया और वहां मेरे लिए निवास तैयार किया गया जो कमरा पहले वहां का अतिथि रूम था उसके साथ दो कमरे और किचन बनाया गया, एक कमरा नीचे की मंजिल में था । जब मैं वहां गई तो वहां भी परिसर में नियमों का खुला उल्लंघन होता था, परंतु मैंने जाते ही अपने अनुसार कर्मचारी वर्ग और छात्राओं को अनुशासित किया और बाहर के लोग भी थोड़ा डरने लगे, क्योंकि उन्हें पता था कि नियमों का उल्लंघन महँगा पड़ सकता था। मेरे साथ निडर और निर्भय डॉ बलदेव सिंह जैसे स्वाभिमानी और अनुशासन-पालक का आशीर्वाद और मेरे भाई का साथ था ।

मेरा विवाह मार्च 1978 में हुआ और मेरे पति विश्वविद्यालय में ही कार्यरत थे तथा उन्हें विश्वविद्यालय के नियम और कानून की पूर्ण जानकारी थी, इसलिए वहां का वातावरण ठीक करने में ज्यादा समय नहीं लगा। भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति करजई मेरे भाई के सहपाठी थे। मेरे घर कई बार आए थे, अब वही राष्ट्रपति बनकर हमारे विश्वविद्यालय में आए तो उन्हें छात्रावासों की पूरी यादें थीं। छात्रावासों में हर वर्ष दो बहुत बड़े-बड़े उत्सव हुआ करते थे। एक नई छात्राओं के आने पर और एक पुरानी छात्राओं के जाने पर। मुख्यमंत्री या मंत्री या गणमान्य व्यक्ति मुख्य अतिथि होते थे।

वर्ष में एक बार सब छात्राएं मिलकर एक दिन पिकनिक पर जाती थीं। पूरा कर्मचारी वर्ग भी हमारे साथ जाता था। खाना, फल, नाश्ते में ब्रेड और रोलज़ सब साथ लेकर जाते थे। दो बसें साथ निकलती थी। रेणुका मणिकरण के नारे लगाती नाचती-गाती, अंताक्षरी प्रतियोगिता करती लड़कियां, बहुत आनंद मनाती थी। चाय-पान, रात का खाना, मार्ग में खाया करते थे। लगता था कि हमारा एक बेहद खुश परिवार है, जिसके सदस्य एक-दूसरे से बहुत अधिक प्रेम करते हैं, एक दूसरे का ध्यान रखते हैं। मैं सभी छात्राओं को अपने घर के सदस्य की भांति बहुत अधिक प्रेम करती थी। एक बार मणिकरण की एक छात्रा बहुत बीमार हो गई थीं। उसका रात को ही ऑपरेशन करना पड़ा मैंने फार्म पर हस्ताक्षर करके स्वीकृति दी और छात्रा की जान बचाई उसके माता-पिता जब तक पहुंच पाए तब तक वह होश में आ गई थी। मैस, छात्राएं स्वयं चलाती थी। ऑडिट कमेटी उसका निरीक्षण करती थी और कोई भी बेइमानी कभी नहीं होती थी।

अब रही दो छात्रावासों के कर्मचारी वर्ग की बात। सभी कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति में मेरी सहमति को हमेशा प्रमुखता दी गई। मुझे कुलपति से लेकर प्रमुख संचालक तक सभी का भरपूर सहयोग मिलता था और हमारा कर्मचारी वर्ग एक वृहद परिवार का प्रमुख अंग था, वे छात्रावास के कार्य के साथ-साथ अपने अध्ययन की प्रेरणा पाकर सब उच्च पदों को प्राप्त करने में सक्षम हुए और मैस से प्रशासनिक कार्यालय में अपनी योग्यता के अनुसार पदों को प्राप्त करके सेवानिवृत्त हुए। आपको खुशी होगी कि हमारे द्वारा विश्वविद्यालय में लगाए गए योग्य लोग, योजना एवं विकास अधिकारी के पद तक भी पहुंच गए, उन्होंने अध्ययन के क्षेत्र में भी कठिन परिश्रम किया।

दोनों छात्रावासों की प्रारंभिक और वार्षिक उत्सव दर्शनीय होते थे। छात्राओं के गुण रंगमंच पर दिखाई देते थे। मनमोहक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम, खानपान का बहुत बढ़िया आयोजन, अतिथियों, छात्राओं सब को मोहित करने वाला होता था। पूरे विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में दो-चार दिन प्रशंसा के प्रवचन निरंतर सुनने को मिलते तो हमारा मन प्रसन्न होता था। सब का संचालन छात्राएं स्वयं किया करती थी। हमारे छात्रावास परिसर में माननीय राज्यपाल श्रीमती रमा देवी जी ने एक छोटे से कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर का उद्घाटन किया था और बाद में हमारे सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रुप में छात्राओं की मनोरम प्रस्तुतियों का आनंद लिया था, छात्राओं की मननोहक प्रस्तुतियों से मन प्रफुल्लित होता था, लगता था कि मेरे वृहद परिवार की बेटियों की प्रशंसा इस विश्वविद्यालय की प्रगति में दुआ बनेंगी।

छात्राओं और कर्मचारियों का प्रेम मुझे कभी विस्मृत नहीं होगा। आज भी मुझे भूले नहीं है, जब छात्राओं का एक नया छात्रावास रेणुका बना, तब कुलपति डॉ सिन्हा ने मुझे उसकी भी संचालिका बना दिया उसकी पूजा स्वयं मेरे हाथों हुई और उद्घाटन तत्कालीन मुख्यमंत्री श्री वीरभद्र सिंह जी ने किया था। कितने वर्ष दोनों हॉस्टल का मैस इकट्ठा चला। दस वर्ष रेणुका की भी संचालिका रही। कुल 20 वर्ष मैं इस पद पर रही जो अपने आप में एक रिकॉर्ड है और एक उल्लेखनीय संस्मरण भी है। एक बार एक लंबे कद वाले नीले कपड़े पहने प्रभावशाली व्यक्ति घर के ऊपर सड़क पर आए और बात करने लगे मैंने उन्हें कभी नहीं देखा था फिर उन्होंने कहा कि मैं गवर्नर हूं सोचा कि आज अचानक अपनी बेटियों के छात्रावासों का दौरा करूं। मैंने अभिवादन किया उन्हें सारे छात्रावास दिखाए। हमने रेणुका मनीकरन के इर्द-गिर्द खूब फूल लगाए थे। काफी खुश हुए कुछ देर रुकने के बाद वापस चले गए। उनकी सादगी और निस्वार्थ कर्मठता देखकर नई प्रेरणा मिली। इतने बड़े पद पर आसीन व्यक्ति पैदल राजभवन से चलकर छात्रावास पहुंचे। वहां की व्यवस्था स्वयं देखना इतनी महानता की प्रतिमूर्ति थे राज्यपाल के॰ एस॰ गांधी जी। 1983 में गार्गी की एक छात्रा ने कमरे में आत्महत्या कर ली। मनीकरण की छात्राओं ने देखा कि वहां बहुत अधिक मक्खियां लगी हैं, उन्होंने शिकायत की। संचालिका को बताया और कमरा खुलवाया तो अंदर लड़की मृत पाई गई थी। मुझे कुलपति जी ने बुलाया और उसका पता लिया क्योंकि एक वर्ष वह मेरे पास रेणुका में भी थीं उसके माता-पिता को बुलाया और फिर वहां परिसर में एक डर का वातावरण था। दोनों छात्रावास की छात्राओं की सभा में कुछ धार्मिक अनुष्ठान करने का फैसला लिया गया और मनीकरन में गायत्री

महायज्ञ करवाया जिसमें सात पंडित कॉमन रूम में दिन को पाठ, शाम को पूजा करते थे। अंत मे हवन हुआ और सब को भोजन कराया गया और वहां डर का माहौल भी नियंत्रित हो गया।

प्रवक्ता के रूप में जब मैं विभाग में आई तो अनेक कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा शोध छात्रों के विषय पास करवाने, परीक्षक नियुक्ति आदि में प्रारंभ में काफी संघर्ष करना पड़ा।

एक वृतांत बताती हूं, मेरे एक शोध-छात्र ने "वाल्मीकि रामायण में कलाएं" नामक शीर्षक पर काम किया जब परीक्षण के लिए एक परीक्षक के पास गया तो उन्होंने आर॰डी॰सी॰ को ही गलत सिद्ध कर दिया कि रामायण काल्पनिक है। इस पर तो शोध हो ही नहीं सकता । इसका आधार ही गलत है । अब सोचिए कि हमारी शिक्षा किस दिशा की ओर जा रही थी। कुलपति प्रोफेसर के॰सी॰ मल्होत्रा के कार्यकाल में वह मुझे बार बार पूछते थे कि तुम ऐसा क्या करती हो कि जिससे दो छात्र संगठन ए॰बी॰वी॰पी॰ और एन॰एस॰यू॰आई॰ तुम्हारा बहुत सम्मान करते हैं, और तुम्हें स्नेह करते हैं और तुम्हारे विषय में अच्छा बोलते हैं।

मैंने उत्तर दिया सर में हमेशा छात्राओं को सच का आईना दिखाने का प्रयास करती हूँ। संस्कृत में मैंने अपने विभाग में पहली बार डेटा पर आधारित और प्रश्नावली भरवा कर शोध कार्य करवाए, जिनकी काफी प्रशंसा की गई थी। याद है कि एक बार एक महानुभाव ने मेरी शिकायत कुलपति महोदय से की थी कि इसे पढ़ाना नहीं आता। कुलपति ने स्वयं कक्षा के बाहर खड़ा होकर मेरा पूरा व्याख्यान सुना और उन महोदय को डांटा और स्वयं मुझे से यह बात बताई। कुछ राजनीति से प्रेरित छात्र विरोध करते थे परंतु छात्राएं हर संगठन की बहुत आदर करती थीं। विरोधी भी काम की प्रशंसा किया करते थे ।

ऐसे बहुत संस्मरण है आज बहुत खुशी होती है, हमारे संरक्षण और संपर्क में रहे सभी विद्यार्थी देश-प्रदेश में बहुत ऊंचे ऊंचे पदों पर हैं, कोई खेलकूद में उच्च पद प्राप्त किए हैं, बहुत सारी छात्राएं प्रिंसिपल बन गईं है। कुछ सेवानिवृत्त भी हो गई हैं। राजनीति में चमकते सितारे देश- प्रदेश, यहां तक कि विदेश में भी ख्याति प्राप्त किए हैं, उन्हें देखकर गर्व से सिर ऊंचा होता है और उनका आदर भाव देख कर बहुत संतोष प्राप्ति होती है। वे उच्च पदों पर आसीन होकर भी साधारण लोगों की सेवा करते हैं।

अंतिम संस्मरण के बाद में अपनी लेखनी को विराम दूंगी। मुझे एकीकृत हिमालयन अध्ययन संस्थान की निर्देशिका नियुक्त किया गया । उसी संस्थान में बहुत सारी समस्याएं थीं, हर व्यक्ति का वहाँ विरोध किया जाता था। जब मैं वहां पहली बार गई तो सारे हताश शेर की भांति छोटे कमरे में बैठे थे। मैं गई, थोड़े नाराज से लग रहे थे। नमस्कार हुआ और मैंने अपने ऑफिस के लोगों को कहा कि इस छोटे कमरे में मेरा ऑफिस सेट करो, मैं यहां बैठूंगी, लंच के बाद आऊंगी यह कहकर मैं चली गई। तीन दिन बाद सब की सभा बुलाई, परिचय दिया, जानती तो मैं सब को पहले से ही थी, मुझे लगा इतने कम वेतन में इन सब की गृहस्थी चलना मुश्किल है, इसलिए यह हताश हैं और उस हताशा के कारण इनका व्यवहार ऐसा है। इन कर्मचारीयों सहित 32 लोगों के हित के लिए रात-दिन प्रयत्न किया और उसमें सफलता भी मिली, जिसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि जब मैं इस पद से भारमुक्त हुई तो इन सब की आंखें नम थीं और इनकी दी हुई माता की मूर्ति आज भी निरंतर मेरी आंखों के सामने रहती है। जितना आदर और प्रेम सब प्रकार की विचारधाराओं से ऊपर उठकर मुझे मिला है, वह अविस्मरणीय है, फिर वहां किए गए बहुत सारे कार्यक्रम आज भी याद आते हैं। शकरोड़ी में लागू की गई मायची योजना एक अनूठी पहल थी। यहाँ से पूरे संस्थान के कार्यरत कर्मचारी दो गाड़िया ले कर शकरोड़ी गए। वहाँ पर आंवला आदि के पौधे मँगवाए गए थे और पूरे गाँव के लोग वहाँ एकत्र थे। हमने मायची योजना का परिचय दिया था। मायची का अर्थ है मायके से संबधित, छोटी बचियों को पौधों का वितरण किया और उन्हें समझाया गया कि आप इसे अपने मायके के खेतों मेँ लगाना। इसका पालन-पोषण करना, विवाह के बाद माता-पिता-भाई इसकी रक्षा करेंगे, क्योंकि इसका संबंध तुम्हारे से था। सब की संवेदनाए उस वृक्ष के साथ जुड़ी होंगी। इसे प्रकृति के प्रति प्रेम का भी वर्धन होगा। एक बार डिस्कवरी चेन्नल वालों ने भी संस्थान और यहाँ की झलकियाँ उस चैनल पर भी दिखाई थी।

ऐसी अनेक यादें हैं जो पटल पर भरी रहती हैं। हम यादें बटोरते हैं। यादें हमेशा दुख में भी सुख का अहसास कराती हैं मेरी दुआ है कि दिन दूनी रात चौगुनी उन्नति करे मेरा प्यारा विश्वविद्यालय। इसके विकास की गति कभी ना रुके, विद्यामंदिर के प्रवेश द्वार पर ही हर बुराई मिट जाए, अच्छे संस्कार हर एक में उभरकर बाहर आयें ।

The Indelible Romance of Summerhill

-Jayanti Dutta
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I have met many people who regret studying in small state universities and lament that being in acclaimed universities in metropolitan cities would have given them great exposure and opportunities. Compared to them I have always felt a sense of gratitude for having studied in Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) and having spent my impressionable years in the sylvan campus of Summerhill.

The early 90s were to be the last of the years in human history, when students' were still un-trapped by the web and were able to retain their naivety, inexperience and innocuousness. Little things could bring joy. Those were the years I spent in Summerhill, a campus seeped in the regional culture of Himachal, with conspicuous remnants of the British era and having a fiery students' politics.

The years were a whirlwind of activities- freshers' welcome, student elections, excursions, seniors' farewell- which gave us hands on training in organisation, event management, and team work. There was a lot of planning to do, finances to be managed, creative ideas to be thought of, smooth implementation and wrapping up. It was during these events that we learnt the skills which we used the most in our working careers. It was here that I made lifelong friends and found great fulfilment in my friendships.

There was romance and mystery all around. Cursive glances, half uttered sentences, a kind deed, an unexpected smile, a longing look- were enough to send our hearts aflutter. Perhaps it is the same for all young people, everywhere in the world, but Summerhill gave it a special twist, with the murmur of the ancient deodars, the scent of resin in the air, the mist and the fog, it was the perfect romantic novel setting. The indelible experience did make us die-hard romantics and helped us survive with our souls intact as we later stepped into the dark pessimistic real world.

Most fondly, I remember the walk from Boileauganj to Summerhill and back. The bus ride cost one rupee but most of the time I would give it a miss. Walking that pathway meandering through the slopes of the hill with the Viceregal Lodge at the crest- was a kind of meditation. During April and May there were wild flowers on

the slopes, the Rhododendrons bloomed to create a riot in red, during the rainy seasons mushrooms, fungus and snapdragon made their presence known and the snowy winters brought the starkness of the landscape. On that path, as I walked solitarily, I had mulled over myriad philosophical questions, encountered existential angst, noted down lines of poetry swirling in my head or just marvelled on the beauty of nature which I felt blessed to behold. On some days friends accompanied me and we discussed all things under the sky from idealistic dreams to ghost stories of Shimla. Those walks have been the most cherished possession of my Summerhill days.

The library was another place which sheltered me in its warm embrace of ideas, tales, words and thoughts, while preparing me intellectually for the challenges I had to face. I would borrow the maximum number of books which were allowed on my student card and most of the time these were not my subject books. I read voraciously and was joyous for the vast and varied collection at my disposal. The library staff was always welcoming and never frowned on my frequent borrowings. By the third year of my studies I discovered another floor in the library with shelves full of old classics and I felt as if I have chanced upon a treasure trove. I have never read as many books as I read during my years in Summerhill.

Learning was never a burden whether in the classrooms or in the laboratories. Teachers were thorough, serious about studies, taught diligently and were quirky and warm. Their impressions still hold true in my heart and mind. We hardly bothered about the designation of the teachers or their hierarchy but we were very sensitive to the issue of teachers handling each student equally. Any whiff of favouritism in a teacher was enough to make him/her fall from their pedestal of respect.

Overall my years in HPU have brought me great joy of learning along with training me in the rigours of academics, instilling in me a basic honesty in conduct and teaching me the lessons one learns spontaneously while in consonance with nature. I believe, it was because Summerhill was an island in itself, untouched by the tentacles of commercial and market forces, faraway from metropolitan noises and in competition with none other than its own self.

Those were the Days ……. A Treasure for Ever

Prof. Pankaj K Singh
(Retd.) Professor, Department of English, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla



July 1973. Along with a couple of friends, I reached the university campus at Summerhill at the beginning of the teaching session. A little curious and excited, beginning a new phase in our academic career, but also a bit timid and unsure—would there be ragging by the seniors, what would the faculty be like, what are the expectations from us and so on.

Established in 1970, Himachal Pradesh University was just three years old when I joined M. A. in English at Summerhill. It was mainly a campus for Arts and Social Sciences departments, while other departments were housed in various other institutions in the town. Most of the concrete blocks had yet to appear on the site. It was a small campus nestled in the lap of lush green nature. The classes were held in the improvised shed-like rooms while the Head of the Department and the rest of the faculty were confined to two small wooden cabins, but whose windows opened on to the panoramic view of green hills in the distance. Not far from the language Departments the Library was housed in a small double storey building, and Santoshji's smiling presence at the circulation desk was such an integral part of this place exuding warmth. An antique looking wooden structure on the top of the hill was the Registrar's office (where now stands the imposing structure of University Library), and the road winding up from the Departments to the Registrar's office was dotted on the hillside on the left with wild dahlias, cosmos and other wild flowers. A perfect environment for learning, for intellectual growth—a veritable Santiniketan in the quiet of the hills!

A few days in the Department and we felt so happy and relaxed (though a bit daunted to see the bulk of the curriculum). Our seniors were very friendly and encouraging. No ragging or rudeness at all. We just had an Introduction session with them where we were asked about our earlier places of education and about our hobbies, etc. and if some of us were willing only they were asked to sing or perform something.

And so were our teachers, very accessible and encouraging. The Head of the English Department was Dr. Kalyan K. Chatterjee, who had a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and had spent seven years in USA before he joined Himachal University in 1971. Professor R. K. Singh, the first Vice Chancellor of HPU, had

invited eminent scholars (many of them with international experience) to head various departments of the university to lay its solid academic foundation and to make merit central to its evolution. They also brought a broad world view to academics and to life due to their first-hand experience of international academic institutions and societies.

What a delight it was to attend Dr. Chatterjee's classes, with a right mix of knowledge, insights and humour. He would assimilate vast information and then simplify it for his students. He would offer rare insights into the subject under discussion. A genius he was and wonderful as a human being, a large hearted soul, ever encouraging and helpful.

Not only our faculty members were kind and encouraging, even our esteemed Vice Chancellor, Professor R.K. Singh, was quite unassuming and accessible. He would just take a stroll around the campus and if he found any students sitting idle during classes' time, he would check with them why their class was not being held. We used to invite him to our Department's Welcome and Farewell parties which were usually held in the town at Grand Hotel near Kali Bari temple, and he always joined as he said he enjoyed the get-togethers of English Department. When we were in third semester he got long delayed for the Welcome party due to some urgent meeting. After waiting for a while we started with our events as planned. Late in the evening after around two hours we suddenly noticed the Vice Chancellor reclining against the door and smilingly watching our activities. The photographer had left by then and we were nearly coming close to our revelry but he stayed with us till the end.

It was a world marked by dedication, commitment and simplicity. The elections to SCA (Students' Central Association) were not held under the banner of political parties. The elections were peaceful, marked by healthy competition with the contestants distributing merely small printed slips for canvassing.

If I continued my studies at the University after M.A. and had a fulfilling span of 39 years of teaching and research guidance at the campus (1976-2015) the credit goes to my parents who didn't push me into matrimony despite frequent proposals, and to Dr. Chatterjee. After completing M.A., I was feeling a little fatigued due to the excessive hard work I had put in for two years and I had decided not to join M. Phil., a course introduced in the University only a year ago in 1974. My elder brother Vinay Kumar Khanna (who too became a Professor of English in the University and retired in 2012 as Principal, Centre for Evening Studies, and who also contributed immensely all through to my intellectual growth), told Dr. Chatterjee, who was his Ph.D. Supervisor, that I was not seeking admission in M. Phil.

My revered teacher got alarmed. He vaguely knew where we lived but he located our house in Marina Annexe and spoke to me and my father, Dr. Ved Paul Khanna, that I should not think of getting married yet (a friend of mine had got engaged recently) but pursue my studiesfurther as students like me, he again insisted, should run the Department. My father of course said it was all up to me to decide and he would be happy if I studied further. He of course didn't need any convincing. He himself was pursuing Ph.D. from Punjab University at the time of Partition in 1947. Many of his resources were left behind in Lahore which he procured by post once things settled down, which delayed the submission of his thesis. His was the first study of evolution of Hindi drama from 1880 to 1940s and he was awarded Ph.D. in 1951. (Interestingly, even a Ph.D. in Hindi those days had to be written in English and the thesis used to be sent to England for evaluation. Later he himself translated it into Hindi and published as *Hindi Natak ka Alochnatmak Adhyayan* in 1956). How fortunate I was to be born to parents who valued education!

A few days later I was at the campus again seeking admission to M.Phil. and my emotional bonding with serene Summerhill resumed. It was virtually free from air or noise pollution, except for the occasional hooter of the train below at the railway station. Apart from the two university buses hardly 4-5 buses came to Summerhill. Most of the students commuted by train between Shimla and Summerhill, whenever the train coming from Kalka was late, the Summerhill station became a great rendezvous site, with friends giggling and joking while strolling on the platform. Walking back to Shimla had a pleasure of its own, particularly in the months of March and April when the jungle between IIAS and Summerhill seemed aflame with the crimson bounty of Rhododendron flowers.

Mercifully it was an era free from mobile phones and online communication and the Summerhill campus was a perfect place for human bonding: with seniors, juniors and classmates and even with teachers. With some of my esteemed teachers and their families I built lifelong family bonding; with Dr. Chatterjee, with Dr. B.S. Pathania and even with Dr. Bachchan Singh, Dean of Studies and Professor and Head of Hindi Department. An eminent critic of Hindi literature, he was widely read in other literatures too. The names of Derrida and Foucault, the renowned French philosophers and literary critics, I had first heard from him. He too was always very encouraging and inspiring.

The Supreme Consciousness probably saw how much peace and joy I felt being there that it made sure that I never leave the campus. Last week of August 1976, the Head of the Department, Dr. B.K. Tripathy, called me to his office and told me that since I was getting JRF I was supposed to teach some classes. I had yet to submit my M.Phil. Dissertation so I wanted a little time, but since Dr. Chatterjee had left to join as Professor at Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, I was asked to teach linguistics and some other texts that he used to teach and

was asked to start teaching from the Thursday of that week. Well, that being an auspicious day, my birthday, when I completed 22 years, I readily agreed. And lo, there began another phase of life long family bonding, now with my students, many of whom excelled in the University itself—Dr. Girija Sharma, the first woman academic to have the distinction of becoming Dean of Studies, Dr. Meenakshi F. Paul, Principal of Centre for Evening Studies, Dr. Rekha Sharma, Dean Faculty of Languages and Dr. Neelima Kanwar of ICDEOL who took over as Director of Australian & New Zealand Studies after my retirement.

All my prayers for a glorious future for the University which blessed me with infinite joy, peace and fulfilment all my life!



Our Welcome Party, August 1973
Seated on chairs: in the centre Vice Chancellor Professor R.K.Singh, on his right Dr. Kalyan K. Chatterjee, onhis left Dr. B.S. Pathania



Farewell to our seniors, May 1974
Seated on chairs: in the centre Vice Chancellor Professor R.K. Singh, on his right Dr. G.R. Sud, Dr B.S. Pathania, on his left Dr R.K. Seth and his wife. The Chairman Dr. B.K. Tripathy can be seen at the top standing behind the last row of boys

Unparalleled Teaching Learning Process: My Teachers Went Beyond Teaching

-Kiran Devendra
Former Prof & HoD, Department of Elementary Education,
National Council of Education Research & Training, New Delhi
&
Former Prof. & HoD, Department of History, Amity School of Liberal Arts
Amity University Haryana, Gurgaon



I have always felt proud of my Alma Mater, Himachal Pradesh University (HPU). The vision of its founder Vice Chancellor Prof RK Singh to invite the teachers who were the best in their subjects made us confident to accept challenges, academic and intellectual. I was a student of History (I continue to be one today). I wish to acknowledge with gratitude that it makes me feel proud that I was an ordinary student of Prof SR Mehrotra, his wife Dr Eva Mehrotra and Prof. Ravinder Kumar. Many of us might have forgotten that Dr Eva Mehrotra taught with dedication accepting an honorarium of rupee one till her retirement. The department owes so much to both of them. Prof Mehrotra used to carry a number of books for us from the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies to ensure that we prepared for the exams from standard books. HPU was the first university to introduce semester system. Prof Mehrotra and Ma'am helped us to accept it mentally and prepare well.



It was Prof Mehrotra who brought Prof Ravinder Kumar to head the Department of History. Both Prof Mehrotra and Ma'am dedicated themselves to teaching and research. Prof Ravinder Kumar was able to provide academic leadership to the department with dedication. I learnt from my teachers to work hard with commitment, the value of participatory teaching and always striving to learn more. They never bragged about their knowledge and achievements.

I tried to be like my teachers in my different assignments in Punjabi University, Patiala where Prof Amrik Singh and experts selected me as Assistant Professor for the Department of History, not because I was brilliant but

because I was a student of Prof Mehrotra and Prof Ravinder Kumar, in Teen Murti Library where I worked with Madam Aruna Asaf Ali, in MHRD when I worked for the National Perspective Plan for Women and later for 23 years in NCERT. I was taken seriously because of my teachers, and my training under them. This was true for National University of Educational Planning and Administration and Amity University Haryana where I worked after my superannuation!

My national and international exposure made me realise how great my teachers were and that I would never be able to rise to the level of my teachers in terms of their exceptional contribution to enrich the academic world. I feel proud that I am a student of my teachers. I owe a lot to HPU which got the best of teachers for its students and provided a well-stocked Library within a year of its inception with an introduction of an Inter Library Loan facility and purchase of the best standard books, journals, magazines and newspapers within the shortest time period.

The students, faculty and staff were picked up from different points in Shimla from the first day of the academic session and dropped back as well.

Prof SR Mehrotra

I became his student in 1974 to do Masters in the Department of History. He had returned from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University. I was totally unaware as how well accomplished a historian he was. I learnt from him gradually the best of academic traditions and knew that it would always be a matter of pride and satisfaction for me to have been his student.

Teaching was his passion, being well organised was his habit. He encouraged each one of us to do well academically. He never looked tired, had a typically British Professor's style of delivering lectures with research cards. He never forgot to smile. Each one of us was trying to focus, many a times without blinking our eyes! He never gave notes. We learnt to make our own. I learnt from him to encourage my students to make their own.

When I joined Punjabi University, Patiala as its faculty, I wanted to be like Prof. Mehrotra, never going to a class without preparing, engaging the students, trying to understand them by maintaining a regular eye contact. I also learnt that as a teacher one needed to have patience with questions from students, even if, they were irrelevant or untimely or because ‘as a teacher I had just started building up a convincing argument!’ This helped me at a young age to understand and get comfortable with participatory teaching, realising that students can contribute to meaningful classroom interactions and, build a healthy rapport, essential part for teaching learning process and pedagogy.

I remember his concern for my health. Prof. Mehrotra was upset that I had missed my classes for a week. He said to me with a smile, 'Kiran, you need to be regular, this is a semester system!' When I informed him that I had very high fever and the university bus had stopped coming to pick up students from Auckland House bus stop. He literally ran to the Vice Chancellor's office, to question, 'I want to know whether the university buses are plying for our students? Your answer should be yes. Please instruct your administration that no student should be deprived of his/her right to avail the University transport facility, with an instruction that my student Kiran Sharma should be allowed to travel from today itself. The bus should pick her up from and drop her back at Auckland House stop only!' It is so fresh in my mind.

I learnt that one needs to take a stand and be firm about it. I tried doing it for my students in Punjabi University, Patiala and at Amity University. When I was in NCERT, I never forgot to support my younger faculty and staff.

The difficulty, with which Prof. Mehrotra wrote his research-based books, considering his recurrent surgeries for Retinal detachment and his breathing issues, gave me hope that I too can keep making an effort. He gave me strength whenever I felt disheartened. I learnt to publish for intellectual satisfaction, not to increase the number of papers or books, but was concerned with the quality of whatever I did.

Prof. Mehrotra always took pride in telling university people, judges, and senior administrators that 'Anand has made Himachal known to the world. He is not an upstart but has been in politics as a student leader who communicates so well because he is well read'. He used to get emotional narrating his visit to Anand's office when he was Commerce & Industry Minister. He used to remember fondly, 'Anand interacted with me in his office for more than an hour, noticed my nearly torn plastic bag, quietly took it to keep it on the table, put all my papers and books in a new leather conference bag. He folded my plastic bag to keep it in the new bag. I felt so proud and was overwhelmed as he saw me off'.

Every year when I came to see Prof. Mehrotra, he never let me go without a warm hug, cups of black tea with orange and honey to take care of my fatigue. I was not able to visit him in the summer of 2017. I prepared myself mentally by thinking that even at the age of 88, Prof. Mehrotra could travel to interview people, for getting documents and information and consult libraries in Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta! He also used to type books Chapters, Research Articles and Books himself with an unlimited number of Retina surgeries. I did meet him in September 2017. Thank you, Prof. Mehrotra, for being my loving, inspiring and a learned teacher! I will always miss your presence.



Prof Ravinder Kumar

Prof. Kumar took over from Prof Mehrotra as Head of History Department. I was initially registered for PhD with Prof Mehrotra. I became Prof. Kumar's Ph.D Scholar. I had known Prof Mehrotra for three-four years. I went to Prof. Kumar's office to know the reason for the change of my supervisor. Prof Mehrotra was sitting with him in his office. He said 'Prof Kumar will be the best person to guide. He is an internationally renowned historian. He has come from the Australian National University after teaching there for years. He will be good and caring'.

Within a month, I was comfortable with Prof. Kumar. Prof Mehrotra gradually withdrew from History Department. He began to focus on his books, lectures and talks in the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (the old Rashtrapati Niwas). I was getting a University Research Fellowship to do my PhD). My presence in Shimla was mandatory. Prof. Kumar realised that after my marriage it was important for me to be with my husband and his family in Amritsar. He found a beautiful way to address the academic issue, suggesting that I could work in a library in Amritsar and visit Teen Murti Library in Delhi once in six or seven weeks for two-three days.

I came back to the University after six months. He signed my Fellowship bills and ensured that I got a cheque before leaving for Amritsar. Meanwhile, he realised that I was expecting a baby he was worried about my travel. He said, 'don't travel, no need to go to Delhi or come to Shimla, just be in Amritsar and decide for yourself how to keep working on your thesis. There is nothing to feel guilty about. I will find a way'. What a relief and blessing it was! Without Prof. Kumar's support, I could have never finished my PhD, stayed in Amritsar with Devendra's family for so long and had a safe delivery. When Prof Kumar became the Director of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Delhi, he called me to visit the Library. I felt very nice. I have been proud of Prof. Kumar and continue to be.

Whenever I went to consult Teen Murti Library, he always took care of me, my food, my problems, never forgetting to tell me that he will always be there for my husband, Devendra and me. There were days and days when I would find nothing related to my thesis in the Library. He never asked me to look for any particular book, journal, manuscript etc. However, when he found that sometimes I was taking too much time, Prof. Kumar would say, 'the reading that you do, even if it is not related to your work will help'. He never showed any urgency, he wanted me to discover myself and learn to manage. When I did, he appreciated. He was against those supervisors who spoon-fed their scholars. He believed that by doing so, they were limiting a student's or a scholar's ability to explore and learn, and, that their students and scholars will remain dependent for everything on their supervisors and teachers. I learnt from him as well that giving notes to students should be avoided. Encouraging them, motivating them, addressing their issues, letting them ask

questions, following participatory teaching-learning approach actually help students. I also encourage all the students to explore, to become confident and be each other's strength.

My years of long interactions with Prof. Ravinder Kumar and Prof. Mehrotra made me grow as a teacher with a passion for teaching and concern for my students. I encourage students and believe in participatory learning, giving time to every student who needs it while keeping the others engaged to encourage peer learning. I never give notes to my students, gradually they come to terms and share how they prepared on their own, reading books and noting down my discussions for concept clarity and arguments to support different viewpoints. They tell me that they enjoy their freedom and the fact that I never impose. I never forget how Prof. Kumar used to allow Devendra and me to borrow his books. I tell my students to pick up books from my room, share them, use them and then keep them back. I am happy that a lot of students from other departments also come to share with me what is bothering them. I feel good as they unload their worries without any inhibition and walkout with the belief that I would be there for each one of them.

Prof Kumar took pride in introducing me to everyone as his first Indian PhD scholar. He was also Devendra's PhD supervisor. However, when both Devendra and I shared our professional anxieties, he would patiently listen, a message he eternally gave to us was that, if need be, he would support us!

He came to deliver the Keynote Address for the Punjab History Conference 1981. It was annually hosted by History Department of Punjabi University, Patiala. A senior colleague had gone to receive Prof. Kumar at Chandigarh Airport. I was waiting outside the University Guest House with Manu, who was four years old then. The moment Prof. Kumar spotted us, he got the car stopped, got down and hugged both of us. My senior colleagues did not, till then, know how much of affection he had for Devendra, Manu and me. Devendra was undergoing surgeries at AIIMS and I used to be travelling in buses almost every alternate day from Delhi-Patiala and Patiala-Delhi, coming to finish my courses for MA students, I could not present a paper for the Conference. During lunch, Prof. Kumar was surrounded by so many. He sat down with his plate and made Manu sit next to him and helped him to eat. My Head of the Department came to Prof. Kumar to complain ‘Kiran Devendra takes lot of leave, teaching suffers’. He was upset. He told him ‘Professor I expect you to see Kiran's strengths, how effective she is as a teacher. She was taking HPU’s MA History classes as a PhD scholar. Please don't bring her into the fold of rigid rules to overlook the fact that her husband is having surgeries at AIIMS’! When a senior colleague got into the car which was to take Prof. Kumar to Chandigarh Airport, he politely told him that he wished Manu and me to travel with him, we did.

He suggested my name to Madam Aruna Asaf Ali, for her nationally important project, by telling her, ‘she is responsible, committed and academically sound, I can vouch for her’. It was because of Prof. Ravinder Kumar that my dream to get a glimpse of her was realised.

I was discussing with Prof. Kumar some academic issue when his staff came to inform that my seven-year-old son Divyamanu got stuck in the lift. He rushed with me, instructing his staff to send for an engineer from Connaught Place. It was 10.30 am. He stood with me for an hour and a half till the lift was opened. He told me later that you were relieved that I did not break down or panicked but kept on talking to my son, I wonder whether a Director would now find so much of time, cancelling an important meeting to ensure that I was not alone. Devendra had this kind of sensitivity! Anand would also have surely left his meeting to rescue his colleague!

Prof. Kumar was so proud of Anand's intellect and academic orientation. After listening to his lecture on South Africa at the India International Centre he said, 'he speaks better than a university professor. He will contribute significantly.

Prof. Kumar came to NCERT twice to deliver lectures. On both the occasions, he picked me up from my residence in his staff car. He introduced me proudly to everyone present there as 'my student'. He was proud of Divyamanu when he began to visit him in Teen Murti Library as a student of History at St. Stephen's College.

‘I am eternally grateful to you Prof. Kumar for your affection and concern for me and my family and for treating me as your third daughter’!

I was fortunate to have many other teachers of other departments of the university, who were good to me, especially, Prof. V.K. Mehta, Prof. Kushwaha, Prof. Ramesh Kumar always enquired about my wellbeing as they responded to my greetings! I felt so nice to meet Prof. V.K. Mehta and his wife at a Mother Dairy outlet in Delhi. Both of them were warm as they recognised me and Devendra.

I wish to pass on a message that teachers need to be much more than teachers in the classrooms.

Reminiscing to Archive: HPU – A Flashback

Dr. Charu Sharma
Department of English, Govt. Degree College, Shahpur, H.P.



July 1986 - the year I walked the paths of HP University Shimla, after graduating from a college at Chandigarh. My association with the university was much before the above said date, for two reasons: one, my sister was doing her Ph.D in Chemistry, and two- I was an ardent fan and regular reader of Dr. Jaidev's short stories which were published in Sunday Tribune. It was Dr. Jaidev's name and my love for literature that pulled me to the Department of English from where I did my Doctorate later on in 1995. The first day when I went to the University for my counselling for PG, my sister said: "Come, let's go to the department to meet Dr. Jaidev." Ah! There he was – a lean, smiling, soft-spoken, not so tall a man with moustaches, wearing a grey sweater, steel grey trousers and black shoes, so different from and opposite of what I had imagined him to be. But his persona intimidated me and an inner voice told me that I belong to this department, this subject and this is the first step of my next phase of life's journey. My association with Dr. Jaidev remained till his death and thereafter with his family. A teacher – a guru – (in true meaning), whose feet I always touched. His blessings were precious. What he taught at PG or M.Phil level has remained the base for all my research till today. Whatever little knowledge of literature I have, I owe it to him. So dedicated, so committed, never abused or scolded anyone but definitely showed his displeasure, if the work was not done. He would prepare his lecture very well, every-day, every-time so that best could be delivered to the students. The kettle in his room was always boiling and one could enter his room and have a cup of black tea anytime; discuss ideas about literature; thoughts on latest theories and he was ever ready to read, correct and explain anything written or read by any student. He wanted to explore and sensitize his students to New Literature, Contemporary Literature, Translations and the latest concepts and emerging creative ideas and trends. Reading complex, heavy books was easy with his directions and explanations.

Going back to 1986: the pristine and serene location of the university, the green rhododendron tress; the not so concrete but wood and tinned roof buildings; the one and only students' cafe; the tea shops of Shah ji, Vijay ji and Krishan ji, the congested *dhabas* for *Rajma Chawal* and *Kadi-Pakora*, or *barfi* and *boondi- sevian* all added to the charisma of this hill university. The small market was enough to fulfil all basic needs of students. The

post office steps and *chowk*, the winding way to the railway station and beyond that towards Boy's Hostel and teacher's quarters; the road from Summerhill Chowk to Boileauganj, the uphill path to IIAS and another to the Mall, made a perfect picture of this state University in mid 1980s.

As the classes started and the syllabus rolled on, my horizons broadened, my insight deepened and I kept getting exposed to a new world of great intellectuals – both within and outside the department. As I tread down the memory lane, I recall being taught by stalwarts of English Literature:

- Prof. Shyam Asnani who would recall not only the article and name of journal in which it was published but also page number; who knew which book is available where in the library; who introduced us to drama and poetry in his loud, vibrant voice; whose knowledge was incredible; was very helpful, co-operative and understanding; always dressed in a coat and tie and busy reading in his cabin.
- Prof B. S. Pathania, the head of the department when I joined the university, ensured that whatever he taught was grasped by the students in the class itself; his repetition of the same content with varied vocabulary, dictating of notes and asking questions regularly made us students make a graphic picture of the text in our mind. How can I forget learning simple, pertinent, basic terms of literature like tragedy, catharsis, hamartia, comedy, etc. from him?
- Dr. Anil Wilson's dominating voice, impeccable dressing sense; his intonation in the verbatim lecture, his reciting of the text word-to-word amazed us. His lectures were spellbinding and like a wizard he would cast-a-spell.
- Dr. Som P. Ranchan transported us to another world- the world of myths, folklore, and spiritualism. His accented English with a serious solemn expression mixed with a cheeky laugh; his reciting of *shalokas or mantras*; his knowledge about religion was way beyond the realm of our understanding at that time. It was only at a later stage in life that the realization about what he discussed in class dawned on us.
- Prof Pankaj K. Singh has been my supervisor for Ph.D. Her soft lilting voice, her expressive eyes, her slender physique with long hair, her gestures were admired by one and all; but more than that her teaching method meant work and business in class.
- Prof. Girija was the youngest of all teachers in the department. Petite, soft spoken with a bold handwriting, well-organised and determined a teacher.



These were academicians whose class we could never dare to miss, teachers who came to class well prepared with lecture; teachers who were punctual, committed and dedicated to their profession and above all very fine human beings.

> Interdisciplinary was not the oft quoted word then, yet our studies and learning was multidisciplinary. Outside the department to list a few unforgettable teachers have been– Prof. Javed Alam from Dept. of Political Science; Prof Kishwar Shirali and Prof. Sagar Sharma from Psychology; Prof Khan and Prof. Mehrotra from History and Prof. MK Sharma from department of Commerce and Management. A one-minute discussion could lead to hours of interaction as they were storehouse of knowledge, information, concept, ideas and skills.

The university familiarized me to a larger world of political debates and ideologies; introduced me to serious and meaningful cultural presentations through songs, dances, plays, street-theatre, etc. I got acquainted with my own state through the University. It was here that I learnt that every word said is embedded with strength, a vibration and a deeper meaning; and every written word is a document. University days opened new vistas of practical knowledge and life skills; new readings and academic writings. It's been a learning experience that blossomed an awareness process within me. The curtain of oblivion was raised to witness realities of life and face challenges of world.

It is difficult to encapsulate the memories of hostel, walk to the Mall, interaction with seniors, Fresher's and Farewell parties, lifelong friends, family relationships, the good times, and the difficult moments; the run to the library; the *doodh-jalebi* combo at Boileauganj; the whistling train, the late-night studying and finally the final step to move out in a professional world as a teacher.

I teach what I learnt in this dynamic educational institution.



From Mall Road to Summer Hill- My Recollections

Dr D K Tuli
Former ED IOC (R&D); CEO Indian oil Technologies Ltd and DBT Energy Bioscience Chair



On the request of the state government, Panjab University, whose jurisdiction covered HP, started a Regional College for Postgraduate Studies at Dingle Estate, near Victory Tunnel, in late 1965. The M.Sc. classes in Physics and Chemistry were added in 1969. Finally, the Himachal University Act came into force in 1970 and a multi- faculty university was established at Simla. Dr RK Singh, VC of Agra University, was the first Vice Chancellor who took over in 1971, a great scholar and perfect gentleman.





Departments of Chemistry and Physics were started in 1969-70 at Manse Building, a Church that was not in use. The building, which once housed the St Andrew's Church, is sandwiched between General Post Office and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and very close to the Scandal Point and on the way to Kali Bari temple. A stone engraved plate at the entrance said that The Viceroy, Lord Harding, laid the foundation stone on 30 August 1914 and building completed in 1915. The main Church building was allotted to Chemistry Department and the residences of the priest made bulk of Physics department. The main hall of the Church was converted to labs by adding eight practical experiment benches, each accommodating four students. Later, two rear benches were reserved for PhD scholars. The main dome of the Church had very narrow wooden stairs going up to three floors. First two floors had two small rooms which were allotted to three faculty members and top floor housed chemical stores. A small additional temporary room at the entry served as office and HOD room. I remember in 1972 there was a major fire at GPO, only few meters

from us. Since we had a chemical store, which had several flammable solvents, there was panic and we all shifted store which was later relocated to another room in adjoining building.

I joined the second batch (16 boys and 2 girls) of Chemistry Department, HP University in 1971, third if Regional centre is also accounted. There were only two lecture rooms which were effectively shared with Physics department. Dr K C Malhotra was heading the department as Reader, a term earlier used for Associate Professor and there were five other lecturers. Most of the other university departments did not have a full Professor and that was the case for even other established universities. I was quite surprised on visiting university later, in 2014, when the number of Professors was more than lecturers in most departments.

We had very pleasant time during our stay at Manse building. Simla (later called Shimla) used to attract several filming crews, especially during snow and remember vividly when whole class would bunk to watch a shooting. One of our semester exams was during very heavy snowfall and our teachers were busy arranging wood fired angethes for our comfort.

First boy's hostel came up in 1972 at the erstwhile horse stable of Viceroy Lodge, later known as Indian Institute of Advanced Studies. The hostel named as Himkreet was well designed to the extent possible. We were still at Manse building and would walk to hostel in evening after our practical classes and would generally meet arts/ law students walking in opposite direction to Mall road. The main hostel complex at Summer Hill was under construction and so were other buildings. We were three students, in Aug 1973, who were awarded Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) fellowships for PhD. This fellowship was Rs 300 per month and soon increased to Rs 400 per month and would last generally for three years. The fellowship money was transferred by CSIR to university every six months for onward payment to research scholars. University administration offices were in Summer Hill and manned by several officials who came from HP Govt on deputation. I remember first time we went to claim our fellowship and showed our award letter to Assistant Registrar, who gave a cursory look at the amount per month. He was under impression that we are nominated by central govt to work in university office. A fresh clerk would also be getting similar pay and the registrar told us to sit outside his office and he will allot us office work later! It was quite an effort to make him understand and finally got a cheque. Encashing that cheque at a small SBI counter used to be a problem as we did not have an account and had to bring a surety every time. This ordeal was repeated every three months.

In 1974, university decided to start M.Phil programme, mandatory before registration for PhD and we were enrolled. However, CSIR informed that our fellowship was for research leading to PhD and we are not allowed to enrol for any other degree. Dr R K Singh, Vice Chancellor made a personal intervention to convince the funding agency and our degree was renamed as Pre-PhD. Chemistry department was the first in university to

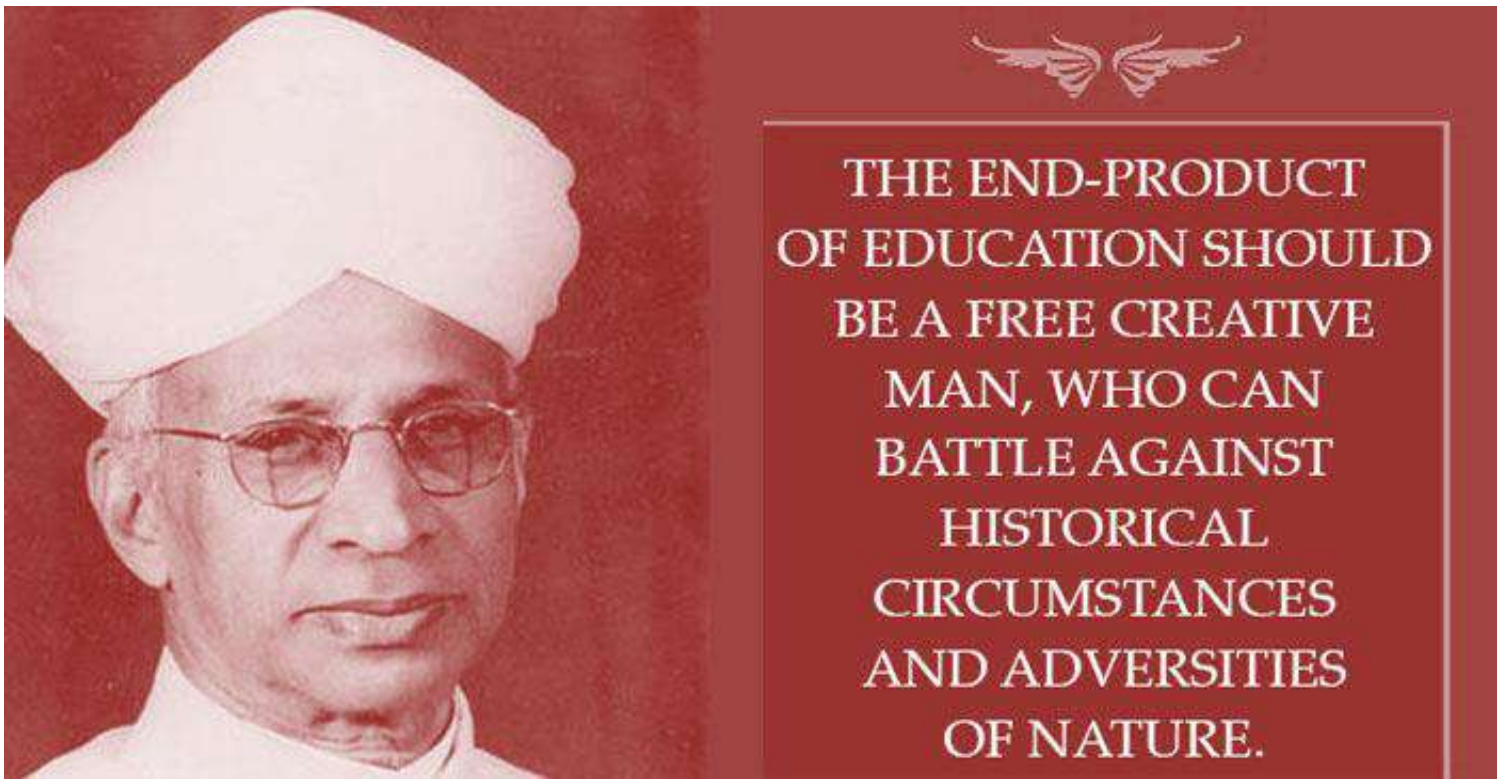
produce a PhD and if my memory serves me right Dr Subash Chowdary was the first PhD of H P University and who later joined as faculty in the department. Having established credentials, several well-known Professors later joined the university in different departments. Prof A C Jain, a very well recognised chemist joined Chemistry department and I along with other two batch mates joined him for PhD. Almost all our teachers were very supportive and encouraged students to excel. Intra departmental faculty rivalries were very much evident but most students remained unaffected.

By 1975, new building of Chemistry and Physics departments was ready in Summer Hill and we were asked to shift. I remember all PhD scholars loading our stuff in trucks for shifting from Manse building. The new building was very well designed with M.Sc. labs and admin office in ground floor and departmental library and research labs on next two floors. The Chemistry and Physics departments were joined through a corridor on upper floors. New administration buildings, impressive central Library, several hostels and faculty residential buildings came up very quickly. However, the eating places were few old shops and university canteen came up much later. The atmosphere very quickly resembled any other established university. There was very little traffic except for couple of university vehicles and two university buses. During my later visits in 2014 and 2018, I was shocked to see much increased traffic and parking of cars all over the campus. Also, I did notice that the building infrastructure has not been well maintained and was deteriorating fast. A later visit to Manse building, which now housed Evening College, so much of apathy and bad upkeep of building made me feel extremely sad. The whole place had been plastered with college election posters and was filthy.

Though new department building gave us enough working bench space, there were hardly any analytical instruments and spectroscopy facilities in the department. Since we were working in synthetic organic Chemistry, at each step we required confirmation of our synthesis by analytical techniques. Good working relationship with Panjab and Guru Nanak Universities could enable us to get the analysis done there on payment basis and the contingency grants became very handy. While some journals were there in departmental library, for writing papers and for thesis we had to visit Panjab University or Delhi University libraries. The thesis typing was another issue as mostly manual typewriters were there and five carbon copies had to be made. The formulas were hand drawn and then ammonia prints were taken in a shop at lower bazar. Even with a single typing mistake on a page would mean whole page had to be retyped. We remember with gratitude services offered by one Mr Sudhir, working in administration, who would type these at his home for some additional income and bring 10-15 pages every morning. There was no computer or desktop in whole of university. I along with my three batchmates completed our PhD in 1977 and each one moved ahead in different professions. We have since been in touch and all have done reasonably well in their chosen areas.

With the initiative of some past students, notably Dr R G Sud, an alumni association of Chemistry Department was activated and we had first meet in Chandigarh five years ago followed by celebration of 50 years of department in 2020 at Shimla. These very well attended meetings were very enjoyable and we were happy to see each other gracefully embracing old age. Next meet planned in Chandigarh had to be postponed because of pandemic and instead we arranged an interesting video meeting. The present endeavour, ably led by Prof Pradeep Kumar Ahluwalia, to establish an alumnus for whole of H P University is a very welcome step. These meetings lead to renewal of comradeship and can provide a forum to form new friendships and relationships with people of similar background. This network of former students can help to raise the profile of the university and to promote a sustained sense of belonging to the Alma Mater and promote its reputation.

Looking back, I do feel the period of 1971 to 1977 spent in the university was exciting with lot of struggles thrown in. University did prepare us for facing the future with confidence and most of my batch mates excelled in industry, academics and research.



बौद्ध विद्या केंद्ररू समृति के झरोखों से

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विभाग का संचालन

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय में, भोटी अध्यापक के तौर पर, मेरी नियुक्ति का आदेश 28 मई, 1987 को निकला था। यहाँ आने से पहले मैं, वाराणसी में अध्ययनरत था, इस कारण, नियुक्ति पत्र वाराणसी के पते पर चला गया था, जबकि मैं अपनी संस्था ''छोस खोर लिङ् बौद्ध सेवा संघ, किन्नौर'' के तत्त्वावधान में, किन्नौर के जिला मुख्यालय, रिकाँगपिओ में ''पश्चिमोत्तर हिमालयी सीमान्त की सांस्कृतिक विरासतः राष्ट्रीय सन्दर्भ में'' विषय पर, 28 जून से । जुलाई, 1987 तक आयोजित होने वाली, एक चतुर्दिवसीय अखिल भारतीय परिसंवाद गोष्ठी को व्यवस्था हेतु, मई शुरू होते ही, वाराणसी से अपने गृह क्षेत्र किन्नौर के लिए निकल गया था। 15-16 जून रहा होगा, जब मुझे उक्त गोष्ठी के सिलसिले में, शिमला आना हुआ था, यहाँ आने पर पता चला कि, भोटी में प्रवेशार्थ अख़बारों में विज्ञापन निकला है, मैंने सोचा पता तो करें, अध्यापक कौन नियुक्त हुआ है। इस जिज्ञासा के साथ, मैं विश्वविद्यालय गया तो, कुलपति कार्यालय के मुख्यद्वार पर ही, नियुक्ति शाखा के प्रमुख श्री वाई. एल. शर्मा मिले; मुझे देखते ही उन्होंने कहा, ''आपको नियुक्ति पत्र मिला क्या?'' जब मैंने ना में उत्तर दिया तो, वे कहने लगे, ''नियुक्ति पत्र, आपके पते पर चला गया है,'' ऐसा कहते हुए, वे मुझे तत्कालीन माननीय कुलपति प्रो.के.सी.मल्होत्रा (18-1-1986-22-9-1993)के समक्ष ले गये। कुलपति महोदय को, जब यह बताया गया कि, मुझे नियुक्ति पत्र नहीं मिला है तो, उन्होंने, एक कर्मचारी के साथ, मुझे उक्त पत्र की प्रतिलिपि प्राप्त करने हेतु, स्थापना शाखा के उपकुलसचिव, श्री बांके राम के यहाँ भेज दिया। उपकुलसचिव को जैसे ही, मेरा परिचय दिया गया तो, वे खड़े होकर हाथ मिलाते हुए, मेरा स्वागत करने लगे। इसके बाद, पहले उन्होंने, चाय पिलायी, तदुपरान्त पत्र की प्रतिलिपि दी। कुलपति महोदय से लेकर, उपकुलसचिव तक के अधिकारियों के आत्मीय व्यवहार से, मैं बहुत प्रभावित हुआ। बरसों, मैं बनारस रहा था, वहाँ के विश्वविद्यालयी लोगों को, किसी अपरिचित व्यक्ति के साथ, पहली बार, ऐसी आत्मीयता के साथ, व्यवहार करते कभी नहीं देखा था।

जब तक, परिसंवाद गोष्ठी के कार्य मैं से निवृत्त नहीं होता, मेरा विश्वविद्यालय, आ पाना संभव नहीं था। इस कारण, मैंने कुलपति महोदय से परिसंवाद गोष्ठी के बाद ही, कार्यभार ग्रहण करने की अनुमति मांगी तो, सहर्ष स्वीकार करते हुए, उन्होंने कहा, ''आजकल विश्वविद्यालय में ग्रीष्म अवकाश चल रहा है, इसलिए, पहली जुलाई तक पहुँच जाएँ।'' नियुक्ति पत्र लेकर, वापस किन्नौर जाते, रास्ते भर, उपर्युक्त अधिकारियों के आत्मीय व्यवहार की मधुर यादों में डूबते-उतराते गया और परिसंवाद गोष्ठो का काम निपटाकर, 4 जुलाई, 1987 को, विश्वविद्यालय पहुँचकर, मैंने अपना कार्यभार ग्रहण किया। मेरी नियुक्ति के साथ ही, विभाग संचालित होना था, इसलिए, विश्वविद्यालय में, कमरे, क्लर्क, चपरासी आदि की कोई पूर्व व्यवस्था तो थी नहीं कि मैं, सीधे जाकर, कुर्सी पर बैठ जाता, इस कारण, व्यवस्था होते तक, मुझे तत्कालीन अधिष्ठाता अध्ययन प्रो. हरिओम अग्रवाल (1986-1988)के कार्यालय में, अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज़ करानी

पड़ी। 1987 में विश्वविद्यालय को स्थापित हुए, 17 वर्ष ही (22-7-1970) हुए थे, इस कारण, उन दिनों विश्वविद्यालय के पास, आजकल की तरह, इतने अधिक भवन भी नहीं थे, इसके चलते, तुरन्त व्यवस्था करने में देरी हो रही थी। तीन-चार दिन बाद, ओल्ड पी.जी. सेन्टर में, जैसे कैसे एक छोटा सा कक्ष दिया गया और साथ ही, क्लर्क और चपरासी भी। बस, उसी कक्ष से विभाग का संचालन शुरू हुआ।

विभागाध्यक्ष

मेरे प्रथम विभागाध्यक्ष, हिन्दी विभाग के प्रो. राजदेव सिंह थे, वे हिन्दी तथा विदेशी भाषा विभाग के भी विभागाध्यक्ष थे। इसके बाद, जब तक मैं विभागाध्यक्ष नहीं बना, हिन्दी विभाग की प्रो. मेडम रैणा, संस्कृत विभाग के प्रो. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मिश्र आदि कई लोग रहे। सभी का व्यवहार तथा विभागीय कार्यों में सहयोग सराहनीय रहा। इनमें कोई भी, मैं तुम्हारा विभागाध्यक्ष हूँ, कहकर, विभाग में बैठने नहीं आते थे। अध्ययन समिति की बैठकों में, वो भी थोड़ी देर के लिए, ज़रूर आते थे, लेकिन भोटी तथा बौद्ध दर्शन, उनका विषय नहीं होने के कारण, समिति के सदस्यों का स्वागत करके, चले जाते थे। विभागीय पत्रों पर हस्ताक्षर कराने के लिए, फ़ाइल लेकर, उनके निजी कक्षों में जाना होता था। सारे लोग, अपने अध्ययन, अध्यापन तथा शोध कार्यों में, इतना अधिक व्यस्त रहते थ कि, उनके पास व्यर्थ में बैठने के लिए, समय ही नहीं होता था।

प्रो. राजदेव सिंह, शान्त स्वभाव के अत्यन्त मृदुभाषी व्यक्ति थे, उनके चेहरे पर सदैव मुसकान बिखरी रहती थी। इस कारण, उनके क़रीब जाने में भी, कोई परेशानी नहीं होती थी, कोई ज़रूरी काम हुआ तो, हम उनके आवास पर भी, पहुँच जाते थे। उनसे मुझे, विभागीय कार्यों को निपटाने का तौर-तरीका सीखने का अवसर मिला। वे अपने मातहत, काम करने वाले सभी को, बहुत प्यार से, हर काम सिखाते थे।

उद्‌गार

अध्ययनकाल में, अपने गुरुजनों से दृष्टि पाकर, मैं अपने क्षेत्र में, कई सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक कार्यों से जुड़ा रहता था। इस क्रम में, मैं 'विद्याभारती' नाम से एक अर्धवार्षिक शोध पत्रिका का, वाराणसी से प्रकाशन भी करता था। नियुक्ति के बाद भी, यह प्रकाशित होती थो, इसलिए, विश्वविद्यालय में शीतकालीन अवकाश आरम्भ होते ही, मुझे वाराणसी जाना होता था और 28 फरवरी को ही, मैं शिमला लौटता था। नियुक्ति के बाद, जब मैं, पहली बार, पत्रिका प्रकाशन का काम समाप्त करके, वापस विश्वविद्यालय पहुँचा तो, उस समय, शिमला में बर्फ़ गिर रही थी, सड़क बाधित होने के कारण, समरहिल के लिए, बसें चल नहीं रही थीं, अतः मुझे, बालूगंज स्थित बैरियर से बर्फ़ में डूबते-डूबते, पैदल सांगटी अपने आवास पहुँचना पड़ा था।

जब पहली बार, मैंने अपने विश्वविद्यालय को बुरांस के फूलों के बीच, नगीना सदृश देखा तो, अनायास मेरे मुख से, किन्नौरी बसंत गीत की निम्न पंक्तियाँ निकल पड़ीं-

साङा मा सङ हो ले हो योद ली बेसारो,

साङा मा सङ॥1॥

सङ्‌सी ली नीतो हो ले हो अनुरीलीतङ्‌सी,

सङ्सी नीतो।।2।।

ऊआ माऊ हो ले हो बुरासङ् फूला,

ऊआ माऊ।।3।।

ऊच़ी ली नीतो हो ले हो अनुरीलीतङ्सी,

ऊच़ी नीतो ।।4।।

अर्थात्-

बसंत हुआ कि नहीं[1], निचले बुशहर[2] में,

बसंत हुआ कि नहीं।।1।।

हुआ ही होगा, अपनी रित से,

हुआ ही होगा।।2।।

खिले कि नहीं खिले, बुरांस के फूल,

खिले कि नहीं खिले ।।3।।

खिले ही होंगे, अपनी रित से,

खिले ही होंगे।।4।।

बुरांस के फूलों की पंखुड़ियों से पटे समरहिल की सड़कों पर, जब पहली बार, मेरा चलना हुआ तो, ऐसा लगा, जैसे पूरी प्रकृति ही, आम लोगों के स्वागत में उतर आयी हो। जन प्रतिनिधि तथा उच्च पदों पर आसीन लोगों क आगमन पर, उनकी राह में फूल बिखेरकर, उनका स्वागत करना, एक आम बात है, लेकिन जन सामान्य के लिए, कोई ऐसा नहीं करता। एक प्रकृति ही है, जो बिना किसी भेदभाव के, सबके प्रति समान भाव रखती तथा व्यवहार करती है, चाहे कोई उसका भला करे, या बुरा। जबकि इंसान प्रायः राग, द्वेष, मोह के वशीभूत, स्वार्थ के दायरे में रहकर, दूसरों के साथ व्यवहार करता है।

ग्रन्थालय

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1 'बसंत हुआ कि नहीं' का किन्नौरी मूलपाठ 'साङा मा सङ' है, जिसका शब्दशः अनुवाद, 'सुबह हुई कि नहीं हुई' होता है, लेकिन यहाँ 'बसंत हुआ कि नहीं' भावानुवाद है।

2 निचले बुशहर (मूलपाठ, योद ली बेसारो)से तात्पर्य किन्नौर की सीमा रेखा मन्योटीधार (किन्नौरी.मुरुट/मुलुट) से नीचे रामपुर के क्षेत्र से है।

नियुक्ति के बाद, मैंने पहला काम, विश्वविद्यालय के केन्द्रीय ग्रन्थालय में, भोटी तथा बौद्ध धर्म-दर्शन से सम्बद्ध, हिन्दी, अंग्रेज़ी, संस्कृत, पालि-प्राकृत आदि भाषाओं में प्रकाशित पुस्तकें मंगवाने का किया, पुस्तकों के चयन में, मेरी सहायता के लिए, विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. राजदेव सिंह भी आये। हम दोनों ने मिलकर, वाराणसी के विभिन्न प्रकाशकों से, एक लाख से भी अधिक मूल्य की पुस्तकें चयन की। इससे विभागीय विद्यार्थियों को ही नहीं, विश्वविद्यालय के अन्य विद्यार्थियों को भी, बौद्धधर्म की महायान, वज्रयान, थेरवाद आदि परम्पराओं को समझने तथा उनपर शोध करने का अवसर मिला। बाद के वर्षों में, जब विभाग, गाँधी भवन में शिफ़्ट हुआ तो, विभाग में अपनी निजी पुस्तकों की लाइब्रेरी बनाकर, उससे भी, विभागीय विद्यार्थियों को जोड़ने का यथा संभव प्रयास किया, ताकि भोटी तथा बौद्ध धर्म-दर्शन के प्रति, उनकी समझ बढ़े। विभाग के पास, अपना कोई फंड तो था नहीं कि, पुस्तकें रखने के लिए, शेल्फ वाली अल्मारियाँ खरीदी जा सकें, इस कारण, मेज पर ही, पुस्तकों की ढेरी लगी रहती थी। प्रो. सुरेश कुमार, जब अधिष्ठाता अध्ययन के पद पर थे तो, एक रोज, गाँधी भवन में चल रही परीक्षाओं के निरीक्षण के सिलसिले में, उनका गाँधी भवन आना हुआ, मेज पर किताबों की ढेरी देखकर, वे कहने लगे, एम.बी. ए. विभाग में, कई पुरानी अल्मारियाँ पड़ी हैं, उनमें से कुछ आपको देता हूँ और उन्होंने अगले ही दिन, शेल्फ वाली दो अल्मारियाँ भेज दीं, जिससे मुझे अपनी पुस्तकें तरतीब से रखने में सुविधा मिली।

भाषा का महत्त्व

जहाँ तक, भोटी भाषा के महत्त्व की बात ह, महायानी बौद्धधर्म-दर्शन, न्याय, शिल्प कला तथा लद्दाख से लेकर अरुणांचल तक की हिमालयी बौद्ध संस्कृति एवं परम्परा को यथार्थ रूप में समझने के लिए, इस भाषा का ज्ञान होना आवश्यक है। इसके बिना, इस बृहत् हिमालयी संस्कृति के विविध पक्षों तथा बौद्धधर्म की महायानी-वज्रयानी शाखा को, समझ पाना संभव नहीं, क्योंकि यह इस क्षेत्र की धर्म और संस्कृति की संवाहिका भाषा है। भोटी ही है, जिसने उपर्युक्त बृहत् हिमालय को, भाषायी स्तर पर, किसी ना किसी रूप में, एक सत्र में जोड़े रखा है। यहाँ यह, समझ लेना ज़रूरी है कि भोटी भाषा, उपर्युक्त हिमालय की ही, भाषा नहीं है, अपितु हिमालय के पार, तिब्बत की भी है। उपर्युक्त सभी हिमालयीय क्षेत्रों में, इस भाषा को, भोटी के नाम से अभिहित नहीं किया जाता है। कहीं पर, यह लद्दाखी या बोद-यिक के नाम से तो, कहीं पर, यह भोटी, बोधि, बाद-स्कद, ज़ोङ्खा आदि विभिन्न नामों से जानी जाती है। भारतीय सीमान्त क्षेत्रों के भोटी-भाषा भाषी लोगों के अतिरिक्त, शेष भारत यानि हिन्दी जगत्, इसे प्रायः तिब्बती भाषा, तो अंग्रेज़ी जगत् इसे तिबेटन लैंगवेज के नाम से जानता है।

पाँचवीं सदी में गुप्तवंशीय राजा कुमार गुप्त द्वारा स्थापित नालंदा[3], आठवीं सदी में पालवंशीय नरेश गोपाल प्रथम द्वारा स्थापित ओदन्तपुरी[4], आठवीं शताब्दी के अन्तिम वर्षों या नौवीं शताब्दी के शुरुआती वर्षों में, इसी वंश के राजा धर्मपाल(783-820ई.) द्वारा स्थापित

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[3] प्राचीन बौद्ध महाविहारों में, वर्तमान बिहार राज्य में स्थित, नालंदा महाविहार, सर्वोपरी था। यह, वह शिक्षा संस्थान था, जहाँ बौद्धधर्म-दर्शन, न्याय, तन्त्र, शिल्प आदि की शिक्षा के लिए, देश-देशान्तर से छात्र आते थे। यहाँ दस हज़ार छात्र, छात्रावासों में रहकर, अपने एक हज़ार पाँच सौ दस गुरुओं स, शिक्षा ग्रहण करते थे। इस महान् शिक्षा केन्द्र को, सन् 1202 ईसवी में, मुहम्मद बख्तियार खिलजी ने जलाकर, नष्ट कर दिया था। देखें, श्रीवास्तव, एस. के., नालंदा बौद्ध शिक्षा केन्द्र (लेख), विद्याभारती अंक-4, छोस खोर लिङ् बौद्ध सेवा संघ, ब्रेलिंग, किन्नौर, (हि.प्र.), 5 नवम्बर, 1987, पृ. 23-29; मिश्र, जयशंकर, प्राचीन भारत का सामाजिक इतिहास, बिहार हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी, पटना, 2002, पृ. 540-42.

विक्रमशिला[5] आदि, विश्व विख्यात महाविहार (शिक्षा संस्थान), जिनमें एशिया के विभिन्न देशों के छात्र अध्ययन करके, अपने को गौरवान्वित महसूस करते थे, वे आज, हमारे सामने खँडहर में तबदील हुए पड़े हैं, उनमें जो शास्त्र, उस समय पढ़े-पढ़ाये जाते थे, उन्हें सांस्कृतिक विद्वेष के चलते, बाहरी आक्रमणकारियों ने, अग्नि की भेंट चढ़ा दी; कहते हैं, उस अग्नि में, नालंदा का धर्मगंज नामक विशाल ग्रन्थालय, जिसकी रत्नोदधि, रत्नरञ्जक तथा रत्नसागर नाम से तीन मंज़िलें होती थीं, छः महीने तक जलता ही रहा था, इससे समझा जा सकता है कि, उसमें कितनी पुस्तकें रही होंगी। भारत के लिए, यह परम सौभाग्य की बात है कि, सातवीं शताब्दी में, जो भोटदेश (तिब्बत) भारत आकर, उसका शिष्य बना था[6], वह बहुत ही क़ाबिल शिष्य साबित हुआ। उसने अपने गुरु से, उपर्युक्त महाविहारों में उपलब्ध संस्कृत बौद्ध शास्त्रों का, ना केवल, सांगोपांग अध्ययन किया, प्रत्युत् भारत में प्रचलित, तत्कालीन रञ्जना तथा वर्तुल लिपि पर आधारित, क्रमशः उचेन (दबु-चन=शिरो रेखा वाली) तथा उमेद (दबु-मेद=शिरो रेखा विहीन) नाम से दो भोटी लिपियों का निर्माणकर, उन शास्त्रों को भोटी भाषा में अनूदित करके, संरक्षित एवं संवर्धित करने का काम भी किया। आज भोटी भाषा के माध्यम से, दुनिया को बौद्धधर्म-दर्शन का, जो ज्ञान वह बांट रहा है, उसे लेकर वह, बड़े फख़्र से दुनिया को कह रहा है कि, यह ज्ञान उसने, अपने गुरु आर्य देश भारत से प्राप्त किया है। क्या यह, उसके गुरु के लिए कम गौरव की बात है? आज हिमालयी क्षेत्रों में स्थित गोनपाओं यानि बौद्धविहारों तथा लोगों के अपने व्यक्तिगत पूजागृहों (छोद-खङ) में, कनग्युर (बुद्ध वचन संग्रह) और तनग्युर (बुद्धवचनों का भारतीय आचार्यों द्वारा रचित व्याख्या रूप संग्रह) के नाम से, सुन्दर वेष्टनों में वेष्टित, हज़ारों की संख्या में, जो भोटी शास्त्र उपलब्ध हैं, वे वही शास्त्र तो हैं, जिन्हं बाहरी आक्रमणकारियों ने कभी जला दिये थे। भले ही, आज वे शास्त्र, अपनी मूल भाषा संस्कृत में उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, किन्तु अनुवाद रूप भोटी में

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4 ओदन्तपुरी को उड्यंतपुर भी कहा जाता है। यह प्राचीन महाविहार, वर्तमान बिहार राज्य में स्थित था। अतीत में, यह, बौद्ध विद्या के अध्ययन-अध्यापन का, एक प्रसिद्ध केन्द्र था। 13वीं शताब्दी के आरम्भ मं बख्तियार के पुत्र मुहम्मद (बिन-मुहम्मद बख्तियार) के नेतृत्व में, मुसलमान आक्रमणकारियों ने, इसे नष्ट कर दिया था। देखें, बाहरी, डॉ. हरदेव, प्राचीन भारतीय संस्कृति कोश, विद्या प्रकाशन मन्दिर, नई दिल्ली, 1988, पृ. 66.

5 भारत के मगध जनपद में, पालवंशीय राजा धर्मपाल (783-820ई.) द्वारा स्थापित, विक्रमशिला महाविहार, अतीत में, एक विश्वविख्यात बौद्ध शिक्षा केन्द्र था। सन् 1203 ई. में, बख्तियार खिलजी ने, इसे तोड़कर तथा जलाकर नष्ट कर दिया था। देखें, पाठक, प्रो. सुनीति कुमार, विक्रमशील और विक्रमशिला (लेख), विद्याभारती अंक-7, छोस खोर लिङ् बौद्ध सेवा संघ, ब्रेलिंग, किन्नौर, (हि.प्र.), 20 मई, 1989, पृ. 6-10; मिश्र, जयशंकर, प्राचीन भारत का सामाजिक इतिहास, बिहार हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी, पटना, 2002,पृ. 542-43.

6 सातवीं शताब्दी में, तिब्बत के बत्तीसवें राजा, नम-री-स्रोङ्चन के पुत्र, ठि-दे-स्रोङ्चेन, जो स्रोङ्चेन गम्पो (मृ.649/650ई.) के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हैं, के काल में पहली बार, बौद्धधर्म तिब्बत पहुँचा था। इससे पूर्व छब्बीसवें राजा, ला-थोथोरी जनचन(ज.173ई.) के काल में भी, बौद्धधर्म का प्रचार अवश्य हुआ था, किन्तु भाषायी अज्ञानता के कारण, वह सफल नहीं हो पाया था। स्रोङ्चेन गम्पो से पहले तिब्बत में कोई लिपि नहीं थी। स्रोङ्चेन गम्पो ने, लिपि तथा भाषा के महत्त्व को समझा। इसलिए उन्होंने अपने मन्त्री थोन-मी संभोट को, सोलह साथियों के साथ, लिपि तथा विद्या अध्ययन क लिए भारत भेजा। उनमें थोन-मी संभोट ही, एक ऐसे सौभाग्यशाली व्यक्ति रहे, जो ना केवल भारत की भीषण गर्मी में बच पाये, प्रत्युत् अपनी शिक्षा पूरी कर पाने में भी सफल रहे। उनके, अन्य सभी साथी, भारत में ही मृत्यु को प्राप्त हो गये थे। थोन-मी संभोट ने, कई वर्षों तक, भारत में रहकर, भारतीय लिपियों का अध्ययन किया। उन्होंने कश्मीरी ब्राह्मण लिपिकार (लिजिन) से, भारतीय भाषाओं और पण्डित देवविद्या सिंह से पाणिनि, कलाप और चान्द्र व्याकरण का अध्ययन किया। स्वदेश लौटकर, उन्होंने राजा के आदेशानुसार, अपने देश के लिए, तत्कालीन भारतीय लिपियों के आधार पर, 'उचेन' और 'उमेद' नाम से दो लिपियों का निर्माण किया और सुम-चु-पा(त्रिंशिका), तग्स-जुग (लिंगावतार) आदि आठ अध्यायों वाले व्याकरण ग्रन्थ की रचना की। देखें, नेगी, विद्यासागर, हिमालयी संस्कार एवं कृषि संस्कृति, किन्नौर के आलोक में, ईस्टर्न बुक लिंकर्स, दरिया गंज, नई दिल्ली, 2018, पृ., 17-18.

तो हैं। भोटी भाषा की, जिस उचेन लिपि में ये शास्त्र, अनुवाद रूप में उपलब्ध हैं, उसकी वर्णमाला देवनागरी उच्चारण सहित, यहाँ दो जा रही है, ताकि सुधी पाठक उसके आकार-प्रकार से परिचित हो सकें-

भोटी स्वर-

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इ. उ. ए, ओ।

भोटी व्यञ्जन-

ཀཁགང་།ཅཆཇཉ།ཏཐདན།པཕབམ།

क.ख.ग. ङ। च.छ.ज.ञ। त.थ.द.न। प.फ.ब.म।

ཙཚཛཝ། ཞཟའཡ། རལཤས། ཧཨ།

च़.छ़.ज़.व। ज.ज़.ह़.य। र.ल.श.स। ह.अ।

भोटी संयुक्त व्यञ्जन-

ཀྱཁྱགྱཅྱཆྱཇྱཉྱ།ཀྲཁྲགྲདྲཔྲཕྲབྲམྲཧྲསྲཧྱ།

क्य.ख्य.ग्य.च.छ.ज.ञ। ट.ठ.ड.ड.ट.ठ.ड.म्र.श्र.स्र.ह्र।

ཀླཁླགླཟླའླརླསླ།རྐཀྱརྒཀྱརྔཀྱརྕཅྱརྗཆྱརྙཇྱརྟཏྱརྡཐྱརྣདྱརྨནྱརྩཙྱརྫཛྱ།

ल.ल.ल.द.ल.ल। क.ग.ङ.ज.ञ.त.द.न.ब.म.च़.ज़।

ལྐཀྱལྒཀྱལྔཀྱལྕཅྱལྗཆྱལྙཇྱལྟཏྱལྡཐྱལྣདྱལྦཔྱལྨམྱལྩཙྱལྫཛྱ། སྐཀྱསྒཀྱསྔཀྱསྕཅྱསྗཆྱསྙཇྱསྟཏྱསྡཐྱསྣདྱསྦཔྱསྨམྱསྩཙྱ།

क.ग.ङ.च.ज.त.द.प.ब.ल्ह। क.ग.ङ.ञ.त.द.न.प.ब.म.च़।

ཀྭཁྭགྭངྭཅྭཆྭཇྭཉྭཏྭཐྭདྭནྭཔྭཕྭབྭམྭཙྭཚྭཛྭཞྭཟྭའྭཡྭརྭལྭཤྭསྭཧྭ།།

क्व.ख्व.ग्व.च्व.ञ्व.त्व.द्व.च़्व.छ़्व.ज्व.ज़्व.र्व.ल्व.श्व.स्व.ह्व।[7]

योग्य विद्यार्थी

[7] भोटी भाषा का विस्तृत परिचय के लिए देखें, लाहुली, के. अंगरुप, संभोट व्याकरण, केन्द्रीय उच्च तिब्बती शिक्षा संस्थान, सारनाथ, वाराणसी, 1996.

हिमाचल विश्वविद्यालय के लिए, उपर्युक्त भोटी लिपि तथा भोटी-भाषा बिल्कुल अपरिचित था, इस कारण शुरू के वर्षों में, भोटीभाषा-अध्ययन के प्रति, छात्र अधिक आकर्षित नहीं हुए, लेकिन बाद के वर्षों में, जब विद्यार्थियों ने, इस भाषा को, उनके शोध के क्षत्र में सहायक के रूप लाभप्रद और मुझे बौद्धधर्म-दर्शन तथा किन्नौर आदि हिमालयी क्षेत्रों की संस्कृति तथा समाज के अध्ययन में मार्ग दर्शक के रूप में पाया तो, विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न विभागों के शोधछात्र-छात्राएँ भी आने लगीं। कांगडा, मण्डी, बिलासपुर, ऊपरी शिमला, लाहौल-स्पीति आदि क्षेत्रों की छात्र-छात्राएँ, जब कभी विभाग में खाली समय में, आपस में अपनी-अपनी बोलियों में बातें कर रही होती थीं तो, मैं उनकी भाषायी शब्दों को पकड़ने का प्रयास करता रहता था, जो आगे चलकर, किन्नौरी बोली के शब्दों में, कितने उसके अपने हैं और कितने आयातित हैं और किन-किन बोलियों से लिये हैं, इसे पकड़ पाने में मुझे बहुत सुविधा हुई।

भोटी भाषा के विद्यार्थी के रूप में, डॉ. लक्ष्मण सिंह ठाकुर, डॉ. रेणु तुली, डॉ. कौशल्या चौहान आदि भी आये। डॉ. लक्ष्मण के कारण, पहली बार, मुझे डॉ. रघुवीर सिंह पिर्टा तथा डॉ. चेतन सिंह के क़रीब जाने का मौका मिला। डॉ. लक्ष्मण, पश्चिमी हिमालयी बौद्ध इतिहास पर, डॉ. पिर्टा, जन्तु-व्यवहार (Animal behaviour) तथा पर्यावरण पर, जबकि डॉ. चेतन, हिमालयी इतिहास पर शोध करते थे। इन विद्वानों के प्रभाव में आकर, मेरी शोध की दिशा ही, बदल गई। डॉ. पिर्टा की प्रेरणा से ही, मैं किन्नौर के पशु पालकों की समाज-संस्कृति को लेकर, एक बृहत् शोधपरक पुस्तक[8] लिख पाने में सफल हुआ, जिससे आज इस विषय से सम्बद्ध शोधार्थियों को लाभ हो रहा है। डॉ. लक्ष्मण ने, बौद्ध विहारों तथा मणि दीवारों (मणि मन्थङ)[9] के प्रति, श्रद्धा के साथ-साथ, ऐतिहासिक दृष्टि से अध्ययन करने की दिशा मं, मेरी सोच को आगे बढ़ाया, जबकि डॉ. चेतन से मैंने, पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी चली आ रही मौखिक इतिहास को, प्रामाणिक कसौटी पर, कसने-परखने की विधि सीखी। भाषा वैज्ञानिक आधार पर, शब्दों के मूल को पकड़ने की कला, मैंने डॉ. कौशल्या चौहान से ही सीखी। डॉ. कौशल्या चौहान, इस विश्वविद्यालय में, पहली अध्यापिका हैं, जिन्होंने, भोटी में डिप्लोमा करने के बाद, अपने विद्यार्थियों को,बौद्धदर्शन के क्षेत्र में, शोध के लिए प्रेरित किया। उन्हीं की बदौलत, उनके अनेक विद्यार्थी, बौद्ध दर्शन में, शोध कर पाने में, सफल हो पाये। डॉ. लक्ष्मण सिंह ठाकुर ने, भोटी भाषा में डिप्लोमा करने के बाद, बौद्ध विहारों में, भोटी भाषा में उपलब्ध भित्ति लेखों, बुद्ध-बोधिसत्त्वों की मूर्तियों के आसन भाग पर उकेरित अभिलेखों, मणिदीवारों तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में उपलब्ध ऐतिहासिक शिलालेखों को लेकर, जो अध्ययन प्रस्तुत किया है, वह क़ाबिले तारीफ़ है। रॉयल एशियाटिक सोसाइटी के जर्नल में प्रकाशित, डॉ. लक्ष्मण का, किन्नौर के पूह के कोरो क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध, भोटी शिलालेख पर शोधपत्र[10], विश्वविद्यालय के लिए तो, गौरव की बात है ही, शोधार्थियों के लिए भी, कम प्रेरणास्पद नहीं है।

बहुगुणा का आगमन

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8 पुस्तक देखें, नेगी, विद्यासागर, पश्चिमोत्तर हिमालय के आरण्यक-भेड़पालक: किन्नौर के सन्दर्भ में, सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक अध्ययन, केन्द्रीय उच्च तिब्बती शिक्षा संस्थान, सारनाथ, वाराणसी, 2007,

9 किन्नौर, लाहौल-स्पीति, लद्दाख आदि हिमालयी क्षेत्रों में, धार्मिक भावना से स्थापित की जाने वाली मणि दीवारों (मणि मन्दङ/ मन्थङ) के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत परिचय के लिए देखें, नेगी, विद्यासागर, एक हिमालयी चरवाहे की आध्यात्मिक यात्रा, ईस्टर्न बुक लिंकर्स, दरिया गंज, नई दिल्ली, 2013, पृ.10 का फु.नो. 2.

10 Thakur, Laxman, S, A Tibetan Inscription by lHa Bla-ma Ye-shes-od From dKor (sPu) Rediscovered, Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Third. Series, Volume, 4. Part 3, Cambridge University Press, November, 1994, PP.369-375.

जहाँ तक डॉ. रघुवीर सिंह पिर्टा की बात है, वे अपने जन्तु-व्यवहार तथा पर्यावरण अध्ययन के चलते, इटली आदि विभिन्न देशों के पशु पालकों से भी जुड़े थे, एक बार तो, वे इटली के अनेक पशुपालकां के संग, फील्ड-स्टडी में किन्नौर के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में भी गये थे, इस दौरान मुझे भी किन्नौर के नाको में, दो दिन के लिए, इस स्टडी ग्रुप के साथ, शामिल होने का अवसर मिला था। इन लोगों ने, यहाँ के किसानों तथा पशुपालकों के संग, ना केवल अपना विचार साझा किया था, प्रत्युत् रात को, आयकर आयुक्त, श्री एच.सी.नेगी के घर पर, अपने क्षेत्र के भेड़पालन व्यवसाय पर बनायी गई वीड़ियो भी दिखाया था। इतना ही नहीं, डॉ. पिर्टा पर्यावरण को लेकर, विश्वविख्यात पर्यावरणविद् एवं चिपको आदोलन के नेताओं में अग्रगण्य, पद्मविभूषण से सम्मानित, श्री सुन्दर लाल बहुगुणा[11] जी (9-1-1927-21-5-2021) के पर्यावरण तथा चिपको आन्दोलन से भी जुड़े थे। उन्हीं की बदौलत, अनेक बार, हमारे विश्वविद्यालय को, श्री सुन्दर लाल बहुगुणा जी का पर्यावरण संरक्षण तथा पारिस्थितिकी संतुलन (Ecological Balance)का महत्त्व तथा आवश्यकता पर व्याख्यान सुनने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ था। एक बार, जब उनका 1996 के अगस्त में आगमन हुआ था, उस समय 25 अगस्त को मुझे भी, अपनी संस्था 'भारत-तिब्बत मैत्री संघ, शिमला' के तत्त्वावधान में, पंथाघाटी में आयोजित, एक विशेष कार्यक्रम में, व्याख्यान के लिए, उन्हें आमन्त्रित करने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ था। इस व्याख्यान कार्यक्रम में, तिब्बती समुदाय के लोगों के साथ- साथ, डॉ. योगेन्द्र वर्मा, डॉ. इन्द्राणी चक्रवर्ती, डॉ. पिर्टा, डॉ. मोहन झार्टा आदि विश्वविद्यालय के लोगों के साथ, शिमला से डॉ. बंशीराम शर्मा, पूर्व सचिव, हिमाचल कला, संस्कृति भाषा अकादमी, केन्द्रीय उच्च तिब्बती शिक्षा संस्थान, सारनाथ, वाराणसी से, डॉ. वंगचुक दोर्जे नेगी, शिमला स्थित तिब्बती कल्याण अधिकारी, लॉ ओफिसर सुश्री सरोज नेगी, भोटी विभाग के छात्र आदि भी सम्मिलित हुए थे।

डॉ. रघुवीर सिंह पिर्टा, देश तथा विदेश के छात्र-छात्राओं को हिमाचली पहाड़ी संस्कृति तथा पारिवारिक पर्यावरण से रू-ब-रू कराने के लिए, पैदल यात्राओं तथा सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का भी आयोजन करवाते थे। एक बार तो, इस यात्रा में, बहुगुणा जी भी सम्मिलित हुए थे। इन सब शैक्षिक कार्यक्रमों के चलते ही, डॉ. पिर्टा "Pastoralism and The Tribes man of Mountain, the arung zed sa of Kanaor" नामक पुस्तक[12] लिख पाने में सफल हुए थे, जो उपर्युक्त विषय पर शोधार्थियों के लिए अत्यन्त उपयोगी है।

फील्ड-स्टडी

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11 श्री सुंदर लाल बहगुणा जी, परमपावन दलाई लामा जी के भी, अत्यन्त घनिष्ठ मित्र थे। उन्होंने ही, परम पावन जी को, पर्यावरण संरक्षण में पेड़ों क महत्त्व को, अपने प्रवचनों के माध्यम से, आम लोगों तक पहुँचाने के लिए, निवेदन किया था। परम पावन जी ने, इस बात का जिक्र, मधु पाठक की पुस्तक को लिखे, अपने निम्न संदेश में भी किया है-

"I deeply admired my good friend, the late Shri Sunder Lal Bahuguna, particularly the way he made "ahimsa" the core of his tireless campaign to protect the environment. Having grown up in the Garwhal, in Uttarakhand State, he was acutely aware of the need to preserve the rivers, forests and hills of the Himalayan region, and felt it was his mission to draw other people's attention to it.

Shri Bahuguna, once asked me to spread the word about the importance of planting trees and caring for the environment, especially in places such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh. I had happily agreed to repeatedly urge people to care for their environment, as this has ramifications far beyond the regions where they live." देखें, पाठक, मधु (सम्पादक), संकल्प के हिमालय, सुन्दर लाल बहुगुणा, बिमला बहुगुणा एवं सुन्दर लाल बहुगुणा, पर्यावरण संरक्षण एवं शोध संस्थान, देहरादून, 2022.

12 Pirta, Raghubir Singh, Pastoralism and The Tribesman of Mountain, the arung zed sa of Kanaor, Shipra Publications, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Dehli, 2009.

उन दिनों, पूरा जून महीना, विश्वविद्यालय में, ग्रीष्मावकाश रहता था, किन्नौर, लाहौल, स्पीति, लद्दाख आदि प्रत्यन्त हिमालय-क्षेत्रों में फील्ड-स्टडी के लिए, यह अवकाश, शोधार्थियों के लिए, बहुत उपयोगी होता था, क्योंकि शीतकालीन अवकाश के दौरान, इन क्षेत्रों में, अत्यधिक शीत लहर तथा बर्फ़बारी के चलते, जा पाना संभव नहीं होता है। पहली जून को डॉ. लक्ष्मण, डॉ. पिर्टा और मैं, कभी, साथ-साथ तो, कभी अकेले-अकेले, उपर्युक्त क्षेत्रों में फील्ड-स्टडी के लिए, निकल जाते थे और 30 जून को ही, हम लोग वापस विश्वविद्यालय लौटते थे। शेष समय में, हम लोग, विश्वविद्यालय में रहकर, फील्ड-स्टडी में एकत्र की गई, शोध-सामग्री का अध्ययन करते थे।

बौद्धिक विकास

विश्वविद्यालय की शिक्षा पूरी करके जाते समय, एक विद्यार्थी हाथ में, कागज़ का, मात्र एक टुकड़ा लेकर ना जाये, इसलिए एक अध्यापक, अपने विद्यार्थी के सर्वांगीण बौद्धिक विकास के लिए, भरसक प्रयास करता है। उसकी कामना होती है कि, उसका विद्यार्थी हर क्षेत्र में अव्वल रहे। इसलिए, वह अपने विद्यार्थी को, एक दृष्टि देने का प्रयास करता है ताकि उसका विद्यार्थी, उसे पाकर, समाज में अपनी पहचान स्वयं बना सके। इस संदर्भ में, बौद्ध धर्म-दर्शन तथा पालि के मूर्धन्य विद्वान्, अपने गुरु प्रो.जगन्नाथ उपाध्याय का जिक्र करना, यहाँ प्रासंगिक होगा। प्रो.जगन्नाथ उपाध्याय जी का, अपने सभी विद्यार्थियों के प्रति व्यवहार, सदैव पुत्रवत् रहता था। इसी के चलते हम लोग, उनसे, इतने घुल-मिल गये थे कि, उनसे किसी भी प्रकार का प्रश्न पूछने में, हम लोगों को, कोई संकोच नहीं होता था। एक बार मैंने, उनसे, किन्नौरी समाज में प्रचलित एक अवधारणा से सम्बद्ध एक प्रश्न पूछ लिया, उन्होंने उसका, उन्हें ज्ञान नहीं होने की बात कही, इस पर मैंने कहा, हम लोग तो ऐसा मानते हैं, इस पर गुरु जी ने अच्छा कहा। इतना कहते ही, मैंने कहा, ''आज तो, गुरु जी, शिष्य से हार गये''। इस पर, उन्होंने निम्न श्लोकांश सुनाया-

सर्वत्र जयमिच्छेत् पुत्रात् शिष्यात् पराजयम्॥

अर्थात्-

सभी जगह, विजय की कामना करनी चाहिए, किन्तु

पुत्र और शिष्य से पराजय की अभीप्सा होनी चाहिए।

जब मैं, नियुक्त होकर, विश्वविद्यालय जाने लगा तो, भोट-बौद्ध धर्म-दर्शन एवं तन्त्र के, दुर्लभ कोटि के विद्वान्, मेरे गुरु प्रो. सेम्पा दोर्जे जी, जो मेरे सभी सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक कार्यों के दिशा- निर्देशक हैं, ने कहा, ''अब तुम एक अध्यापक बनकर, विश्वविद्यालय जा रहे हो, तुम अपनी कक्षा के विद्यार्थियों को ही, अपने विद्यार्थी नहीं समझना, बल्कि वे सारे भी, तुम्हारे विद्यार्थी हैं, जो तुमसे कुछ जानने की चाहत लेकर, तुम्हारे क़रीब आते हैं, इसलिए, बिना किसी भेदभाव के, सबको समय देना और उनकी जिज्ञासा, शान्त करने का प्रयास करना।'' मेरे इन दो गुरुओं ने यह जो बातें कहीं, वे एक अध्यापक के आन्तरिक सद्गुण हैं। इसीलिए, मैंने अपने अध्यापन काल में, अपने गुरुओं के उपर्युक्त उपदेशों को, सदैव व्यवहार देने का प्रयास किया और आज भी कर रहा हूँ।

जैसेकि प्रसंगवश पहले कहा जा चुका है कि, विद्यार्थी काल से ही, मैं विभिन्न सामाजिक- सांस्कृतिक संस्थाओं से जुड़ा रहा और अध्यापक बनने के बाद भी, मैं उनसे कभी विलग नहीं हुआ। इस कारण, संस्थाओं द्वारा आयोजित, विभिन्न परिसंवाद गोष्ठियों में, मुझे जाना पड़ता था। जब भी, मुझे परिसंवाद गोष्ठियों में जाने का अवसर मिलता था, मैं अपने साथ, हर बार, तीन-चार विद्यार्थियों को, अवश्य ले जाता था। ले जाने से पहले, मैं संगोष्ठी से सम्बद्ध विषयों पर, उनसे लेख लिखवाता था, उसे सुनता था और संगोष्ठी में कैसे प्रस्तुत करना है और जिज्ञासुओं द्वारा उपस्थापित प्रश्नों का उत्तर कैसे देना है, इनके बारे में, उन्हें प्रशिक्षित करता था, इसके बाद ही, उन्हें संगोष्ठी में लेख प्रस्तुत करने देता था। इतना ही नहीं, संगोष्ठी स्थल पर भी, अवसर देखकर, उनसे मंच संचालन करवाता था, संगोष्ठी की कारवाई (Proceedings), लिखने देता था। इन सबके पीछे, मेरी यही भावना रहती थी कि, मेरे विद्यार्थी हर क्षेत्र में पीछे ना रहें और जब विश्वविद्यालय से अपनी शिक्षा पूरी करके जाएँ तो, उन्हें ऐसा ना लगे कि, इतने साल, विश्व विद्यालय में गुज़ारने के बाद भी, वे खाली-खाली जा रहे हैं।

पाठ्यक्रम निर्माण

सन् 1996 में, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने, गुगे (पश्चिमी तिब्बत) के राजा, देवगुरु येशे ओद (ज्ञानप्रभ) तथा देवगुरु जङ्छुब ओद (बोधिप्रभ) के प्रोत्साहन से, लोछेन रिनछेन ज़ङ-पो (महानुवादक रत्नभद्र, 958-1055ई.)[13] के दिशा-निर्देशन में, 996 ईसवी में, स्थापित हिमालय की अजन्ता के रूप में, विश्वविख्यात ताबो बौद्धविहार[14] के सहस्राब्धि-समारोह का आयोजन किया। इस समारोह के उद्घाटन अवसर पर, तत्कालीन हिमाचल प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री ने, जब विश्वविद्यालय में 'बौद्धविद्या केन्द्र' (Centre For Buddhist Studies) खोलने की घोषणा की तो, विश्वविद्यालय में संचालित भोटी विभाग के नाम को परिवर्तित कर, इसका नया नामकरण 'बौद्धविद्या केन्द्र' किया गया और पूर्व संचालित द्विवर्षीय भोटी डिप्लोमा पाठ्यक्रम के स्थान पर, देश के अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में संचालित पाठ्यक्रमानुसार, एक वर्षीय प्रमाणपत्रीय (Certificate), एक वर्षीय डिप्लोमा (Diploma) तथा एक वर्षीय उच्चत्तर डिप्लोमा (Advanced Diploma) पाठ्यक्रम के रूप में, संचालित करने का निर्णय लिया। साथ ही, बौद्धधर्म-दर्शन के अध्ययन की सहायक भाषाओं, यथा पालि, चीनी आदि में डिप्लोमा स्तरीय, जबकि बौद्धविद्या (Buddhist Studies) में भोटी वर्ग के साथ, स्नातकोत्तरीय पाठ्यक्रम संचालित करने का प्रावधान किया गया। इस निमित्त पाठ्यक्रम बनाकर, विभिन्न समितियों से पारित कराया गया। इसके अलावा, बौद्धविद्या में स्नातकोत्तर डिप्लोमा (PG Diploma in Buddhist Studies) पाठ्यक्रम, परमपावन दलाई लामा जी के दफ़्तर के सहयोग से, धर्मशाला स्थित महाविद्यालय में संचालित 'Centre For Ancient Indian Wisdom' का पाठ्यक्रम तथा 'हिमाचली पहाड़ी भाषा अध्ययन केन्द्र' का 'पहाड़ी भाषा प्रमाणपत्रीय पाठ्यक्रम' भी बनाये गये और उन्हें सभी समितियों से पारितकर विश्वविद्यालय के स्टेचूट (Statute) में भी, शामिल कराये गये। यहाँ, यह भी स्पष्ट कर देना उचित होगा कि, अध्यापकों के पद सृजित नहीं किये जाने के कारण, Ancient Indian Wisdom के पाठ्यक्रम को छोड़कर, शेष

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13 For Rin-chen-bzang-po, see, Tucci, Giuseppe, Indo-Tibetica-11, Aditya Prakashan New Dehli, 1988; नेगी, विद्यासागर, महानुवादक रत्नभद्र, (द्वितीय संस्करण), हिमाचल कला, संस्कृति भाषा अकादमी, शिमला, 2012.

14 For Tabo Monastery, see, Tucci, Giuseppe, Indo-Tibetica-111.1, Aditya Prakashan New Dehli, 1988, pp.21- 140; Thakur, Laxman S., Buddhism in Western Himalaya : A Study of Tabo Monastery, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2001; Handa, O.C., Tabo Monastery Buddhism in the Trans Himalaya, Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1994

संचालित नहीं किये जा सके। इतना ज़रूर है कि, निकट भविष्य में, विश्वविद्यालय, इन पाठ्यक्रमों के समसामयिक महत्त्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए, अध्यापकों की नियुक्ति करे तो, पाठ्यक्रम से सम्बद्ध सभी प्रक्रियाएँ पूरी की जा चुकी हैं।

परमपावन का आगमन

विश्वविद्यालय में रहे, प्राय: सभी कुलपतियों ने, अपनी-अपनी क्षमता तथा समय की मांग के अनुसार, विश्वविद्यालय के विकास कार्य में, अपना योगदान किया है। प्रो.ए.डी.एन.बाजपेयी, अर्थशास्त्र के आचार्य ही नहीं थे, एक उच्चकोटि के लेखक, कवि एवं वक्ता भी थे। विश्वविद्यालय में कुलपति (25-5-2011-24-5-2017), का ओहदा संभालते ही, उन्होंने पहला काम, प्रो. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मिश्र, पूर्व कुलपति, सम्पूर्णानन्द संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, वाराणसी, से विश्वविद्यालय का कुलगीत लिखवाने का किया। देश के प्राय: सभी विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलगीत हों और अपने विश्वविद्यालय का ना हो, यह बहुत खलता था। प्रो.बाजपेयी की यादाश्त, बहुत जबरदस्त थी, जिस व्यक्ति से, एक बार, वे मिलते थे, उसका नाम तथा शक्ल, वे कभी नहीं भूलते थे; विश्वविद्यालय में कोई, ऐसा व्यक्ति नहीं होगा, जिसे वे नाम व शक्ल से नहीं जानते हों। उनकी एक ख़ासियत, यह भी थी कि, वे देश के लब्धप्रतिष्ठित विद्वानों को विश्वविद्यालय में आमन्त्रित कर, उनका व्याख्यान तो, करवाते ही थे, साथ ही, विभिन्न धर्मों के सर्वोच्च गुरुओं को भी आमन्त्रित कर, उनका भी व्याख्यान करवाते थे। विश्वविद्यालय के स्थापना-दिवस के अवसर पर, कई बार, हिन्दू, मुसलिम, सिख, ईसाई तथा बाद्धधर्म के अनुयायियों से मंगलाचरण करवाकर, देश की सांस्कृतिक-धार्मिक विविधता में एकता का संदेश देने का भी प्रयास करते थे। व्याख्यान सुनने के लिए, विश्वविद्यालय के शिक्षक, ग़ैर शिक्षक सभी को बुलाते थे। अपनी उपर्युक्त ख़ासियत के चलते, वे परम पावन चौदहवें दलाई लामा जी को भी, विश्वविद्यालय में आमन्त्रित करना चाह रहे थे; जब सीधे तौर पर, संभव नहीं हो पाया तो, प्रो. सुरेश कुमार और प्रो. एस. एन. बिष्ट ने, कुलपति महोदय के समक्ष, इस काम में मुझे भी जोड़ने का सुझाव रखा। एक दिन, दोपहर बाद, कुलपति-दफ़्तर से, मुझे फोन आ गया, जब मैं कुलपति महोदय से मिला तो, वे कहने लगे, मैं परम पावन जी को, विश्वविद्यालय आमन्त्रित करने में, उनकी सहायता करूँ; यह बात सुनकर, एक बार तो मैं अवाक्-सा रह गया। फिर मैंने कहा, ''इस विषय में, मैं तिब्बती प्रशासन के शिमला स्थित, कार्यालयाधिकारी से बात करके पता करता हूँ।''

12 जून, सन् 2002 को, शिमला के संजोली स्थित, 'जोनङ् फुन्छ़ोग तगतेन छोसलिङ्, बौद्ध विहार' के प्रमुख खेल्खा-जेचुन-दम्पा जम्पल नम-डोल छोस-की ग्यलछ़न (ज.3-1-1933- मृ.1-3-2012) जी के निवेदन पर, सप्ताह भर के प्रवचन-कार्यक्रम के तहत, जब परम पावन जी, संजोली पधारे थे तो, उस समय, उन्हें विश्वविद्यालय में आमन्त्रित करने के सम्बन्ध में, तत्कालीन परीक्षा नियंत्रक, श्री ए.आर चौहान ने भी, व्यक्तिगत तौर पर, मुझ से कहा था कि, यदि मैं परमपावन जी को, व्याख्यान के लिए, विश्वविद्यालय आमन्त्रित कर पाऊँ तो, विश्वविद्यालय, इसकी व्यवस्था कर सकता है। उस समय मैंने उन्हें कहा, ''मेरी क्या बिसात कि, मैं इतने बड़े व्यक्ति, जो भोट-बौद्ध जगत में करुणा के साकार रूप, आर्यावलोकितेश्वर के साक्षात् अवतार माने जाते हैं, को मैं अकेला निवेदन कर पाऊँ।'' लेकिन इस बार, कुलपति की इच्छा थी। कुलपति की इच्छा का मतलब है, पूरे विश्वविद्यालय की इच्छा। मैंने परमपावन जी को सम्बोधित, एक पत्र तैयार किया और उसे लेकर, शिमला में तिब्बती प्रशासनिक अधिकारी के माध्यम से धर्मशाला स्थित, परम पावन जी के कार्यालय से सम्पर्क किया तो, वहाँ से 'नो' में जवाब आया। इस जवाब से, मुझे बहुत निराशा हुई।

नोबेल शान्ति पुरस्कार से सम्मानित, परम पावन दलाई लामा जी, जो दुनिया के अनेक संसदों, विश्वविद्यालयों तथा विभिन्न जन समुदाय क कार्यक्रमों में, व्याख्यान के लिए आमन्त्रित होते हैं, वे अपने गृह राज्य की राजधानी में स्थित विश्वविद्यालय में आमन्त्रित ना हों, यह बात मुझे आगे-पीछे भी हमेशा खलती थी। इससे पहले, विश्वविद्यालय के किसी भी कुलपति ने, परमपावन जी को, विश्वविद्यालय में आमन्त्रित करने की इच्छा नहीं जताइ थी। अब जब, विश्वविद्यालय चाह रहा है, तो उधर से 'नो' में जवाब आ रहा है। मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में कुलपति महोदय को सूचित कर दिया।

28 नवम्बर, 2013 को शिमला के रिज पर, तिब्बत की निर्वासित सरकार की ओर से, एक दिवसीय हिमालयन फेस्टिवल का आयोजन होना था, इसमें, तत्कालीन तिब्बती प्रधानमंत्री (सिक्योङ्) डॉ. लोब्ज़ङ् सङ्ग्ये ने भी, पधारना था। तिब्बती प्रशासन की इच्छा थी कि, इस रोज दोपहर बाद, Democracy in Exile : the case of Tibet, विषय पर, डॉ. लोब्ज़ङ् सङ्ग्ये का विश्वविद्यालय में, एक व्याख्यान रखवाया जाये ताकि विश्वविद्यालय में, उक्त विषय पर चर्चा हो। इस विषय को लेकर, जब शिमला स्थित, तिब्बती प्रशासन के प्रतिनिधि ने, कुलपति महोदय से निवेदन किया तो, कुलपति महोदय ने, हाँ करने में तनिक भी देरी नहीं की। व्याख्यान को सफल बनाने के लिए, व्यवस्था से सम्बद्ध कार्य का दायित्व, राजनीति शास्त्र की डॉ. विजय शर्मा, रशियन लैंग्वेज की डॉ. श्यामा जोशी तथा मुझे सौंपा गया और मंच संचालन की जिम्मेदारी डॉ. विजय शर्मा को दी गई। व्याख्यान के अवसर पर, अपने सम्बोधन में, कुलपति महोदय ने परमपावन जी को विश्वविद्यालय आमन्त्रित करने में, उनकी सहायता करने के लिए, डॉ. लोब्ज़ङ् सङ्ग्ये से निवेदन किया। उन्होंने इस सम्बन्ध में यथा संभव, प्रयास करने का आश्वासन दिया। इस प्रकार, डॉ. लोब्ज़ङ् सङ्ग्ये की मदद से, कुलपति महोदय, 19 मार्च, 2014 को आयोजित विश्वविद्यालय के दीक्षांत समारोह में, परम पावन जी को, मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में, आमन्त्रित कर पाने में सफल हुए।

दीक्षांत समारोह के अवसर पर, परम पावन जी के स्वागत के लिए, डॉ. जोगीन्द्र धीमान की अध्यक्षता में, एक समिति गठित की गई, लेकिन आध्यात्मिक बौद्ध गुरु का स्वागत करने के तौर-तरीके से, अपरिचिय के कारण, प्रो. सरेश कुमार, अधिष्ठाता अध्ययन के कहने पर, यह काम, मुझे सौंपा गया। मैंने इस काम के लिए, अपनी छात्र-छात्राओं की एक बैठक बुलायी और उसमें, परम पावन जी का, पारम्परिक रीति से स्वागत करने का निर्णय लिया और उसी के मुताबिक हम सभी ने तैयारी शुरू कर दी। इस निमित्त, किन्नौर, धर्मशाला, केन्द्रीय तिब्बती स्कूल छोटा शिमला से क्रमशः किन्नौरी, स्पीतियन तथा तिब्बती पारम्परिक पोशाकें मंगवायी गयीं; लाहौली पोशाक विश्वविद्यालय में ही, लाहौली छात्र संगठन से उपलब्ध हो गयी। साथ ही, च्मखा (*Oroxylum indicum*) की फूलमाला (ऊ-मालङ्) तथा चिलगोज़े की पारम्परिक किन्नौरी मालाएँ (दर-मा) तैयार की गईं, खतक मंगवाए गए, कोरङ् यानि स्वागत पूजा के लिए, मक्खन की तीन बत्तियाँ (करछोल) युक्त दूध का लोटा तथा सत्तू युक्त पात्र तैयार किये गये। इस प्रकार, अपनी छात्राओं की सहायता से, किन्नौरी, लाहौली, स्पीति तथा तिब्बती परम्परा से, परम पावन जी का स्वागत किया गया। दीक्षांत समारोह में, परम पावन जी तथा हिमाचल प्रदेश, विश्वविद्यालय के सुप्रतिष्ठित इतिहासवेत्ता एवं लेखक प्रो. एस. आर. महरोत्रा (23 जून-1931-17 जुलाई, 2019) को विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से, डी.लिट.की मानद उपाधि (Honorary D,Litt, Degree) से सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवसर पर, उपस्थित छात्रों और अध्यापकों को संबोधित करते हुए, परम पावन जी ने कहा, ''यह आर्य देश-भारत, वह देश है, जिसने विभिन्न धर्मों और संस्कृतियों को, ना केवल, एक साथ रहने के लिए, अपने यहाँ शरण दी, अपितु, उन्हें पल्लवित और पुष्पित होने के लिए, समान अवसर भी उपलब्ध कराये। इस देश ने सारी दुनियाँ के

लिए, करुणा और मैत्री का संदेश दिया है। दुनियाँ भारतीय ज्ञान विज्ञान और उसके वैभव की कायल रही है।'' परम पावन जी ने आगे कहा, ''मैं आधुनिक भारत की बात नहीं कर रहा, जो पश्चिमी देशों की तर्ज़ पर बदलता-सा प्रतीत हो रहा है। मगर इसी देश ने, पहले, सदियों से अज्ञान के अतल गह्वर में पड़े, तिब्बत जैसे देश को भी, अपने ज्ञान के प्रकाश से, पहली बार, आलोकित किया था। यह देश हमारा गुरु है और हम इसके शिष्य हैं। आप छात्र लोग, बरसों के कठिन परिश्रम के बाद, अपनी मंज़िल तक पहुँच पाने में सफल हुए हैं। अब आप लोग गुरु बनने जा रहे हैं। इस लिए, अब इस देश की, पुरातन ज्ञान निधि को, व्यवस्थित तरीके से, नई पीढ़ी तक पहुँचाने की महत्त्वपूर्ण जिम्मेदारी, आप लोगों की है।'' डी. लिट. की उपाधि पर, बोलते हुए, मज़ाक़िया लहजे में, उन्होंने कहा, ''आप लोगों को, कठिन परिश्रम के बाद, यह उपाधि मिली है, लेकिन मुझे बिना परिश्रम के ही, मिल गई। मुझे मानद उपाधि, प्रदान करने के लिए, मैं विश्वविद्यालय के कुलाधिपति तथा महामहिम राज्यपाल के प्रति, आभार प्रकट करता हूँ।[15]''

परम पावन जी का दीक्षांत समारोह में पधारकर, छात्र-छात्राओं सहित, उपस्थित विश्वविद्यालय परिवार को आर्शीवाद देना, विश्वविद्यालय के इतिहास में, एक अविस्मरणीय घटना थी, जिसका श्रेय निश्चित रूप से तत्कालीन कुलपति प्रो.ए.डी.एन.बाजपेयी तथा उनकी टीम को जाता है। इस ऐतिहासिक घटना ने, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय को, देश के भीतर ही नहीं, अपितु देश से बाहर, बी.बी.सी. तक की ख़बर बनने का अवसर दिया। प्रो. गिरिजा शर्मा ने इस अवसर पर दीक्षांत समारोह से सम्बद्ध शोभा यात्रा का, जिस अंदाज में आँखों देखा हाल प्रस्तुत किया, वह भी कम दिलचस्प नहीं था, जिसकी चर्चा, विश्वविद्यालय में, बाद के दिनों में भी, यदा-कदा होती रही।

दीक्षांत समारोह के अगले दिन परम्परया अवकाश रहता है, उसके अगले दिन दोपहर बाद, उन सभी लोगों, जो दीक्षांत समारोह से सम्बद्ध विविध कार्यों में जुड़े रहे, के प्रति आभार ज्ञापित करने के मक़सद से, कुलपति महोदय ने, एक बैठक बुलायी, जिसमें दीक्षांत समारोह की सफलता को लेकर चर्चा की गई और सबको धन्यवाद दिया। इस अवसर पर, कुलपति महोदय ने, जो बात कही, वह ग़ार करने लायक थी। उन्होंने कहा, ''आज तक, मेरे कार्यकाल में, जितने भी दीक्षांत समारोह, इस विश्वविद्यालय में हुए, उन सबसे, यह हटकर था, मुझे व्यवस्था से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए, किसी को कुछ बोलने की ज़रूरत ही नहीं पड़ी, हर काम स्वतः स्फूर्त हो रहा था, मानो कोई अदृष्य शक्ति, उन सबके पीछे काम कर रही हो।'' कुलपति महोदय की, इसी बात को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, योग विभाग की डॉ. रीता भल्ला ने कहा, ''परम पावन के विश्वविद्यालय में आगमन से, अनेक नकारात्मक शक्तियाँ भी शान्त हुई होंगी।'' इस बात में, कत्तई अतिश्योक्ति नहीं समझनी चाहिए कि, जिस किसी भी क्षेत्र में, पवित्र आत्माएँ, चाहे वे किसी भी, धर्म सम्प्रदाय से जुड़ी हों, प्रवेश करतीं हैं तो, वे उस क्षेत्र के मानवमात्र का ही नहीं, अपितु अशेष सत्त्वों (प्राणियों) का भी उद्धार करती हैं और उनके चरण पड़ने से, उस क्षेत्र की भूमि भी अधिष्ठित होती है।

उपाय कुशलता

प्रो.ए.डी.एन.बाजपेयी के कुलपतित्व में, मेरे साथ घटी एक घटना, जिसने मुझे, उस समय भीतर तक झकझोर दिया था, का उल्लेख करना इसलिए ज़रूरी समझता हूँ, क्योंकि यह, एक अध्यापक को आत्मनिरीक्षण करने के लिए प्रेरित करती है। विश्वविद्यालय में कुलपति ने,

[15] दीक्षांत भाषण के कुछ अंश का भावानुवाद।

आदेश जारी कर रखा था कि, सभी अध्यापक, किसी अपरिहार्य स्थिति को छोड़कर, अन्य समय में, सुबह दस से शाम पाँच बजे तक, विभाग में ही रहें; इसलिए हम सभी, अपने-अपने विभाग में, अनिवार्य रूप से रहते थे। चौड़ा मैंदान स्थित, विद्युत विभाग के दफ़्तर में, अर्की के एक सीनियर कैशियर, श्री प्रकाश चन्द होते थे, दूसरे तो, सुबह दस बजे से पहले, दफ़्तर नहीं पहुँचते थे, लेकिन वे नौ बज आकर, उपभोक्ताओं के बिजली-बिल जमा करना शुरू कर देते थे। मेरे लिए, यह समय सुविधाजनक था। आगे पीछे भी, मैं सुबह बिजली-बिल जमा कर, समय पर विश्वविद्यालय पहुँच जाता था। एक बार, जब मैं, वहाँ पहुँचा तो, खिड़की बन्द पड़ी थी। पूछताछ करने पर, पता चला कि, श्री प्रकाश चन्द, तीन-चार दिन की छुट्टी पर हैं और उनका काम किसी महिला कर्मचारी को सौंपा है, वह 10 बजे से पहले, बिल नहीं लेती है। 10 बजे के बाद भी, जब वह नहीं पहुँची, तो पता चला कि, वह बहुत दूर से आती है और जाम में फँस जाने क कारण, उस रोज वह, समय पर नहीं पहुँच पा रही है। बिजली बिल जमा किये बग़ैर, मैंने वापस जाना उचित नहीं समझा। वह महिला साढ़े 10 के बाद ही, पहुँच पायी और मेरी बारी आते-आते 11 बजने जा रहा था, बिल जमा होते ही, मैं विश्वविद्यालय की ओर दौड़ पड़ा। मुश्किल से, एक फरलांग का फासला तय किया होगा कि, एक सफ़ेद रंग की कार, पीछे से आयी और मुझ से कुछ कदम आगे जाकर रुक गयी, मैं उसके चलने का इंतज़ार करने लगा ताकि आगे सुविधापूर्वक दौड़ पाऊँ। यह क्या, आगे चलने के बजाय, उससे एक व्यक्ति बाहर निकलकर, कहता है, साहब मुझे बुला रहे हैं। उसके कहने पर, मैं तुरन्त कार के निकट गया, जब भीतर देखा तो, भीतर कुलपति महोदय बैठे हुए थे, मैंने उन्हें नमस्कार किया। वे मुझे अपनी बग़ल वाली सीट पर बैठने के लिए कहने लगे। उनके कहने पर, मैं बैठ तो गया, लेकिन मन से परेशान था, सोचने लगा, कार में बैठाकर, कुलपति महोदय पूछेंगे, क्या मेरे विश्वविद्यालय पहुँचने का यही वक्त है। कुलपति का इतना कहना भी, कम नहीं होता है, लेकिन वे सहज रूप में कहने लगे, ''मैंने सोचा, विश्वविद्यालय पहुँचने तक आपके साथ, कोई सकारात्मक बातचीत ही, की जाये।'' उन्होंने विचारों की महत्ता को लेकर, बातचीत शुरू की, मुझे भी कुछ बोलना था तो, मैंने अपनी बात को आगे बढ़ाते हुए कहा, ''दुनिया में विचार ना हो तो, कोई काम ही ना हो क्योंकि विचार, भविष्य में घटने वाली घटना के लिए वातावरण तैयार करता है, विचार के बिना किसी भी कार्य की, सिद्धि संभव नहीं है।'' इस पर, वे गम्भीर होकर, कहने लगे, ''आप सही कह रहे हैं।'' मैं बातें तो, ज़रूर उनसे कर रहा था, लेकिन भीतर ही भीतर अपराध बोध से, दबा भी जा रहा था क्योंकि मैंने उनके आदेश का उल्लंघन किया था। वे मुझे अपने कार्यालय के बाहर तक ले गये। कार से बाहर निकलकर, आभार ज्ञापन स्वरूप, मैंने उन्हें नमस्कार किया और वहाँ से, अपने विभाग पहुँचा, लेकिन मैं, भीतर से असहज महसूस कर रहा था। सोचने लगा, कुलपति महोदय ने, भले ही मुझे ना डांटा हो और ना ही विलम्ब होने का कारण ही पूछा हो, लेकिन कार में, अपने साथ बैठाकर, मुझे यह तो, ज़रूर जतला दिया कि, मैं समय का पाबंद नहीं हूँ। मेरी समझ से, यह उनकी उपाय कशलता थी कि, किसी को कुछ बोलो भी नहीं, लेकिन अपने व्यवहार से, उसे उसकी गलती का ऐहसास भी करा दो। यह बात ज़रूर है कि उपायकुशता को व्यवहार देने के लिए, दूसरा पक्ष यानि सुनने वाला भी, उतना ही संवेदनशील होना चाहिए, जितना सुनाने वाला।

नई तकनीक

विश्वविद्यालय में, जब कंप्यूटर पर काम होने लगे तो, प्राय: सभी बड़े विभागों में, कंप्यूटर आ गये, लेकिन विदेशी भाषा तथा मेरे विभाग को बहुत बाद में मिले, वह भी मेरे तथा डॉ. श्यामा जोशी के संयुक्त प्रयास से। विभाग में कंप्यूटर तो, आ गया, लेकिन उसका खोंप ऐसा रहा

कि, एक साल से भी अधिक समय तक, मैं उसे छूने से भी कतराता रहा और यही हाल, मेरे तत्कालीन कार्यालय प्रभारी का भी था। जब कभी, ईमेल करना होता था तो, मैं अपने किसी विद्यार्थी को बुलाकर, उससे करवाता था। मेरी एक छात्रा सुश्री रेणुका ने, जब यह देखा तो, एक रोज शाम के समय, विभाग में, अचानक आकर, कहने लगी, वह मुझे कंप्यूटर सिखाने आयी है, जब मैंने, इस जन्म में, कंप्यूटर सीख पाना मेरी बस की नहीं है कहा तो, उसने जबरन्, मुझे कंप्यूटर के निकट बैठाकर, पॉवर ऑन-ऑफ करने से शुरू करके, बीस मिनट क अन्दर, मुझे ईमेल करना सिखा दिया। इसके बाद, दो-तीन रोज, वह मुझे आकर सिखाती रही। बाद-बाद में तो, कंप्यूटर खुद ही सिखाने लग गया। मैं कंप्यूटर की भाषा को पढ़ता और उसके अनुसार कमांड देता और की-बोर्ड के अक्षरों को दबाते जाता था, इस प्रकार, मैने धीरे-धीरे कंप्यूटर चलाना सीख लिया। इससे पहले Academic Staff College में Computer Awareness की इक्कीस दिवसीय क्लास भी लगायी, लेकिन कंप्यूटर ज्ञान के मामले में, कुल मिलाकर, मैं सिफ़र ही रहा। सच कहूँ तो, मेरे कंप्यूटर ज्ञान के गुरू, मेरी उपर्युक्त छात्रा थी।

विश्व विद्यालय में, प्रो.पी.के.अहलूवालिया जी की गम्भीर मुद्रा तथा बहुमुखी प्रतिभा सम्पन्नता के चलते, मैं उनसे बातें करने में, अक्सर सकुचाता था, आगे-पीछे, जब कभी भी, मैं उन्हें देखता था तो, वे हमेशा गम्भीर ही दिखते थे। जब वे डीन प्लानिंग तथा टिचरस मेटर के पद पर थे तो, एक रोज, बालूगंज में उनसे भेंट हो गई, वे अपनी गाड़ी से, आगे जा रहे थे, जबकि मैं बस स्टेण्ड जाने के लिए, बस की इंतज़ारी में, वहाँ खड़ा था, अचानक मेरे सामने कार रोककर, वे पूछने लगे, मैं कहाँ जा रहा हूँ, जब मैंने बस स्टेण्ड कहा तो, उन्होंने मुझे अपनी बग़ल वाली सीट पर बैठने के लिए कहा, मैं सकुचाते-सकुचाते बैठा तो ज़रूर, लेकिन संकोचवश, उनके साथ बैठना, मुझे बहुत भारी लग रहा था, सोचने लगा, मैंने क्यों बस स्टेण्ड कहा, काश ऐसा नहीं कहा होता तो, यह नौबत ही नहीं आती। उनकी मुद्रा अब भी गम्भीर ही थी, बालूगंज की भीड़-भाड़ वाली सड़क पार करने पर, उसी मुद्रा में ही, उन्होंने मुझसे पूछा, क्या मेरे पास लेपटॉप है, जब मैंने ना में उत्तर दिया तो, कहने लगे, हम आपको विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से लेपटॉप देंगे।

अगले ही दिन, विभाग में क्या-क्या नहीं है, इसका डिटेल मंगवाकर, ना केवल, उन्होंने विभाग को लेपटॉप दिया, साथ ही प्रिंटर सहित कंप्यूटर, कंप्यूटर टेवल, चेयर, सक्रीन सहित पॉवर पोइंट प्रोजेक्टर भी दे दिया। अचानक ये सब मिलने पर, मैंने सोचा, संकोचवश उनको गाड़ी में बैठना, उस समय मुझे, भले ही, भारी लग रहा था, लेकिन विभाग को तो, कल्पनातीत लाभ हुआ। अगर मुझे, उनकी गाड़ी में बैठने का अवसर, प्राप्त नहीं हुआ होता तो, विभाग को इतनी चीज़ें शायद ही, उपलब्ध होतीं। उनके दिये लेपटॉप पर, सेवानिवृत्त होने तक, मैं काम करता रहा, मेरी दो-दो पुस्तकं उसी पर टाइप हुई थीं, उससे मुझे इतना अटेचमेन्ट हो गया था कि, सेवा निवृत्ति पर, उसे विभाग के हवाले करते हुए, मैं बहुत भावुक हो उठा था, जबकि मेरे पास, अपना भी लेपटॉप था। विश्वविद्यालय में बिताये दिनों की ढेर सारी मधर यादें हैं, लेकिन लेख की, एक सीमा है, इसलिए विवश होकर, लेखनी को जबरन् यहीं रोकना पड़ रहा है। अन्त में, इतना ज़रूर कह देना चाहता हूँ कि, जितना विश्वविद्यालय में रहकर, मैंने सीखा, लिखा, उसका श्रेय, जितना मेरे सभी गुरुजनों को जाता है, उतना ही, मेरे गुरु भाइयों, विश्वविद्यालय के मेरे सहकर्मी मित्रों तथा मेरे प्रिय छात्र-छात्राओं को भी जाता है। मैंने सबसे कुछ ना कुछ सीखा और पाया है।

दुःख सत्य

आज, जब मैं पीछे मुड़कर देखता हूँ तो, प्रकृति के नश्वर विधान के आगे, मेरे अनेक सहकर्मी मित्र, इस दुनिया को अलविदा कह चुके हैं। मुझे नियुक्त करने वाले ना तो, तत्कालीन कुलपति प्रो. के.सी.मल्होत्रा ही रहे और ना, मेरे प्रथम विभागाध्यक्ष ही; इतना ही नहीं, मेरे कुछ प्रिय छात्र तथा गुरुभाई भी, असमय इस दुनिया को छोड़कर, चले गये। उन सबकी यादें, रह-रहकर मेरी आँखों को, नम होने के लिए, विवश कर रहीं हैं। उनकी यादों में, भगवान् बुद्ध द्वारा उपदेशित, दु:ख आर्यसत्य की निम्न पंक्तियाँ, दोहराने के सिवा और क्या किया जा सकता है-

जाति पि दुक्खा, जरा पि दुक्खा, व्याधि पि दुक्खो,

मरणम्पि दुक्खं, अप्पियेहि सम्पयोगो दुक्खो, पियेहि विप्पयोगो दुक्खो,

यम्पिच्छं न लभति तं पि दुक्खं-सङ्खतेन पञ्चुपादानक्खन्धा दुक्खा।(संयुत्त निकाय)।

अर्थात्-

जन्म भी दु:ख है, जरा भी दु:ख है, व्याधि भी दु:ख है, मरण भी दु:ख है, अप्रियों का संयोग भी दु:ख है, प्रियों का वियोग भी दु:ख है, इच्छा करने पर किसी (चीज) का नहों मिलना भी दु:ख है। संक्षेप में पाँच उपादान स्कन्ध ही दु:ख है।

अनिच्चा वत सङ्खारा, उप्पादवय धम्मिनो।

उप्पज्जित्वा निरुज्झन्ति, तेसं वूपसमो सुखो ति।।(जातक अट्ठकथा-प्रथम भाग)

अर्थात्-

सभी संस्कार अनित्य हैं, उत्पाद और वय धर्मों से युक्त हैं।

उत्पन्न होकर निरुद्ध हो जाते हैं। उनका उपशमन होना ही सुख है।

(सर्व मंगलम्)

परिशिष्टः लेख से सम्बन्धित चित्र



बौद्ध विद्या केन्द्र



बौद्ध विद्या केन्द्र का कार्यालय



शिष्या को पत्रिका सम्पादन-कला के गुर सिखाते हुए केन्द्र प्रमुख वी एस.नेगी



विभागीय ग्रन्थालय



अध्यापक दिवस पर, बौद्ध विद्या केन्द्र के विद्यार्थियों के साथ केन्द्र प्रमुख वीएस. नेगी



पंथाघाटी में व्याख्यान देते हुए विश्वविख्यात पर्यावरणविद् श्री सुंदर लाल बहुगुणा



दीक्षांत समारोह के उपरान्त स्वर्ण पदक प्राप्त बौद्ध विद्या केन्द्र की छात्राएँ



पारम्परिक वेश-भूषा में सज्जित केन्द्र की छात्राओं के साथ केन्द्र प्रमुख वीएस. नेगी



पूज्य दलाई लामा जी के साथ कुलपति प्रो. ए.डी.एन. बाजपेयी तथा अन्य लोग



परम पावन दलाई लामा जी के साथ कुलपति प्रो. ए.डी.एन. बाजपेयी



परम पावन दलाई लामा जी के विश्वविद्यालय आगमन पर स्वागतार्थ खड़ी छात्राएँ-1



परम पावन दलाई लामा जी के विश्वविद्यालय आगमन पर स्वागतार्थ खड़ी छात्राएँ-2



बौद्ध विद्या केन्द्र कीछात्राओं का स्वागत स्वीकार करते हुए परम पावन दलाई लामा जी



परम पावन दलाई लामा जी से आशीर्वाद ग्रहण करते कुलपति प्रो.ए.डी.एन. बाजपेयी

मानव मूल्यों का सान्निध्य

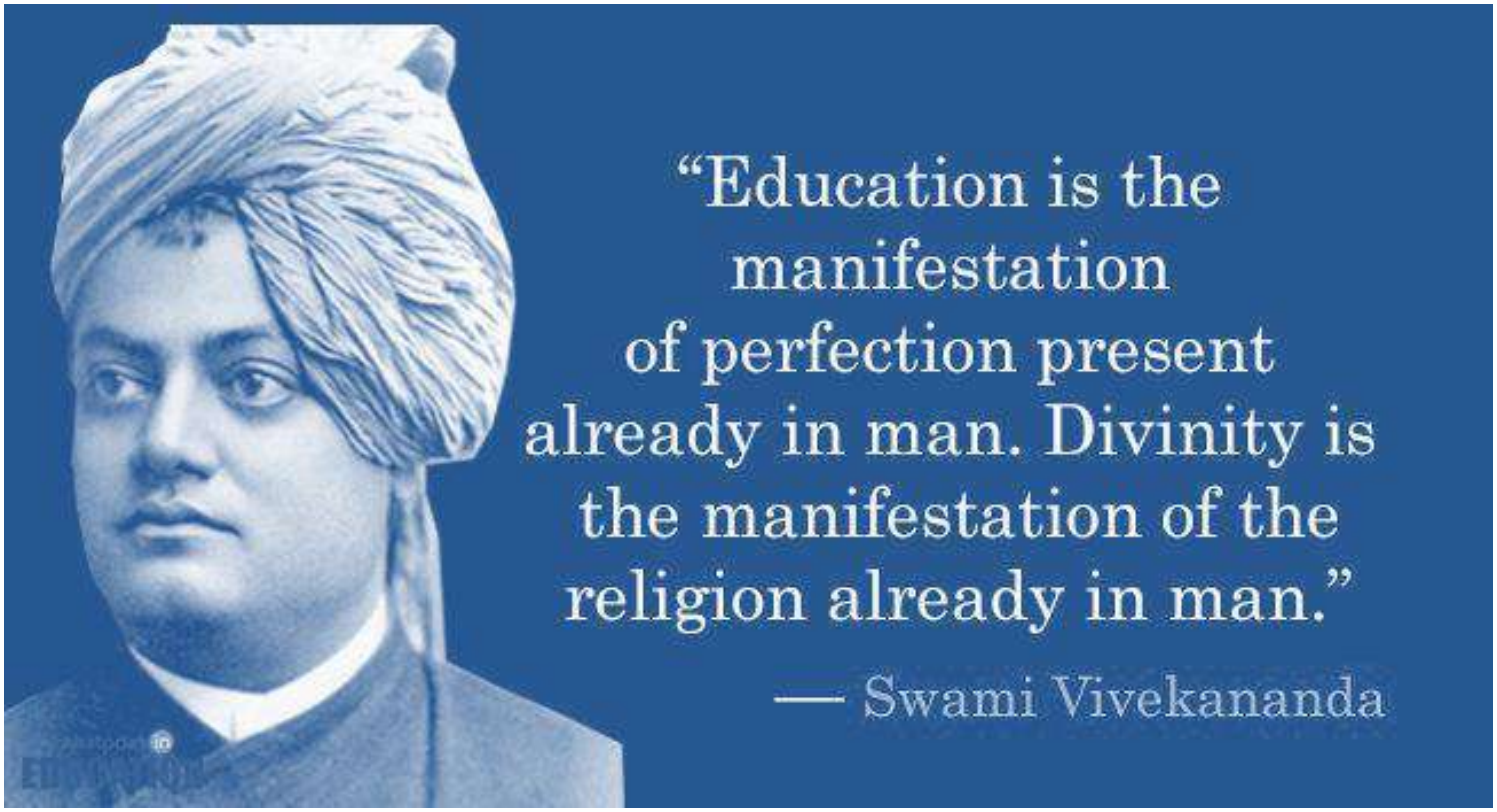
डॉ० ज्योति प्रकाश
प्रति कुलपति ,हि० प्र० विश्वविद्यालय ,समरहिल



सुन्दरनगर के एक छोटे से गाँव सकराह की ग्रामीण पृष्टभूमि के बचपन से निकल कर महाराजा लक्ष्मण सेन स्मारक महाविद्याल, सुन्दरनगर से विज्ञान में स्नातक की पढ़ाई पूर्ण कर वर्ष 1987 में समरहिल में स्थित अपने हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय में गणित विभाग में स्नातकोतर में प्रवेश मिला। पाठशाला व महाविद्यालय स्तर पर खेल में रूचि व दक्षता होने पर भी विज्ञान का विद्यार्थी होने के कारण खेल में आगे नहीं बढ़ पाया यह बात आज भी मन के किसी कोने में घर बनाई हुई है। संगठनात्मक गतिविधियों में जुड़ाव के साथ-साथ पढाई में भी थोड़ी -बहुत उपलब्धियां प्राप्त हुई जिनमें एम फिल का स्वर्ण पदक व आचार्य स्व० मिहिर बरन बैनर्जी S.S. Bhatnagar Awardee के मार्गदर्शन में पीएच डी होना प्रमुख थी। बैनर्जी सर की क्रिकेट में रूचि के कारण ही उनकी मुझ पर दृष्टि पड़ी जिसके कारण ही उन्होंने मुझे एम फिल में मार्गदर्शन दिया। ये मेरे पुण्य ही थे जिनके प्रताप से बैनर्जी सर जैसे संत पुरुष के सान्निध्य में रहने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ। हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय समरहिल का ऋणी हूँ कि मुझे ऐसे मित्रों का सदाचरण भरा सान्निध्य प्राप्त हुआ जिससे मैं हमेशा बुरी संगत से बचा रहा |

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय शिमला का इस मायने में भी बहुत बड़ा ऋण मेरे ऊपर है कि उसी अन्तराल में मेरे किन्ही पूर्व जन्मों के पुण्य के फलस्वरूप एक प्रिय मित्र द्वारा मुझे विपश्यना साधना की जानकारी मिली और जयपुर के ध्यान केंद्र में मई,1996 में विपश्यना रूपी धर्मगंगा के दस दिवसीय शिविर में डुबकी लगाने का सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ और सही मायने में मानव जीवन का अर्थ समझ आया। देख रहा हूँ कि कैसे मेरे विद्यार्थी, मित्र, सम्बन्धी भी अपने-अपने पुण्य प्रताप से इस विद्या की ओर खींचे चले आ रहे है, जिसमें सहयोगी होने का मुझे सौभाग्य प्राप्त हो रहा है,प्रदेश के विभिन्न महाविद्यालयों में पढ़ने के उपरांत सन 2010 से हिमाचल प्रदेश

विश्वविद्यालय शिमला में पढ़ाने का सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ | प्रशासन में भी कार्य करने के अवसर प्राप्त हो रहे हैं , स्वयं को सौभाग्यशाली समझता हूँ | मेरा विश्वविद्यालय दिन दुगनी रात चौगुनी उन्नति करता हुआ बहुत ऊंचाईयों को छुए और यहाँ से निकलने वाले विद्यार्थी मानव-मूल्यों से भरपूर हों तथा वे अपने परिवार, समाज व राष्ट्र के कल्याण को सामने रखते हुए निस्वार्थ भाव से कार्यरत रहें तो ही हमारे प्रयास सफल होंगे, तो ही समरहिल की पुण्य भूमि का ऋण चुकता होगा ऐसा मेरा मानना है|



HPU into Fifty Second Year

-Dr Lalit Mohan Sharma
Former Principal, Govt College Dharmshala



From class tenth to second year of my graduation in English Honours, the final mark sheets bore the stamp and signature of Panjab University. With establishment of HPU in July 1970, I was one of those of its alumni who joined it in the very first year. After my Master's in English and MPhil as a teacher- fellow at PU Chandigarh and a seven- year teaching in Panjab College, I registered for PhD at HPU in July 1982 after joining HP education service barely two months back.

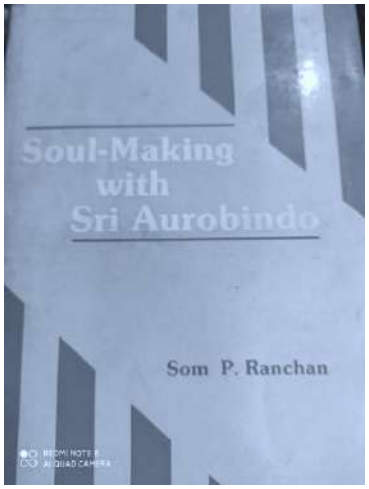
At that time, there was a limit on PhD scholars to be attached with any teacher in the department. Having noticed the friendship- alchemy between me and Prof Kamal N Awasthi, Dr Som Ranchan suggested my getting registered with Dr Awasthi, who, along Mr Ranjit Sra, was one of early PhD scholars with Ranchan sahb. Recalling one incident, Dr Awasthi told me how Dr Ranchan, instead of going to his Sanjauli home, stayed one night with Awasthi at his lower Mall residence. Mid- night, Dr Awasthi saw that Ranchan sat in a posture of meditation. Well, well, Awasthi thought, morning shall be easier. Then, around four in the morning, Awasthi heard a call, ' Kamal, Kamal', and he found, it was the Guru only. Let's read that chapter now, Awasthi heard his Guru telling him. Frenzied, hard-task master! Awasthi wrote his dissertation on ' Five Faces of the Hero'. Mine, suggested by Dr Ranchan, " Quest for Self in the American Novel: Mark Twain to Bernard Malamud". Again, a Jungian analysis. Never an easy task; Ranchan visited Dharmshala a couple of times, to hear and see what we were doing. It was simply great: these two years changed me in more ways than I can tell. Submitted in August 1984, just a month more than two years that I registered. Sheer madness indeed; but there was always a method in it. Both Dr Ranchan and Dr Awasthi are no more available on any mob- contact, just enrich my mind and imagination.



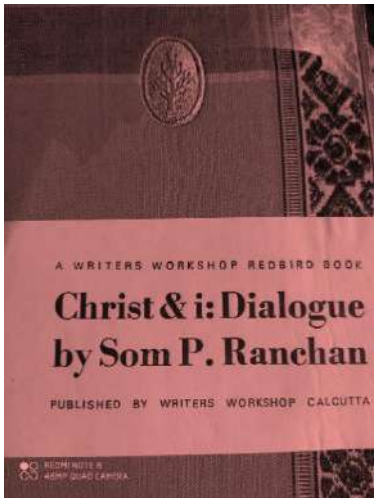
To go on with this, let me share with you a vignette from a UGC Seminar held on Fiction of 60s. Scholars from all over the country

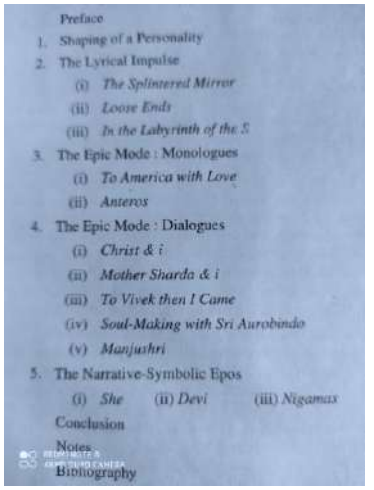
joined and at the valedictory, Dr Pandey from. BHU, had a word of special praise for Dr Ranchan, who as Director of the Seminar, summed up the whole paper in so brief a time and also made very insightful interventions. Pastiche was a new literary phenomenon then, and Dr Jai Dev had done a paper on it. Not very convinced, Dr Pandey confessed that he shall have to think more on that subject when he gets back to Benaras. Such original minds HPU have had. The very ambience of research had been energised in department of English with a renaissance touch due to Professors like DR Som P Ranchan and Dr Jaidev.

HPU, a 200 acre campus, early on started its reach for Distance Education, ICDEOL, while IGNOU was established in 1985 only. The HPU as such opened the doors for education, especially post-graduation, fulfilling as such need for higher education in northern India. Several of my cousins from Panjab, took its advantage even as they were engaged in jobs. As a lecturer in College, over the years, I watched HPU expand in education facilities and affiliation to hundreds of colleges. Selection as Prinicpal by HPPSC allowed me a dozen years at colleges like ones in Dharmshala and Hamirpur. As HPU soldier I could actively play various roles in organising youth festivals and sports tournaments as hundred of students visit the host college.









Gala events with a touch of carnival are indeed a challenge as also an opportunity to manage a disciplined display. Especially as Principal of host college and also as President of HP Council for Sports and Cultural activities, I have had the good fortune to gather support for giving away more awards and recognition to greater number of participating students, like individual dancers of wining top three positions to get individual momentos. At one youth festival at Govt College Hamirpur, we let NCC cadets escort guests and also act as security personnel since a uniform has a salutary impact. It's been a policy of UGC and our HPU also for our

colleges to opt for opening their doors for visit by NAAC teams. Even as I attended workshops at HPU on NAAC, I could lead two colleges, Hamirpur and Joginder Nagar, in getting National Accreditation. Having trained at Gurukul Kangri, Haridwar as NAAC official, as NAAC Peer ream member, this HPU alumnus visited a private college at Mukundpur in Panjab and Government College, Badherwaha in J& K in Nov 2006.





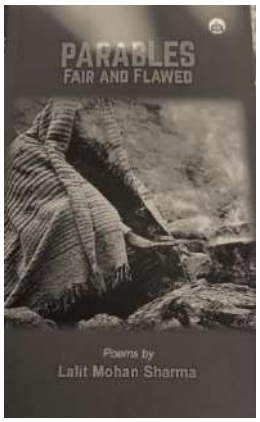


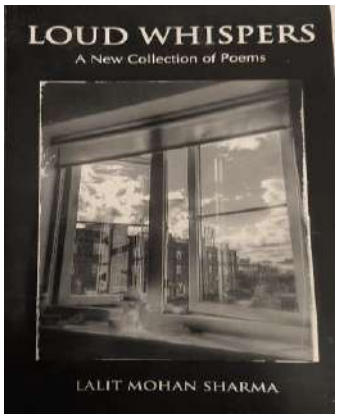




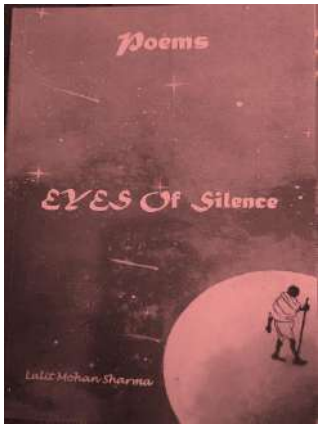
College Principals are lauded for introducing new courses to their institutions. I had no choice but to opt for a rather unpopular decision at GC Hamirpur, where a graduation course came to be introduced without appropriate affiliation of AICTE; two batches were on the line, and had to be shifted to HPU Campus. It was really tough, problematic; several departments were involved, local press, education directorate. But all said and done. Career of those students were saved by the author, with the help and guidance of another HPU alumnus, Dr PK Ahluwalia. Since that day, we have been friends since that year of 2004.

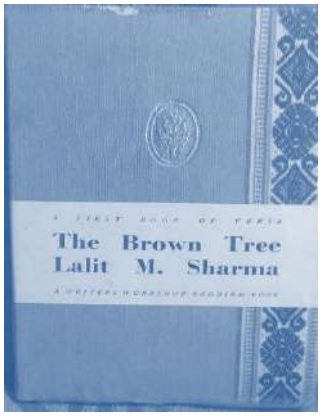
Whatever we got from life in professional terms, credit completely goes to having been one of the Alumni of Himachal Pradesh University. My father, Prof Parmananda Sharma, Masters from Govt College Lahore, served at GC Dharmshala in 50s and again since December 1968, till his superannuation in 1982, and he also served HPU in various roles including as Member of HPU Executive Council. As Principal, I have had the luck to be nominated/elected member of HPU Court, HP Academic Council and a Member of the committee to advise Academic Staff College. Big or small, like Walt Whitman says, we all make contributions. There are several men and women in HPU family I should like to recall, but one name I must mention here: Dr Anil Wilson, VC, and during his time, I happened to be Principal, Government College Dharmshala, also officially commanding as Director, HPU Regional Centre at Dharmshala till June 2008 when Dr Agnihotri took over. Candid, forthright, erudite and a reservoir of new ideas, Dr Wilson involved me in exchange of ideas and innovations which, not much later, became a part of higher education in Himachal Pradesh. Salutations to Summer- Hill





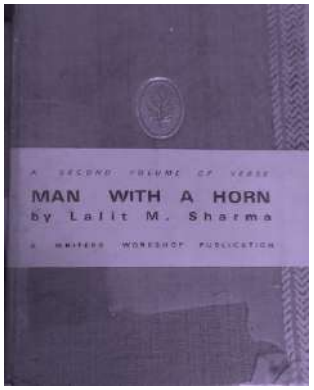


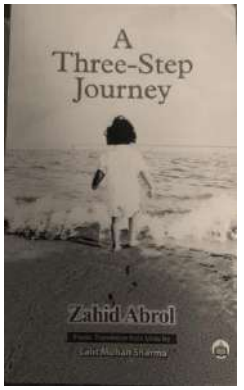


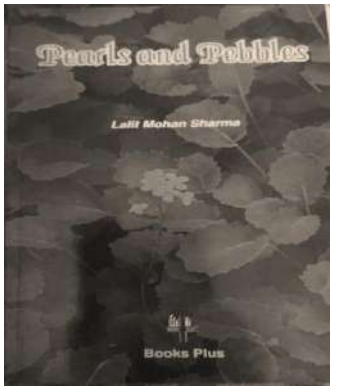












A Strange Bond of Thirty Three Years

-Dr. Anjali Dewan
Associate Professor (Retd.), Department of Home Science, St. Bede's College, Shimla



I have not been a student of Himachal Pradesh University but was working for more than 33 years in St. Bede's College, Shimla as an Associate Professor & Head, Department of Home Science. Every day working there was like a bond with the University. I was extremely fortunate that I was able to do one Orientation and two UGC sponsored Refresher Courses from the Academic Staff College in the University. I also attended a month long personal contact programme in the Department of Education for the completion of M.Ed. which I was doing from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). It was an enriching experience for me to be a student again. The hot paranthas, rajmah - chawal, hot cups of tea and coffee, I enjoyed with my classmates who were all younger than me. I attended a number of conferences and workshops as a delegate and sometimes as a Resource person. Whenever I came to the University for any Administrative Work, I was always provided with timely help and attention. I have spent many hours going through the books in the library. My self written books of Hindi poetry entitled ' Lamha lamha' and ' Manzilein aur bhi hain' can be found on the book shelves of HPU library, a satisfying experience.

I feel honoured that when H.P University adopted RUSA, I framed the syllabus of Home Science. I have been on the Board of Studies in the subject of Home Science from the year 1986 - 2019. I have been a paper setter for more than 30 years. I also received the Women Achiever's Award in the year 2017. I remember during one of the Refresher courses organized by Academic Staff College, most of the teachers were from the Department of Music. I was told that I was not a good singer and needed to improve my singing. I practiced regularly and on the last day sang a ghazal with a renowned musician of our group. The Vice Chancellor that time Prof S.K. Gupta (I am not sure about the name) really appreciated my effort. I also composed a poem including names of all the participants.

Reaching University was a challenge for me as I had to change two buses but every time I visited the University, I had such good experiences that wanted to come again and again. I was influenced by many stalwarts of the University like Prof. Som P. Ranchan, Prof. O.P Sarswat, Prof. ADN Bajpai, Prof. P.K Ahluwalia, Prof. Girija Sharma, Prof. Mamta Mokta and Prof. Aparna Negi. I have retired now but will always feel indebted to this prestigious university for helping me grow as a person. I congratulate Professor P.K Ahluwalia for taking the initiative in getting this magazine published. My best wishes for the release of the magazine of Alumni Association of Himachal Pradesh University.



"Take up one idea.
Make that one idea your life;
dream of it; think of it;
live on that idea.
Let the brain, the body, muscles,
nerves, every part of your body
be full of that idea, and just leave
every other idea alone.
This is the way to success,
and this is the way great spiritual
giants are produced."

A Kaleidoscope of HPU Memories

-Prof. Sonia Khan
Professor, Institute of Vocational Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla



I write as a daughter of a Professor who served long (till his retirement) in H.P. University. I write as child who grew up in the University campus. I write as an alumnus of H.P. University and I write now, as a Professor serving in H.P. University.

I take pride in saying that the name of my father, Professor A. R. Khan, is a name (of the many) closely associated with the identify of HPU. Speaking of my father's academic background, he earned his doctorate in Medieval Indian History from Aligarh Muslim University, under the esteemed guidance of Professor Nurual Hasan (a hard task master scholar, a renowned Indian Historian, Politician and Statesman in the Government of India), under whose guidance my father mastered his research skills. While pursuing his PhD, my father joined Rajasthan University as a research scholar and later (in 1971) started his teaching career in the same university. In April 1973 he secured a Fellowship in Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) Shimla and then we packed our bags and moved from the desert to the mountains of Shimla. One year was spent with dad serving at IIAS and us growing up playing in the sprawling magnificent premises of the palatial Viceregal Lodge (IIAS).

Moving to HPU: In 1972, H.P. University had been newly established. Soon after the earliest vacancies were advertised, my father joined the University in October 1973, as Associate Professor in History. At the same time, a large number of other young faculty members (in their 20s and early 30s), were also recruited in other departments of the University. Professor S.R. Mehrotra, Prof. Eva Mehrotra, Prof. L.P. Pandey and Prof. M.S. Ahluwalia, were all colleagues of my father in the Dept. of History.

Life in the Campus: Moving into HPU campus accommodation was like being welcomed into the most modern mansions of those times. The 'Teacher's Colony' was a fresh new construction of eight towering building blocks with 5 apartments in each block. All fresh faculty entrants to the university were handed over keys to their sparkling new fully furnished houses (that came as a bonus with the appointment). All were exhilarated to move in lock, stock and barrel, with their spouses / toddlers, and with their whole wealth of scanty

possessions, all packed into a bare minimum 2-3 'aluminium trunks' / suitcases and 'Hold Alls'. All 40 flats were soon occupied.

There in 'Teachers' Colony (rightly called - 'Jutogh View Estate'), life began for us in the University premises. That was a time when at an early age, seeds were sown for lifelong friendships (between 40 families of teachers), bonds that strengthened over a span of three decades to culminate into the strongest of associations, akin to relationships within one single large extended family. Jokingly we accorded the title of 'Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves', for the 'Vice Chancellor' and the '40 Professors' of the Colony.

As the campus grew and gradually expanded its roots in academics, HPU started moulding exceptional teachers who in due course of time became celebrated scholars of national and international acclaim. The creation of the identity of H.P. University is indeed credited to the Professors of yesteryears, whose names became synonymous with HPU, viz. Prof. Bacchan Singh, Prof. Kaul, Prof. K.C. Malhotra, Prof. M.K. Sharma, Prof. Massey, Professor Anand, Prof. Jaidev, Prof. Javed Alam, Prof. Banerjee, Prof. L.R. Verma, Prof. Sagar Sharma, Prof. Blokhra, Prof. Pathania, Prof. (Mrs.) Nirmal Gupta, Prof. B.C. Verma and of course my father Prof. Khan, among others.

The stature of Professors of yore was quintessential. When they walked in the campus, they exuded a distinct impressive aura, energy and warmth that instantly invoked in anyone and everyone a sense of awe. Every morning the Professors would walk up to the Campus from the Teachers' Colony and walk down back home in the evenings, in groups of 3-4, talking aloud, joking and laughing, with their grocery bags (*thelas*) dangling like pendulums on their shoulders. Writing about the merit of those professors far exceeds the power of my feeble vocabulary. In essence, all Professors were well informed on diverse issues, experts in their discipline, sharp witted, humble and thorough gentlemen! They could strike a conversation on any topic under the sun. Their voices were commanding and speech infallible. Each of them had a brilliant brain and an outstanding personality.

As a child, at times when I accompanied my father to the University, I do faintly remember sitting in his class (while waiting for him). I realised that when he would start speaking, the knowledge, expressions, oratory and confidence would leave everyone spell bound! The lectures were extremely lively and engaging, could carry on for hours and would completely captivate the audience in a way that not a person would blink an eyelid losing all track of time. The ease, fluency of speech and command on any topic that the Professors possessed, was unparalleled. Each one was an exceptional erudite scholar, equipped with vast and liberal education and had a sense of deep intellectual curiosity along with charm, energy and enthusiasm, all intricately woven into a lively disposition.

Academic, political or general discussions were not only confined to the University rooms/ classrooms. I remember that Professors would invariably be found engaged in casual, leisurely intellectual discourse over tea (i.e. *chai* and n*amkeen-bundi*) even in the several small tea shops (*dhabas*) of Summerhill, that were dotted all along the roads leading up/down the campus. As regular customers all Professors had befriended the tea shop owners who /whose children still remember and recall memories of teachers of those time.

Besides, the 'Study Room' of each apartment in the colony also served as a private 'intellectual den'. Rightly so, the treasure of my house was in my dad's Study Room which housed his prized book collection, a 'personal library' that I still hold dear to me, preserve and maintain in his memory. As my father was of a professor of medieval history, he had substantial books on the subject, but in addition owned a diverse collection that included books on English Literature/Grammar, Urdu, French, stories of Ramayana, Mahabharta, Gandhi, Nehru, Travelogues, Novels, Autobiographies of politicians (e.g. Advani ji, etc.) a range of Atlases, an antique volume of Britannica Encyclopaedia (1988) and a dozen best of English, Urdu and Persian dictionaries, all of speak of how well read he was. His books still surround me and are a reflection of the immense quest for knowledge that anyone in academics could have.

Teacher-Student Relations

Those were the real '*Guru-Shishya*' times. Students would address their Teachers as '*Guruji*' and held upmost respect for them. Teachers were not simply class teachers but 'Idols' and 'Mentors'. From my childhood I remember how every evening my father's PhD scholars had long sittings till late night at my place and we / they themselves, would be making tea several times throughout the evening while they remained engrossed in research and discussions. During the long stretched evenings innumerable times students had meals at our place. The Study was full of books, research cards, maps and papers strewn all about the carpet. My father had a sleek portable typewriter that he had brought from UK, and I recall that while working in his study, the measured beat of sound of his typewriter keys going '*tak, tak, tak*' would go echoing late into the deep silence of the night.

President Karzai (of Afghanistan), an alumnus of HPU, who was in the Political Science Department, became close to my dad (in an alien land) and was a frequent visitor to our place, to engage in academic and political discourse and enjoy Eid *sewaiyan* with us**.** Even after returning to Afghanistan, he remained in close contact with my father, even after become President and on one of his visits to Shimla and his alma mater (HPU), met my father to recall university memories of 1980s.

Social Life of Teachers: On returning from University, every evening all teachers would sit for evening tea in their Balcony, each of which looked out to other's balconies, from where, greetings would be exchanged and conversations were held criss-cross across the building blocks. Late evenings some professors would converge in the self-laid out 'Badminton Court' in the centre of the colony to play till late hours. Others would go visit one another's houses for academic or general courtesy calls. People were open and clear hearted. One never heard of any bickering, politics, back biting or any personal or professional vile intentions. The whole teaching community was a 'close knit unit' like a 'single happy family'. Together, all 40 families of colleagues in the colony (regardless of academic rank) would often go for picnics, walking up to Chadwick Fall and Glen. Together we'd celebrate each festival with gaiety and fervour. I particularly remember that we were the only Muslim family in the Forty Flats, hence Eid at 'Khan saab's' place was a special occasion, looked forward to by all. Eid preparations would start days ahead and may neighbours (uncles and aunties) would be forthcoming to lend a hand in preparing delicacies for the grand event. On Eid not only 40 families but a large number of students and scholars aplenty would also visit our house for '*sewiayan*'. We would have a 'Full House' of guests visiting from morning till night. On Christmas, the cake and tea party at Prof Massey's and Prof. Biswas was an attraction. Gurpurb made its presence felt with Prof. Ahluwalia's house quietly lit up in the evening. And of course Diwali would be buzzing with activity, crackers, lots of sweets and lots of candles lighting up the whole colony.

Holi was a one big event. The announcement of the festival would come from afar (i.e. noise and drum beat sounds from the Boys Hostel. Students in large groups would slowly march up to the Teacher's Colony, singing and dancing. Teachers would peep from behind their drawn curtains and many, in fear of being smeared with color, would have their houses locked from outside (by their house maids). Regardless, the students would approach the colony and climb up each block knocking at every house, one by one, respectfully adorning the forehead of their teachers with (*teeka*) and in return were given some Holi (Monetary) token from Professors. Later, all Professors and their families would come out and enjoy color and snacks, with lots of singing, dancing and a 'Pot Luck' lunch as well. Then was the ritual of all Professors and families, walking up first to the building where Professor R.K. Malhotra, Prof. Swaroop, and Mr. Garga (Librarian) resided. There everyone was welcomed with a lavish spread of tea and snacks. Thereafter, all would proceed to the residence of Vice-Chancellor (now IIHS), opposite the Library. The closing tea party was held with the VC (head of the family) of HPU. Finally, everyone would return home and start worrying about rationing water for the cleansing bath, as indeed we lived through a '30 years ' long and severe water crisis, in the Colony. Other small joys of life/ entertainment in our simple lives would be the annual '*Ramlila*' that was held near the Summerhill railway station. Every night we children with our parents Uncle and aunties would go to watch the same, carrying jute

sacks or cushions to sit on. Often Professors would donate some amount of money as a token, appreciating the role played by some characters. I distinctly remember the compere announcing in Hindi. "*Aur, Yeh dus rupay. (10 Rupees), Dr. M.K. Sharma ji ney xyz ke kirdar pe khush ho kar diye hain.....!*"

Life was simple and life was beautiful. Then, salaries were low, yet contentment was high. Over the years, all colleagues prospered together. Professor S.C. Sharma had the 'only TV' in the Colony (Black and White). Every Sunday his living room would be abuzz like a Theatre, with the whole colony flocking to his house to watch the 'Sunday Movie'. His entrance would be full of scores of pairs of shoes and slippers all heaped together. In due course of time, one by one, everyone purchased a Black and White TV ('Bigston' and 'Weston'). Later, as the teaching community grew relatively richer, one by one came the Refrigerators, then Color TVs and then Cars. Ours was one of the earliest (second) car (Maruti) in the Colony. My father learnt driving in his 50s and other Professors of around the same age followed suit. We all had our driving lessons in the University ground. On the narrow road leading down to the Colony we did have several freak accidents and burnt clutch plates every now and then. As people would normally escape unhurt, after a while these frequent incidents became regular entertainment, rather than a matter of concern. Many a times, Professor Khan's (our) served as an ambulance when often in the middle of the night, someone or the other would ring our door bell requesting, *'Khan saab/uncle, xyz is not well, could please take us to the dispensary?",* and my father would do so. All Professors were there for each other at all times, ready to help and walk the extra mile when needed.

Teacher's played cricket, football, badminton, etc. together. There used to be a Teachers' Sports day as well organized by the University, in which Professors participated enthusiastically with sportsmen spirit. All joys and sorrows, weddings and funerals, promotions, children's birthdays and accomplishments, were celebrated 'together' as one big family. Whenever any colleague retired and packed to move from Shimla, all 40 families would accompany the Retiree to the Summer Hill Railway Station to bid adieu, usually at the 5.30 evening train. Over a span of three decades, strong lifelong bonds were established, bonds that last till date.

Then and Now: As I continued my education in Shimla, HPU became my Alma Mater and later I secured a job in the same institution. I have spent two decades in the University as a teacher. Though now I am a Professor of the young generation, I honestly feel I can never match up the versatility, brilliance and calibre of the kind of Professor my father, or colleagues of his time were. Growing up in the university and serving here as a faculty member, I have witnessed the transition of HPU. The good old familiar faces have left. As rightly said, '*the old order changeth, yielding place to new*'. The campus has expanded manifold in area, there is improved infrastructure, a list of new teaching departments and a sizeable new teaching faculty. But for me, the university still sustains its image through renowned names of yesteryears and retains its identity in the iconic

'Post Office', the 'Library', the 'Auditorium', the 'Tennis Court' and our very own Queen of the Roads, i.e. the 'University Bus'.

With a beautiful 'past' deeply impressed on my memory, I continue my journey in HPU, moving ahead into the 'future', making loads of more memories, perhaps to be recalled, sometime later in life.



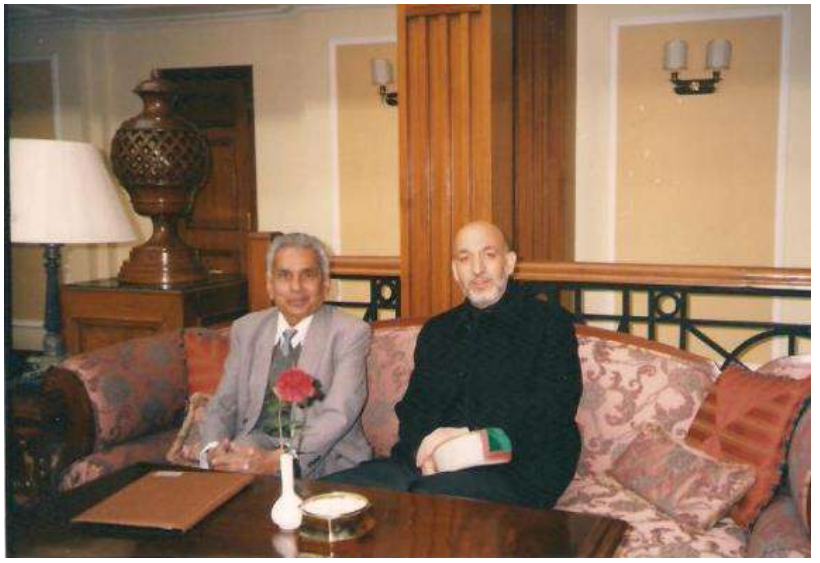
Prof. Khan (centre front) Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) 1973



University Teachers' Colony (1980s)



Teacher's Sports Day (Early 1980s) – H. P. University



Professor Khan with Hamid Karzai (Former President of Afghanistan and Alumnus of HPU)

Bees-Basath and Consciousness via Precipice

-Dr Ravi Bhushan
Associate Prof. (Retd.), St. Bede's College Shimla (Alumnus: 1981-1990)



I know it must sound intriguing. However, the decade long journey beginning 1981 was as exciting and tremendously enriching. And please resist the temptation to Google *bees-basath*, no one will ever find it even in a Webster.

So on to first day first scene. Find me huddled in a crowded local from Baldeyan via Lakkar Bazaar to Summer Hill with roof full of *kiltas* carrying farmers' produce for subzi mandi. Hunched beside me, a lanky guy, first day types from the very looks, precariously clutching a file bursting supposedly with certificates. Turned out we were both on our way for admissions.

On the way back we discovered a few university buses lined up for leaving but already almost bulging at the seams. As soon as the engines revved up, the more adventurous ones were scrambling on to the roof top and we thought it better to do like the Romans. First in a lifetime, and the last, experience of enjoying the delightful sights of Summer Hill- Shimla route from an undulating roof top! It wasn't to be a free ride as Mr Mullick, the conductor scrambled up to issue tickets to roof top passengers at Victory Tunnel. That oddly truck shaped vintage bus, on its way to Sanjauli, carried the fancy number '*bees basath*' which was promptly committed to memory.

The Professors and staff were, mostly formally dressed and a few really stood out as so immaculately 'suited-booted' that they would frequently draw appreciating glances from the jean clad younger audience. Prof Balokhra and Mr Bajaj, to name a few. Even the cafeteria staff was liveried, complete with a *kalgi* headgear. Ashok with his eve ready '*ji saab*' and Pedro with mischievous Mongolian looks, added immense charm to the atmosphere.
Being admitted first time to the presence of a Professor, especially the HOD was an unforgettable experience. It had a whole set of rituals to be carefully followed.

After the customary 'excuse me Sir' or adding 'please' or 'kindly' or 'may I be permitted' the learned Prof would consider your demeanor from head to foot , usually from above the lenses. Particularly worthy of close scrutiny was weather you were bent or not before pronouncing the verdict as 'yes'or 'yes!'Or 'YES?' Accordingly the student would decide whether to pursue the matter any further or scamper off.

If, however, one was lucky to be allowed in, the next great thing that could materialize would be asked to sit. Since, in all probability, one wouldn't find one's voice, the learned Prof would carry on with a long, undecipherable, Greek monologue on the vastness and the immense potential of your subject. Of course it was immaterial, for either party, what one had begged excuse for!

That would be the one defining moment when your brain tissue would get agitated, like never before in all your life, and you would realize the narrowness of your being and feel catapulted into the vast expanse of consciousness.

The concluding scene unfolds in one of the shacks of the English department. Personages: Prof Som P Ranchan, Prof Wilson and me as sutradhar.

Act 1: During a conversation I happened to mention, "Edge of a precipice". Then followed wisdom, courtesy Prof Wilson, "Precipice itself is an edge."

How I felt my evolution as a human had been significantly enhanced. I had been forever freed from the edge!

Act 2: Enters student leader Rakesh Singha (RS)

RS: I travelled via (वाया) Thanedhar to Narkanda

Prof Wilson: One has to travel via (विआ) Thanedhar?

RS: Yes Sir and is it pronounced as विआ Sir?

Prof Wilson: Yes, alternatively

RS: Thank You!

(PS: So, grateful for all the varied enriching experiences at HPU, I found my way from Summer Hill via IIM, Ahmedabad and ICAR, New Delhi to St. Bede's, Navbahar.)

Memory Mining of My Days in HPU

-Tikender Panwar
Former Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Shimla



Universities are spaces of contestation. Contestation of ideas, and vision for a future world. There ought to be umpteen numbers of differences in such ideas and the university is a perfect space to experiment with them.

Having said that, I feel honoured by the of Himachal Pradesh University Alumni Association (HPUAA), Summer Hill, for asking me to write a short piece of my days in HPU for its e-magazine, in which they are initiating a space for alumni to bond with their Alma Mater. To recollect my memories and go back, do real memory mining and gather the history of the university is a wonderful idea, which has taken me back to my student days in HPU about more than 30 years ago. Indeed, it was on this campus where I found an opportunity to think deeply about my role in the society and take bold steps towards my future progression in life as an activist. No doubt, it has been an intense internship for the future roles which came my way.

I am not sure whether I will be able to do justice to such a long period; however, I can for sure share some of the experiences of my student days in the HPU campus from the early 90s to the last few years of the century.

I always call my generation a hybrid one that has seen a considerable transformation taking place at the global, Indian and the academic levels. Why? Because when we were growing up we saw the role of the State (Nation State) as the largest and sole provider of everything - services, education etc. But then we were also a witness to the transformation. The transformation of this structure and the ideas of the State. What Ursula Hews points out in one of her pioneering academic works (Socialist Register) - the transformation from use value to exchange value?

How could our campuses and the one where we studied remain aloof from such a transformation! And thus came one of the biggest changes of our lives. This transformation was not just on structural issues of the framework of academia but also spiritual and intellectual.

Let me share a few anecdotes from my engagement with this transformation during this period in the campus and beyond.

This is the period when the economy was being shaped up. What was later called '*Manmohanomics*' or the ideas of neoliberal economy pursued by Dr Manmohan Singh, the then finance minister of the country. This was a departure from the Nehruvian model of development where State sponsored capitalism was the model. How could the campuses remain aloof?

There were debates and debates over the unfolding of this transformation. Just during that period we also had the GATT debate, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade which later became the World Trade Organization (WTO). Since we, our group comprising those who were very active in debates, were in the forefront to discuss these issues thread bare, we were also a corner for many questions raised during these debates. There was ideas like- "Will the State now wither away". What if the State does not remain the largest investor and the private capital ventures, what will be the state of education and particularly higher education? New slogans like self-sustaining education, centres of excellence, etc., emerged.

In our campus the fall out was in this way. Professor H P Dixit was the vice chancellor. He was known for his skills as an able administrator. But the HPU also had its legacy of debating the issues not just in the university auditorium but also on the streets where every one was a participant.

How could this transformation happen in the campus, in a highly surcharged atmosphere where the major student organisations were opposing it? I distinctly remember the first bargain being struck by the student bodies and the university administration. The management studies or as we called the MBA department was the arena of combat. I vividly remember that there were 30 seats in this department and we as student representatives would never allow the administration or the government to either enhance the fees or reduce the number of seats. So, a deal was managed.

The administration agreed for an increase in seats from 30 to 60, increasing the subsidised number of seats from 30 to 45 and remaining 15 seats for NRI's. The NRI's would be paying a substantially higher amount than the subsidised seats. I am not sure what the fee structure was for NRI's. The NRI students were supposed to get an endorsement from their respective countries to seek admission. After some time, we noticed none of the actual NRI's joined. Only those who had the money and residents of the state joined the MBA department under the NRI quota. Of course, a certificate for the same was managed.

This was the beginning which later turned out to be a formula for massive commercialisation of education in the education sector. And today, the rapid privatisation and commercialisation of education is not a hidden fact.

The second aspect that I think is noteworthy of HPU and perhaps for many universities across the country is compromise with the quality of education. The HPU was always known for its very high standards of faculty. Just to name a few, Professor Banerjee in Mathematics, Professor Javeed Alam in Political Science, Professor M K Sharma in Management, likewise, many other names used to galore the reputation of the university.

Along with neoliberal reforms, another major blow to which I was a witness was the recruitment of faculty in various departments. It would not be prudent of me to write such names here, but some of the people who were close to the ruling establishment were absorbed in the faculty who could not even qualify teaching high school students. This is another major transformation that was seen and is still continuing, which does not speak too well about the development.

Lastly, I am not sure how academics are being shaped now on campus. But I remember that the two councils, the academic and executive councils were important bodies of decision making. There are instances where these bodies even rebuffed the dictates of the ruling establishment and pursued a relatively independent path. However, the role of students in shaping their future by not just withholding the elections since long but also not being made part of the academic council ensuring their participation in framing academics, is a big challenge. The university cannot and should not remain between the binary of 'they' and 'us'. Unfortunately, that is how it seems, it must be ours': our university. And that can happen by ultra-democratic participation of everyone in the decision making; that constitutes students, teachers and even the non-teaching staff.

I wish success and glory to the University for provoking critical thinking- an essence of being sapiens, the *Homo sapiens*.

A Journey I would Love to Undertake Again



-Prof. Girija Sharma
Former Dean of Studies and Professor of English (Retd.)
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

The year was 1977. It was a July afternoon. Light rain and fog seemed to envelope the town. As I stood at Summerhill Chowk with my father, dazed and unsure of everything except that I had arrived in the University, little did I know that I was here to spend more than forty years of my life.

And then the classrooms—more like barracks and yet so charming! It was a world away from home and yet pulsating with life—so full of excitement. New friends, new courses, new teachers—everything seemed to hold the promise of a better tomorrow. There was no Arts Block, only these barracks, which till late housed the departments of Geography, Yoga and Journalism. The classes were held in shifts—morning and evening. In the first year there was the evening shift for the Languages and the morning shift for the Social Sciences. We, the students of the English Department had the luxury of starting our day late. The next year saw it all changed. We had the morning shift and the Social Science students the evening one.



The Department of English had fine teachers—still remembered and loved by many. Professor Som P. Ranchan and Professor Jaidev left us and the world some years ago. They left an everlasting impact on all whom they taught. Professor B.S. Pathania and Professor Pankaj K. Singh enriched the Department in myriad ways. I owe what I achieved to each one of them.

Things were so different then. The library was the cosiest place to go to, to study, to meet friends. In between we would sneak out for the tea-breaks. A wooden structure, it still stands but is somewhat dilapidated. Gone are the times when it was the most appealing place—its wooden staircase echoing with the footsteps—leading to a modest hall, heated by a '*bukhari*' in the winter months—so warm literally and metaphorically.

Many of us had been allotted rooms in the Gargi hostel having twenty-five rooms in all. We were like a family—warmly sharing things and caring for each other in times happy and sad. Most of us studied hard for hours after classes but when it was time to relax, we didn't care for anything except for enjoying the moments fully.

On the completion of Master's degree, and an M.Phil. Degree thereafter, it was time again to plan for the future. Enrolled for the degree of Ph.D. now, I also started taking classes and was appointed as a Research Associate. I still remember entering the same class room as a teacher, where I had sat as a learner. It was on May 1, 1981. Though teaching was a dream vocation, the realisation that it demanded great devotion and time began to dawn on me like never before. It was in 1983 that I became an Assistant Professor in the same Department that had nurtured me and many others like me.

The journey since then has been so beautiful, so satisfying and so rewarding in more ways than one. Then came the time to bid goodbye. The year 2018 had seemed so far away all those years. But eventually it came. I realized, however, that the end of the innings was a moment of immense peace, so reassuring, so overwhelming and so fulfilling. The unconditional love and support of all—my students, my fellow teachers, the other staff has given me countless reasons to be full of gratitude. Perhaps, I could not have asked for more and would not have wanted more out of life than I got. If I can put the clock back, I would again like to stand with my father at Summerhill chowk on a July afternoon—enveloped by mist and rain, waiting to join the University for a Master's degree in English.

May this institution scale greater heights in the days to come, which I am sure it will. Built on a strong edifice of scholarship, it certainly has earned a name for itself as is borne out by its illustrious alumni, who have brought glory to their alma mater within the country and across the shores.

42 years of My Learning Experience

-Virender Kumar Vohra
Planning & Devevelopment Officer (Retd.), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla



I joined the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla on 10.02.1971 and superannuated in Feb.2013 after completing blot-less 42 years' service while working on various positions right from a Clerk to ACOE/P&DO. Throughout my life I served only this esteemed Institution. Having inspired by the charged academic atmosphere, I improved my entrant educational qualification of Pre-Engineering to M.Phil (Pol.Sc.), PG Diploma in Adult Education (Gold Medalist) and Diploma in Yoga from our University, also with a view to learn real meanings of terminology used in academic & research activities undertaken in the University. I worked on all positions in different sections/branches of the University viz. Recruitment, Examination, Planning & Development, General Administration, Establishment, Entrance Test, ICDEOL, Dean of Studies Office etc. Out of this tenure, I want to share few memories on the basis of personal experience & interacton pertaining to various events, Vice Chancellors, Teaching, Non-Teaching staff & students of the University. To remember the names of the persons & their work on a certain occasion is real tribute to them and I am grateful to those with whom I was associated.

Declaration of First Result of the University

To decide the strategy for declaration/publication of *first result* of BA/BSc Part III, the then, Vice Chancellor, Late Dr. R.K. Singh convened a meeting of the officers/officials deputed from education department/HP Secretariat & HPU total numbering to 15-20 in one of the rooms of Summer House Building (now Library building). All were enthusiastic & thrilled about the above result. The university had only one cyclostyling machine which could not accomplish the entire work of gazette publication & I was deputed to get remaining stencils cyclostyled from the machine at Government College, Sanjauli. The completion of the work was reported by me at midnight to the then Registrar Late Sh. R.M.Sharma & I left for the university next day at 8 am.

Remebered Vice Chancellors' remarkable works: Although, all the VCs completed their tenures successfully, yet few names would be remembered for their remarkable following works.

- **Late Dr. R.K. Singh, First VC of HPU,** who made significant efforts to recruit eminent teachers of national/international repute in various departments of the university so that students could get the best education. Few names include Dr. H.O. Aggarwal (Bio Sciences), Dr. R.N.Singh (Business Administration), Dr. A.C. Jain (Chemistry), Dr. V.S. Mathur, Dr. K.P. Pandey, Dr. Lokesh Kaul, (Education), Dr. K. Chatterjee & Dr. Som P. Ranchan (English), Dr. D.D. Narula (Economics), Dr. Bachchan Singh (Hindi), Dr. S.R. Mehrotra & Dr. A.R. Khan (History), Dr. B.R. Chauhan (Law), Dr. S.N. Dubey & Dr. M.B. Banerjee (Maths), Dr. Romesh Chand (Physics), Dr. Shanti Swaroop (Pol.Sc.), Dr. Baldeo Singh (Sanskrit),etc..
- **Late Dr. K.C. Malhotra,** during his eight years' tenure, emphasized to create infrastructural facilities in the campus besides raising sufficient grant from the UGC/State Government.
- **Dr. H.P. Dixit,** during his short tenure, initiated examination reforms through various committees & introduction of computerization of Examination branch.
- **Dr. C.L.Kundu,** an exemplary humanitarian who worked for the welfare of employees through various schemes.
- **Late Dr. Anil Wilson**, a thorough gentleman, wise human being who contributed in creating academic ambience & worked for the uplifting of teaching & non teaching staff. He added that a "certificate of appreciation" be also given to every retiring employee on the day of their superannuation along with memento & other gifts etc.
- **Prof. A.D.N.Bajpai,** a dynamic academician, good administrator, an eloquent speaker bilingually & well wisher of university community who introduced "Kul-Geet" of the University and also named the road leading from Summerhill Chowk to Administrative Block as "Gyan Path". He encouraged & emphasized that the official work be done in Hindi language & made efforts to get the University Act, statues & ordinances translated into Hindi language. He managed to strengthen the "Pension Corpus Fund" so that the superannuated employees could get their retirement dues timely. Further, he initiated tradition for honouring a freedom fighter on The Independence Day's function and also introduced custom to deliver meaningful speech on the day of retirees' function.
- **Prof. S.P.Bansal,** the present Vice-Chancellor, the founder of our Tourism Department, scaled new heights in the field of Tourism besides his successful functioning as VC of various Universities. As a D.R.

Admin, I had an opportunity to work with him in conducting various functions & events of the University successfully especially with regard to hospitality.

Prominent Student Leaders Groomed on the Campus

I still remember the names of few student leaders which were found on the walls, posters and hoardings in the campus and never knew at that time that they would achieve such big positions in the society, also bring laurels & glory at national/state level. Such names include Sh.J.P. Nadda (Hon'ble President of BJP,India), Sh. Anand Sharma (Ex-Foreign Minister of India), Sh. Rakesh Singha (MLA), Sh. Jai Ram Thakur(Hon'ble CM,HP), Sh. Sukhvinder Sukhu(MLA), Sh. Narender Atri (BJYM, State President) etc.

Special Convocation for Mr. Hamid Karzai (Ex-President, Afghanistan)

To confer honorary degree upon our alumni Mr. Hamid Karzai, who visited India as a President of Afghanistan, a special convocation was held at Raj Bhavan, Shimla under extreme tight security. Being DR.Admin, I coordinated the function & still remember when the academic procession was to be receded; Mr. Karzai (Chief Guest) started talking to his guru Dr. Gopal Singh, D/Pol.Sc for about 10 minutes, eventually the convocation came to an end in an informal delighted way.

Appointment of Chairpersons in various Departments

Prof. S.R. Mehrotra filed many CWPs in the Hon'ble High Court, HP from time to time to get decided the seniority of teachers for their appointment as Chairpersons on rotation basis. Later on the decisions of the Hon'ble High Court were used as instructions/guidelines/interpretations of these University rules in making appointment of Chairpersons through General Administration.

Representation of Non-Teaching Employees on the Executive Council

During the year 1985, the statues of the university were amended to give representation to non-teaching employees on the Executive Council. Mr. O.P. Chauhan was elected first time as a member of the EC& remained as such many times. Chaudhry Waryam Singh Bains elected *four* times member of EC including *hat-trick*, beside other members in different years.

Witnessed many students' Employees agitations in the campus

Besides students' agitations & clashes among different organizations, the non-teaching employees during the year 1973, witnessed long agitation against employees on deputation. Due to sudden demise of the ward of

Chowkidar, most of the non-teaching employees along with certain teachers/students went on strike for 45 days during the year 1979 & some of them had to face the brunt of "no work no pay".

My Experience as Member of various Committees/ Bodies

- While acting as a presenting/Inquiry Officer in different Inquiry cases, I gained different types of experiences during my interaction with accused employees. As a Member of Advisory Board, Central Board Worker's Education (CBWE) where I learnt to encounter the problems faced by the Industrial Workers. Being Member of various Recruitment & Promotion Committees I gained sufficient experience about the service matters of different categories of employees.
- As a Member of Examination Discipline Committee for 2 years, I had a chance to understand the psyche of the students who were caught while copying in the examination.
- Being a Member of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the UGC in the capacity of senior most administrative officer & Planning & Development Officer, I had an opportunity to work with *Prof. P.K. Ahluwalia, the-then Dean Planning & now the Chairman of the Alumni Association*, and learnt a lot in Academics while preparing and presenting different types of proposals. Prof. Ahluwalia is a multi-facet personality & guided me at various steps in a very simple & informal manner without being prejudice. Thus, I am grateful for his overall support. As a UGC Resource person, I had an opportunity to deliver lectures to the participants of refresher courses/ orientation programs on the topics of Service Matters, YOGA, and Good Administration etc. in the Academic Staff College of the University.

Professional Relations with Registrars & my Colleagues

Since, I remained posted in GAD/Establishment branches of the University for about 23 years, in the capacity of Suprintendent, Section Officer, Assistant Registrar & Deputy Registrar, I was fortunate enough to work with HAS Officers/ Teachers posted as Registrar. I learnt the administrative skills from HAS Officers & soft skills from teachers. Some of the eminent Registrars with whom I had a close knit connect are *Sh. Subhash Ahluwalia, Sh. Rajinder Singh, Sh. R.D. Panwar, Sh. Ashok Sharma, Sh. C.P. Verma, Sh. R.S. Gupta, Sh. V.D. Sharma, Prof. J.B. Nadda, and Prof. Shashi Kant.* Simultaneously, I had very good & cordial relations with my colleagues irrespective of their positions & reciprocated their regards to me. The amount of respect which I have received is unforgettable. Every moment spent during these 42 years of service was memorable with everybody's support.

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के साथ संस्मरण

कृष्ण कुमार शर्मा
AGM एस बी आई, रिटायर्ड।



मुझे याद है वह समय मई 1981,जब मैं भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में मेरठ शहर से ट्रान्सफर होकर शिमला आया था। मेरी धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती नीरज शर्मा उस वक्त हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्विद्यालय शिमला में केमिस्ट्री विभाग में पीएच डी कर रहीं थी, और रिसर्च एसोसिएट के पद पर कार्यरत थीं। हमने "डोराथी कॉटेज" समर हिल शिमला में किराए पर मकान लिया था।

मैं अक्सर उनके डिपार्टमेंट जाया करता था। वैसे भी मेरा साइंस बैकग्राउंड से होने के कारण मुझे भौतिक विभाग से लगाव था। वहां का जो माहौल था बेहद प्यार भरा था। डॉ एस सी चौधरी, डॉ. आर. के महाजन, डॉ वी. के. स्याल, डॉ एम एल परमार सभी का व्यवहार एक सीनियर कॉलीग की भांति था, जो बड़ी आत्मीयता से मिलते थे, समझाते थे । डॉ इंद्रजीत कौर तो उनके साथ की थीं, ही। वहीं दूसरी तरफ प्रो. के. सी. मल्होत्रा, प्रो आर एल बलोकरा, प्रो सी. एस. पांडे, प्रो बी. सी. वर्मा, प्रो एस. सी. शर्मा एवं प्रो बी. एन. मिसराजी आदि सीनियर प्रोफेसर्स थे और उनका सभी का व्यवहार बड़ा मृदुल व सीनियर गाइड के समान था।

यद्यपि मैं एस.बी.आई. की शिमला शाखा में बतौर फील्ड ऑफिसर कार्यरत था, लेकिन डिपार्टमेंट के लोग मुझे अच्छी तरह पहचानते थे और बड़े आदर के साथ व्यवहार करते थे। भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्विद्यालय में मुख्य शाखा एक छोटे से परिसर में, जहां आज एस सी / एस टी सेल बन गया है, स्थित थी। रसानायनिकी विभाग के ग्राउंड फ्लोर पर साथ में एक साइन्स हॉल हुआ करता था जिसमें इनके प्रोग्राम हुआ करते थे। मुझे अभी भी डा एस सी चौधरी सर के "वो पंजाबी टप्पे व मेज पर तबला बजाना" एवं डॉ पांडे सर का मधुर गायन "काला काला बांसुरी वाला कर गया दिल की चोरी " आज भी मेरे मानस पटल पर अंकित है।

वहीं दूसरी तरफ प्रो मल्होत्रा सर जो उस समय रासायनिकी विभाग के अध्यक्ष थे, विभाग में अनुशासन व काम के प्रति उनका समर्पण आज भी मुझे याद है। हमेशा उनका well pressed सफ़ेद कमीज़ और टाई में रहना। उनके जूतों की आवाज से विभाग मे आने का पता चल जाता था व डिपार्टमेंट में एक दम पिन ड्रॉप साइलेंस हो जाती थी । उनकी प्रेजेंस मात्र से ही सब अलर्ट हो जाते थे।

डिपार्टमेंट के व हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्विद्यालय के इस प्यार भरे वातावरण से प्रेरित होकर सन 1982 में मैंने PGDPM&LW में मैनेजमेंट विभाग में प्रवेश लिया एवं 1983 में पासआउट हुआ। हमारी क्लासेस लकड़ी व टीन से बने कमरों में लगा करती थी। हमारे विभाग में प्रो एम के शर्मा थे उनका विद्यार्थियों के प्रति व्यवहार, सबसे गप्पे लगाना अच्छा लगता था।

प्रो सुरेश जी व प्रो पाठक हमारे प्रिय अध्यापकगण थे। वे बड़ी मेहनत के साथ हम लोगों को पढ़ाते थे। चूंकि हमारा इवनिंग कोर्स था तो ज्यादातर क्लासमेट्स सर्विस क्लास थे। कितना शांत व मनमोहक वातावरण था आज भी याद आता है।

उस वक्त मैं भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की मुख्य शाखा में फील्ड ऑफिसर कम फ़ोरेन एक्स्चेंज अधिकारी के रूप में कार्यरत था। विश्विद्यालय का यंत्र वगैरा इत्यादि, हमारे द्वारा आयात होते थे। उसी दौरान विश्वविद्यालय के अनेक सीनियर प्रोफेसर्स जैसे प्रो के सी मल्होत्रा, प्रो सुनील गुप्ता जी, प्रो कौशिक एवं प्रो शारदा जी आदि से वार्तालाप करने का सुअवसर मिला।

मध्यांतर के बाद

सन1986 के उपरान्त मैं शिमला से बाहर स्थानांतर हो गया। सन 2007 से 2011 तक मैं फिर शिमला आया। इस बार मेरी पोस्टिंग भारतीय स्टेट बैंक में बतौर नियंत्रक (AGM) हुई थी व भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की समरहिल शाखा मेरे अतर्गत आती थी। हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्विद्यालय से पुराना प्यार और प्रगाढ़ हो गया।

विश्वविद्यालय शाखा में जाना अपने घर में आने जैसा लगता था। इस बार काफी कुछ परिवर्तित हो गया था। नई बिल्डिंग्स बन गई थी। नए डिपार्टमेंट्स खुल गए थे। उस वक्त के वाइस चांसलर प्रो सुनील गुप्ता जी बहुत ही कॉपरेटिव थे। उसी समय मेरी मुलाकात प्रो प्रदीप आहलूवालिया जी फिजिक्स विभाग व प्रो अरविन्द भट्ट जी बायो टैकनोलौजी से हुई। दोनों ही बहुत उच्च कोटि के विद्वान हैं व इनके बारे में जो भी कहा जाए वह कम होगा। मेरी धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती नीरज शर्मा, केमिस्ट्री विभाग, चूंकि विश्वविद्यालय में काफी सिनियर प्रोफेसर थीं तथा विश्वविद्यालय के कई मुख्य पदों पर सुशोभित थीं,इसलिए भी मुझे कुछ अधिक सम्मान मिलता था। मुझे भी विश्विद्यालय के लिए कुछ भी करने की इच्छा रहती थी।

सन 2011 में नए वाइस चांसलर प्रो ए डी एन बाजपेयी जी ने विश्वविद्यालय का चार्ज ग्रहण किया।हमने विश्वविद्यालय में प्रशासनिक भवन में एटीएम लगाने का निर्णय समर हिल शाखा के उस वक्त के डायनेमिक शाखा प्रबंधक श्री पुनीत शर्मा जी के साथ मिल कर लिया । 22 जुलाई 2011 को, विश्वविद्यालय दिवस पर जब मैं प्रो बाजपेयी जी से एटीएम का उदघाटन करवा रहा था तो वे मुस्करा कर बोले कि शर्मा जी हमारे पास तो एटीएम है ही नहीं, तो मैने भी मुस्करा कर कहा था कि मैं तो हूं न आपके साथ। "भारतीय स्टेट बैंक विश्वविद्यालय के साथ"

फिर वहां सभी लोगों ने ठहाका लगाया। आदरणीय बाजपेयी जी के साथ अक्सर विचार विमर्श होता रहता था। विश्वविद्यालय में होने वाले कवि सम्मेलन में मेरी काफी रुचि रहती थीं। "कुंवर जावेद" के वो सुंदर गीत व बड़े सीनियर कवि "सोम ठाकुर" जी का कविता पाठ:

"मेरे भारत की माटी है चंदन और अबीर,

सौ सौ नमन करूं मैं भईया सौ सौ नमन करूं।"

आज भी मेरे मानस पटल पर अंकित हैं।





31अक्टूबर, 2011 को भारतीय स्टेट बैंक से सेवानिवृत होने के पश्चात मैंने बतौर सीनियर फैकल्टी आईएफबीआई ज्वाइन किया। विश्वविद्यालय से मेरा संबंध लगातार बना रहा। तभी मेरे मन में विचार आया क्यों न विश्वविद्यालय से एम.बी.ए किया जाए। मैने 2013 में हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्विद्यालय में ICDEOL से एमबीए में Admission लिया। सन 2015 में प्रथम श्रेणी में पास किया।

इस समय के अनुभव भी सांझा करने वाले हैं। प्रो कुलवंत पठानिया जी, प्रो कुलभूषण चंदेल जी, प्रो विजय कौशल जी सभी बहुत कॉओपरेटिव थे। कक्षा के सभी अध्यापक पूरी गंभीरता के साथ नोट्स बना कर लाते थे व लेक्चर देते थे। लेकिन कुछ बच्चे हमेशा टीचर से छुट्टी की रिक्वेस्ट करते रहते थे तो अध्यापक व हम उन्हे समझाते थे कि टीचर ने लेक्चर पढ़ाने के पैसे लेते हैं जबकि आपको लेक्चर पढ़ने के पैसे देने हैं तो उनको छुट्टी की रिक्वेस्ट नहीं करनी चाहिए। (क्योंकि छुट्टी मांगने का उद्देश्य केवल मॉल रोड घूमना था।). ऐसे ही एक बार मैं परीक्षा के दौरान में अपनी सीट तलाश रहा था तभी कुछ स्टूडेंट्स आए और मुझे पूछने लगे कि सर हमारी सीट्स कहां है। मैंने उन्हें बताया कि मैं भी एक स्टूडेंट हूं और उन्हीं की तरह अपनी सीट तलाश रहा हूं। जब मैं परीक्षा दे रहा था तो क्लास में इंविजलेटर मेरे परिचित थे,मेरा हाल पूछने आ गए। बड़ा अटपटा लगा। सच कहूं लगभग 42 वर्ष बाद (MSc Physics 1971 में Meerut College Meerut से किया था) हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय ने कॉलेज के दिन याद करा दिए। मैं और मेरी धर्मपत्नी रिटायरमेंट के पश्चात विवेकानंद केंद्र कन्याकुमारी, शाखा शिमला से जुड़ गए हैं। उसी के 11 सितंबर 2015 के "विश्वबंधुत्व दिवस" पर हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के वाइस चांसलर आचार्य ए डी एन बाजपेयी जी ने बतौर मुख्य अतिथि गेयटी थियेटर शिमला में शिरकत की थी।

यदि मै प्रो सिकंदर कुमार जी, पूर्व वाइस चांसलर, प्रो एस पी बंसल जी वर्तमान वाइस चांसलर, प्रो अरविन्द कालिया जी, प्रो नागेश ठाकुर जी, प्रो पी एल शर्मा जी, प्रो सरबजीत सिंह जी, प्रो शशि कांत जी, प्रो घनश्याम जी, प्रो बलजीत सिंह जी, प्रो वीना शर्माजी, प्रो अपर्णा नेगी जी, प्रो ममता मोक्टा जी, प्रो इंद्रजत कौर जी स्व प्रो शशिबाला कालिया जी एवं प्रो सुवर्चा चौहान जी का नाम नहीं

लूंगा तो ये मेरी धृष्टता होगी। इन सब से समय समय पर मेरा मिलना हुआ। सभी उच्चकोटि के आचार्य व बहुत विनम्र व्यक्तित्व के मालिक हैं। मुझे समय समय पर इनका सहयोग मिलता रहा है।

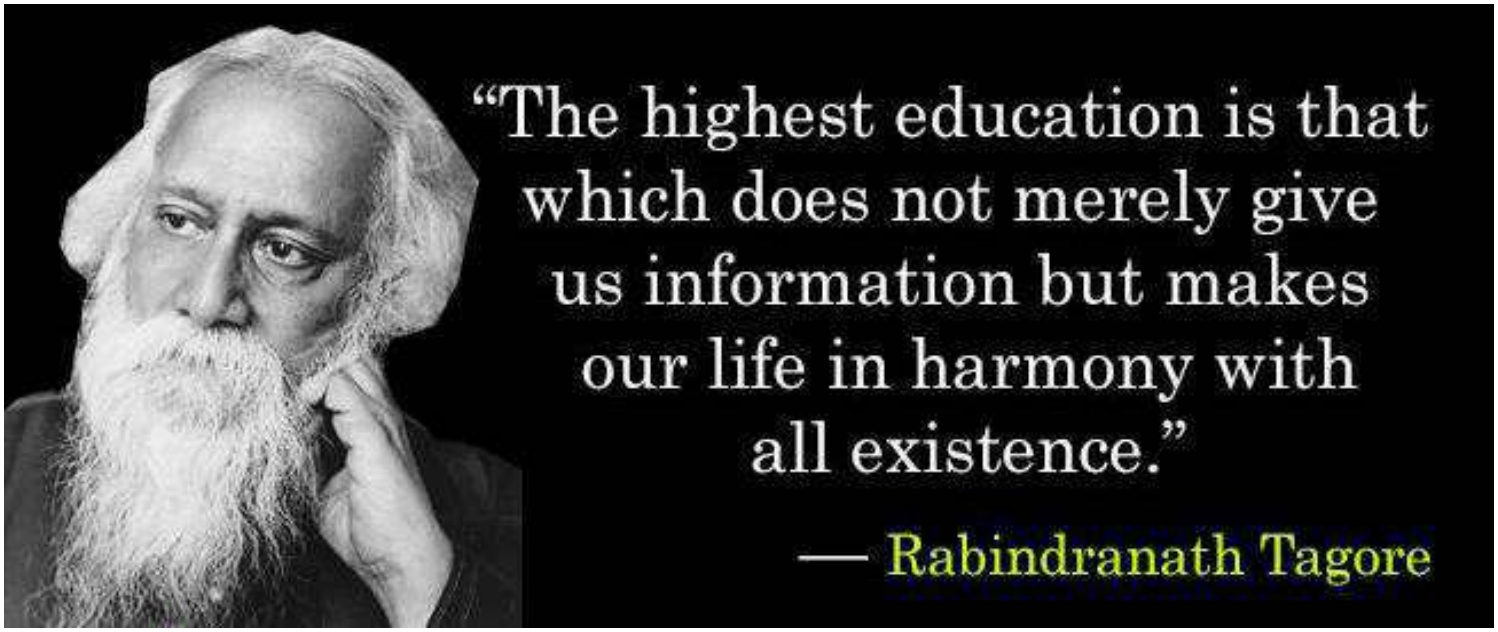
एक और कारण था इस विश्वविद्यालय से आकर्षित होने का_

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय शिमला के प्रथम वाइस चांसलर डॉ राम करण सिंह थे। उससे पहले वे मेरठ विश्वविद्यालय के प्रथम वाइस चांसलर रहे थे (1967_1971तक)। मेरी बीएससी व एमएससी की दोनों डिग्री उन्ही की साइन की हुई हैं।

एक बार फिर से मैं कहूंगा कि मैं हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय का ऋणी हूं। मुझे यहां मेरी जिन्दगी की सबसे अजीज इन्सान मेरी धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती नीरज शर्मा मिलीं। मुझे विश्वविद्यालय ने जीवन में आगे बढ़ने का मौका दिया। यहां के लोग इतने अच्छे हैं कि मैं मेरठवासी 1981 में मेरठ से आने के पश्चात यहीं शिमला में बस गया। मेरे दोनों पुत्र जो शिमला में ही पैदा हुए इसी विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़े।

मैं अपने दिल की गहराइयों से ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि यह हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय शिमला दिन दूनी रात चौगुनी तरक्की करे। इस विश्विद्यालय के प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को ईश्वर प्रसन्न व स्वस्थ रखें।

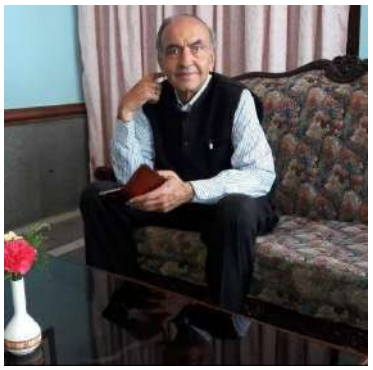
सधन्यवाद।



Remembering Professor Emeritus Dalip Malhotra

-Dr Anita Sharma
Department of Psychology, HP University





Professor Dalip Malhotra passed away last year. Most of his colleagues and students would agree without a doubt that he was a brilliant teacher, a good friend and a magnanimous angel. He left behind a legacy in the field of education with his inspirational and thought-provoking teaching style and a multitude of scholarly publications. He will always be remembered as a warm and inspiring Professor. Loved by all, he was truly dedicated to his students and his work. Many scholars who have known him have been inspired by his multidimensional scholarship and multidisciplinary acumen. Those who have worked with him, who were taught by him or who did their research work under his supervision will always remember him as a loving father and caring brother. Diligent and trustworthy, he would make sure that all tasks given to him are managed well. He was ever-willing to spend extra hours and even walked the extra mile with his students in their journey to complete their endeavours.



On the collaboration of research projects, many of us will always treasure the moments of delightful discussions and the hearty laugh that shattered the weekend silence in the Psychology Department. Prof. Malhotra had been a great supervisor and a mentor to his students. His strict demeanour and dedication towards research have shaped and moulded the students towards high expectations and achievements. There is no word to express our sincere appreciation to him for his valuable and tireless guidance. The best memories of our lives were those spent with him. Sir inspired us to engage and connect with other colleagues in from different universities through his tireless effort connecting us through conferences, seminars and

collaborating to write well in areas of our research interest. His energy and enthusiasm was exemplary and we will always miss his smile and patience with us to complete our various undertakings. Sir's benevolent dedication to family, friends and colleagues was something out of this world. Everyone will remember his enthusiasm, wit and his ability to laugh at adversity. He had the magical powers of transforming all negative into complete positive and making the weeping eyes welled up with ecstasy. The person of such a magnificent stature is born but once in a millennium. We are greatly indebted to you sir for all that you did for us.

Nevertheless you are not with us today. But we all believe that you left your mortal coil only to get eternally coiled in our hearts to help us steering forth in our lives. Thank you so much, Sir!

A Humble Tribute to a great teacher

Shonali,
Professor (Retd.), Department of Psychology, St. Bede's College Shimla



I had this good fortune of being mentored by Prof. Dr. Malhotra way back in 1981 when I did my Masters in Psychology. One incident which remains imprinted on my mind is that sir would walk in majestically to class without a single notebook or paper in hand. This is exactly what he did one morning facing a nervous group of beginners in Psychology when he had to deliver one of his lectures on Schizophrenia.

After the class had greeted him, he turned towards the board and in his wonderful calligraphic script filled the black board with all that one had to learn about Schizophrenia

To the utter amazement of the entire class, he verbatim remembered all and never once did he consult any paper or note.....

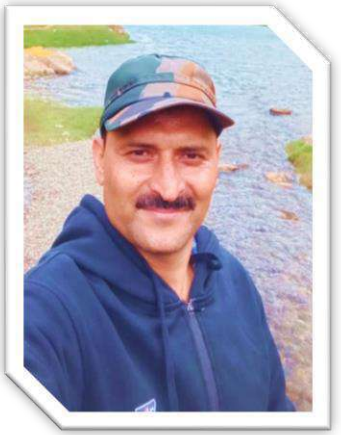
This left a very deep impact on my young mind and later when I myself became a teacher of Psychology I found it a hard task indeed to emulate sir by writing so beautifully on the board or even recall the entire lecture that I had prepared....

An admirable quality that speaks of my Professor!

Salutes to you Sir...

स्वर्गीय डाक्टर दलीप कुमार मल्होत्रा जी की यादें

डॉ राकेश परिहार, Clinical Psychologist, Regional Hospital, Keylong Lahaul Spiti



परम् पूज्य और आदरणीय स्वर्गीय डॉ दलीप कुमार मल्होत्रा जी को याद करते हुए कुछ शब्दों के रूप में श्रद्धा सुमन अर्पित करता हूं। मैंने वर्ष 2002 में हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्व विद्यालय में एम. ए. मनोविज्ञान विभाग में प्रवेश लिया। वहीं मेरी गुरुदेव डॉ मल्होत्रा जी से मुलाकात हुई। प्रथम दृष्टि में ही उनका व्यक्तित्व आकर्षित और प्रभावित करने वाला था। हर कोई उनके व्यक्तित्व से प्रभावित हो जाता था। उनकी बहुत सी यादें हैं परंतु मैं आपको एक घटना जिसने मेरे जीवन पर प्रभाव डाला बताना चाहता हूं जिससे उनके पास कितना विशाल हृदय था, का पता चलता है। घटना तब की है जब मैं एम. ए. तृतीय वर्ष का छात्र था, मेरे घर की आर्थिक स्थिति ठीक नहीं थी, तो मेरे पिताजी ने मुझे अपने मित्र के सम्बंधी की दुकान में काम करने को कहा। दुकान किताबों की थी, मैं भी काम करने को तैयार हो गया और काम करने लगा। जब यह बात गुरुदेव को पता चली तो वह स्वयं वहां पहुंच गए और इशारा करके मुझे दुकान से बाहर बुलाया। उन्होंने कहा कि तुम अपनी पढ़ाई मत छोड़ो, मैं तुमे छात्रवृति दूंगा और तुम पढ़ाई पूरी करो। मेरी आंखों से आंसू निकल आए, क्योंकि मैं वह काम नहीं करना चाहता था। उसके बाद मैं वहां नहीं गया और अपनी पढ़ाई पूरी की। मुझे दो वर्ष तक सर ने छात्रवृति दी। मुझे बाद में पता चला की सर अपनी माताजी की स्मृति में वह छात्रवृति अपने अंतिम समय तक जरूरत मंद को देते रहे। पता नहीं अगर सर उस दिन वहां नहीं आते तो मैं आज क्या कर रहा होता। यह घटना उनके पास कितना विशाल हृदय था यह बताती है। मैं आज जो कुछ भी हूं सर की शिक्षा और उनके आशीर्वाद से हूं। मैं भगवान से प्रार्थना करता हूं की उनकी आत्मा को परम् शांति प्राप्त हो।

चलता ही रहा हूँ मैं निरंतर!

-डा. प्रियंका वैद्य
हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय



जीवन की धरातल पर अभी पाँव टिके ही नहीं थे। दुनिया देखने के लिए बाहर झाँकना संभव न था।

नन्हें-नन्हें हाथ खिड़की तक नहीं पहुँचते थे और छोटे-छोटे पाँव दुनिया की तेज़ रफ़्तार में भाग ही नहीं सकते थे।

जब माँ ने पहली बार अनिल की आँखों में देखा था तो एक अजीब सी चमक थी, करोड़ों उम्मीदें थी और उम्र के हर पड़ाव पर उसकी उँगलियाँ माँ की उँगलियों को थामेंगी ऐसी आकांक्षा थी।

जब अचानक ये एहसास हुआ कि बच्चे को जीवन की सड़क पर भागने के लिए सहारे की आवश्यकता पड़ रही है तो वह कांप गई। बच्चा मात्र डेढ़ वर्ष का और तेज़ रफ़्तार से भागती ज़िंदगी।



बेटे के भविष्य के बारे में सोचकर माँ चिंतित हो जाती, जब वह बेटे के हाथ में बैसाखियों की कल्पना करती तो आँखों से अश्रुधार बह जाती।

बच्चा माँ की उँगलियों को पकड़ता, फिर नन्हें हाथों से माँ को स्पंदित कर देता। मानो कहना चाहता हो, “ये हाथ तुम्हारा साथ कभी नहीं छोड़ेंगे, माँ!”

अनिल के इरादों में अद्‌भुत और अद्वितीय साहस था जो उनकी मुस्कान

में हमेशा झलकता था। माँ की कमज़ोरी ताक़त में बदलने लगी थी। माँ को एहसास हुआ कि बेटा ज़िंदगी की दौड़ में बहुत तेज़ भागेगा।

पिता के माथे पर कभी शिकन नहीं थी, उन्हें अनिल के इरादों और अपने संस्कारों पर अटूट विश्वास था। वे हमेशा अनिल को जीवन पथ पर अग्रसर होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करते।

दोस्त ज़िंदगी में जीवंतता भर देते हैं, ये सोचकर अनिल की आँखें अकसर नम हो जाती हैं।

मात्र दस वर्ष की उम्र में बिना लाठी के दोस्त हाथ पकड़कर क़रोल टिब्बा की ऊँचाई तक ले गए, ये दोस्ती की अद्‌भुत मिसाल है।

पतझड़ के मौसम के बाद रास्ते बहुत ख़ूबसूरत लगते हैं, मानो क़ालीन बिछा दिया हो,

कालचक्र को परिभाषित करते सूखे पत्ते और उन पत्तों को कुचलते कुछ उन्मादित क़दम, जो सीधे रास्तों पर चलना नहीं चाहते।

ज़िंदगी की दौड़ में भागने के लिए शरीर की क्या भूमिका है और महत्वकांक्षा मनुष्य को गतिमान करती है या क़दम? जीवन में रंग भरने के लिए साधन और सामर्थ्य कहाँ तक चाहिए?

कभी ऊँची मंज़िल पर बने घर की छत से दूर तक नीचे देख अपनी ज़िंदगी के सामने बिछी ऊँची-नीची सड़कों के घुमाव को देख अचंभित हो जाता और वक़्त को ज़ंजीरों से थाम अभीप्साओं के दम पर आगे बढ़ने की सोचता।

मन-मस्तिष्क इतनी तेज़ी से भागता कि रास्ते छोटे और उड़ान लम्बी लगती।

चाहतें ज़्यादा थीं और रास्ते ख़ुद तलाश करने थे।

स्कूल में सहपाठियों की आँखों में सांत्वना की जगह प्रेम दिखता।

आनंद और संतुष्टि की पराकाष्ठा होती, जब दोस्त रोज़ शाम बैसाखियों को किनारे कर, अपनी मज़बूत हथेलियों से थाम, जीवन मार्ग पर अग्रसर होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करते, “गले लगाकर धड़कन सुनने की बात ही अलग होती

है"! दोस्तों के साथ बीते लम्हें ज़िंदगी में रंग भरते रहे। कोई फ़िल्म अनिल के बिना देखना उन्हें गवारा नहीं था। अनिल को कभी उसके दोस्त ये एहसास नहीं होने देते थे कि वह किसी भी तरह से असमर्थ है, बल्कि वह उन्हीं की रफ़्तार से ज़िंदगी की दौड़ में भाग रहा था।

अभी भी डॉ. अनिल ठाकुर इस बात को याद कर भाव-विभोर हो जाते हैं, "तेज़ बारिश हो रही थी और मैं अपने कमरे की खिड़की से जीवन की सड़कों को नाप, हाथ को लोहे की सलाख़ों से बाहर करके बारिश की बूँदों को महसूस करने की कोशिश कर रहा था, सोच रहा था कि ज़िंदगी की अनगिनत शामों को कैसे ख़ाली पन्नों पर समेटना है, चिंतन गहन था।"

अचानक ज़ोर से दरवाज़ा खुला और एक प्यारे से मित्र ने अनिल की उस कल्पना की उड़ान को रोक दिया और कहा, "तुम्हें लम्बे सफ़र पर निकलना होगा!" अनिल का साहस और विश्वास दोस्तों के लिए हमेशा प्रेरणा का स्त्रोत रहा। घर की सौ सीढ़ियाँ कभी ज़्यादा नहीं लगी।

पिता और माता के लिए अनिल वह दीपक है जिसका प्रकाश कभी कम नहीं होगा।

पंखों में मज़बूती आने लगी थी, उसे ऊँचा उड़ना था, बहुत ऊँचा। कभी अकेलापन महसूस होता तो वह चील की ऊँची उड़ान को देखता।

कुछ इच्छाएँ हमेशा पूरी नहीं होती, सुबह की सैर की इच्छा, जब सूरज संग भाग प्रकृति के रंगों को पीया जा सके। परंतु उगते सूरज को देख ऊर्जा तो अनिल ने संग्रहित कर ही ली थी।

अभी तो सफ़र की शुरुआत थी।

तेज़ दिमाग़ और अद्‌भुत इच्छाशक्ति। कम्प्यूटर के ऊपर तेज़ी से घूमती उँगलियाँ। कोई भी चीज़ अनिल को रोक नहीं पायी। चाहे वह क़रोल टिब्बा की ऊँचाई हो या साधुपुल की गहराई।

पिता के अदम्य साहस और पुत्र पर विश्वास की पराकाष्ठा।



"सुना है मारुति ज़ेन ने नई ऑटमैटिक कार निकाली है"।

"नहीं! सब्सिडी का इंतज़ार नहीं करेंगे, बेटा तुम गाड़ी ख़रीद लो।" वह जीवन की सड़कों को नापकर , आसमान की ऊँचाइयों को छूने की शुरुआत थी। सोलन से शिमला यूनिवर्सिटी तक का डॉक्टरेट का सफ़र अद्भुत था। अनगिनत सफ़े पलटे और जिस सोलन महाविद्यालय से स्नातकोत्तर की उपाधि ली



वहीं पढ़ाने का गौरव प्राप्त होना अद्वितीय था। फिर मारुति के सफ़र से कब हवाई जहाज से कॉम्प्यूटेशनल फ़िज़िक्स में नए मुक़ाम ढूँढते हुए यू. एस. ए. पहुँच गया ,पता नहीं चला। अभी भी अनिल को वह चेक याद आता है जो उन्हें मारुति कम्पनी वालों ने डॉक्टरेट की उपाधि मिलने पर भेजा था। उड़ान आकांक्षाओं से होती है ,ज़िंदगी ज़िंदादिली का दूसरा नाम है ,फिर चाहे सीमित ज़मीन मिली हो ,उड़ान तो मनोबल से ही होती है। क़रोल टिब्बा अनिल के जीवन पर अमिट छाप छोड़ गया ,वो जीवन को परिभाषित करने वाला सफ़र। जो रास्ता तय कर लिया था वह बहुत बहुत लम्बा था। वह गौरवान्वित महसूस कर रहा था। उसने हर तरह की चुनौतियाँ स्वीकार की ,सबसे बड़ी चुनौती थी,पथ पर अग्रसर होना और गतिमान रहना। थोड़ा आगे बढ़ा तो चट्टानों के बीच में एक पीला फूल दिखा, वह पथरीले रास्ते में उग आया, था इस रास्ते पर बहुत भूले-भटके मुसाफ़िर आते होंगे। दूर-दूर तक कोई नहीं था, दोस्त के हाथों का वह स्पर्श और सान्निध्य इंसानियत को परिभाषित कर गया। वह उस फूल को देखकर मुस्कुराया। वापिस लौटकर उसे भी यूँ ही खिलना था। आज भी दस वर्ष की उम्र में क़रोल टिब्बा का सफ़र और दोस्तों के मज़बूत हाथ अनिल को याद आते हैं और वह सोचता है", चलता ही रहा हूँ मैं निरंतर, पुष्प सदा खिलते रहेंगे जीवन पथ पर" !

(डा .अनिल ठाकुर के जीवन पर आधारित) **25**

My Alma Mater: Where Dreams Got Wings!

Dr. Jagdish Kumar
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Belonging to a low income rural family has many challenges and advantages. Especially as a child in such family you have a bunch of miraculous expectations and many (appearing to be) unrealistic dreams which you are supposed to bring to the reality. It was the time of 1990's. A student in rural settings (at least in our times) had to struggle harder for their studies owing to multiple reasons. Being underconfident is also another characteristic feature of rural students. Coming from such background and being almost like a half cooked stuff up to his graduation, a young student, in the year 2005, tried for admission in three departments of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla: Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. It was an entrance-based admission so he was not confident enough if he could get the opportunity to study from HPU. Also, among the above subjects, he found Physics the most challenging and boring one. Since, there were three options in one prospectus, so he tried for all three. Interestingly, his score in the entrance was sufficient for admission in all departments. Along with above, he also had applied for B.Ed. admission as this was a kind of convention in those times. And luckily he could also score well to fetch a seat in government college Dharamshala for B.Ed. This course was supposed to be a better choice for employment in teaching. So an under confident student, who thought it was hard to get admission, was now having four choices.

Guess what this student would have opted for!

It was Physics, yes, the boring and challenging one according to him. He was criticised by some 'intellectuals in his contact' for ignoring B.Ed. seat as this was almost the default choice. That time, the conventional people used to believe that Physics does not have much career prospects and should not be an option for a student coming from a poor rural family.

The reason for this young man opting for Physics was also funny, because the Physics department was the first to complete admission process. Good thing about this student was that he was not afraid of getting into boring and complicated things. Rather, somehow he wanted to do something which was not everybody's cup of tea.

Then, he started his journey for M.Sc. from the Department of Physics in HPU. Don't know what magic this department had that they turned this student as one of the best students in the department. Towards the end of his M. Sc. he qualified the prestigious CSIR-NET exam in the year 2007 with Junior Research Fellowship offer from CSIR. So, the Department of Physics turned his dreams into reality.

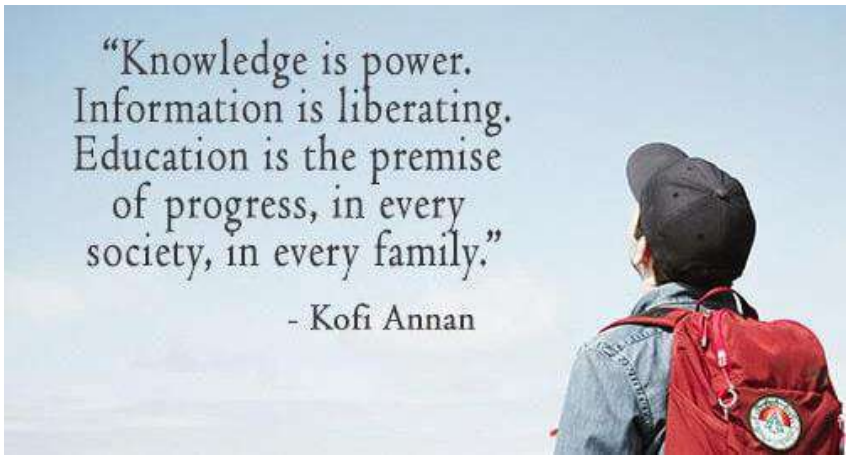
He then opted for doing his PhD as the financial risks were taken care of by his JRF fellowship so he was almost worry-free. He was offered for doing PhD from NPL-Delhi, one of the prestigious CSIR labs which had state-ofthe-art facilities in experimental physics. This transformed this poor underconfident, rural student into a young confident researcher who was confident enough to face the world. So the department of Physics, HPU had some miraculous ambience.

Today, this young student is working as faculty in one of the Central Universities as Physics Faculty and inspiring many young minds there.

Oh! You might be wondering, how I know so much about him.

:)

Actually, I am that poor young fellow.



कोयले से खींची लकीरें

-डा. प्रियंका वैद्य
हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय



कोयले से खींची उन चंद लकीरों ने ज़िंदगी की दिशा बदल दी।

उसके पास रंग ख़रीदने को पैसे नहीं थे।

कायनात के रंग ज़हन में घुल गए थे।

पहाड़ सुबह से शाम तक अनेकों रंग बदलता, कभी हल्का हरा, कभी गहरा हरा, कभी पीला और कभी सूरज की तेज रौशनी से सलेटी नज़र आता। आसमाँ भी तो एक रंग पर टिकता नहीं था। क्या थे सब रंग बाज़ार में मिलते होंगे? वह सोचता।

माँ को चूल्हे में रोटी बनाते देखता और एक दिन कोयले को देखता ही रह गया। कोयले में मानो उसे सारे चित्र, उनकी परिधियाँ दिख रही थी।

कोयला तो काला होता है काला भी रंग ही तो है, चित्रों की रूपरेखा तो काली पेंसिल से ही होती है। इस विचार से वह झूम उठा, मानो उसे कोई बहुत बड़ा तोहफ़ा मिल गया हो। कोयला जो मिल गया था।

फिर तो जैसे उम्मीदों को पंख लग गए। रंग तो थे नहीं, ख़रीदने को पैसे नहीं थे, माता-पिता पढ़े लिखे नहीं थे, चमन की ज़िंदगी में आशा की लहर दौड़ पड़ी जब स्कूल में मास्टर ने कोयले से बनाए चूहे के चित्र की प्रशंसा की। उसको प्रोत्साहन मिला और वह जीवन को रूपरेखा देने में लग गया। स्कूल से चाक लाता और गाँव में बड़ी-बड़ी चट्टानों पर चित्र बनाता। सारी गली उसके बनाए चित्रों से भर गई थी। न रंगों की ज़रूरत थी, न काग़ज़ की और

न ही पन्नों की। धरातल स्वयं एक काग़ज़ था, जिसपर बहुत कुछ खींचना था। “हमेशा चित्र बनाता रहता है, गणित करे तो बात बने”, माता-पिता की बात आज भी चमन के कानों में गूँजती है।



स्कूल से लाए चाक से उसने भाग्य की लकीरें खींच दी थी। वह अपना भाग्य निर्धारित कर रहा था। धामी में छोटे से गाँव हलोग में स्कूल से छः बार चार रुपया बीस पैसा फ़ीस न भरने की वजह से निकाला गया।

पुरानी किताबें जिनमें कभी शुरुआत के अध्याय फटे होते तो कभी अंत के, उन्हीं किताबों को पढ़कर जीवन का शब्दकोश बढ़ाया। सीखने की गहन इच्छा थी। किताबें ख़रीदने के लिए पैसा नहीं था परंतु एक चाह थी जो उसके जीवन की पतंग को दिशा और उड़ान को आसमान दे रही थी। स्कूल में कला अध्यापिका गोदावरी ने अमिट छाप छोड़ी। उसका अनूठा सानिध्य मिला। वह चमन के बनाए चित्र देख स्तब्ध रह जाती और उसे गले से लगा लेती।





चमन उस अनुपम प्रेम से प्रोत्साहित हो, नए आयाम हासिल कर रहा था। पूरी रात जागकर चित्र बनाता और प्रकृति का हर एक अंश उसे नए चित्र बनाने के लिए प्रेरित करता। कभी पहाड़ों में खो जाता, तो कभी विशालकाय पेड़ों की टहनियों को काग़ज़ पर आकार देता। कभी नदी को काग़ज़ पर उतार देता और कभी झरने उसके रंगों में बहते। ग़रीबी से संघर्ष ख़त्म ही नहीं हो रहा था। रंग नहीं थे, कल्पना तो थी, काग़ज़ नहीं थे परंतु उम्मीद तो थी। रात दिन नौकरी का स्वप्न देखता और माँ बाबा का सहारा बनने के लिए प्रार्थना करता। बीस साल की उम्र में नौणी विश्वविद्यालय में लिपिक की नौकरी के लिए साक्षात्कार दिया। बी. एस. नैन्टा ने पूछा, “क्या पसंद है?” साक्षात्कार में शबीह चित्र बनाने के लिए कहा

गया और चमन के द्वारा काग़ज़ पर खींची गई लकीरों ने उसके जीवन पथ को तय किया। उस एक चित्र ने उसके जीवन को आकर दे दिया और अब उसे सफ़ेद और काले रंगों के अलावा और रंग मिल गए। 960 रुपये की नौकरी मिली। वह ईश्वर की अनुपम देन थी। ख़ुशी इतनी हुई कि चार रातों तक जागता रहा। "चमन ने पहली बार पाँव में जूता नवीं कक्षा में पहना था!" अठारह वर्ष तक लिपिक की नौकरी की। दिनभर काले शब्दों और सफ़ेद पन्नों में उलझा रहता, पेंटिंग को कैसे पीछे छोड़ सकता था? रात-रात भर जागकर चित्र बनाना चमन के व्यक्तित्व को परिभाषित करता है। वह पूरी रात में दो-चार घंटे सोता और रात भर रंगों के साथ अपनी कल्पनाओं को आकार देता। एक स्टूडियो और हज़ारों चित्र, सिर्फ़ रंग ही मन-मस्तिष्क में घूमते और वही रंग चमन की सफलता की उड़ान का रास्ता तय कर रहे थे। अठतिस की उम्र में महाविद्यालय में कला विभाग में सहायक प्रवक्ता के पद के साक्षात्कार के लिए गया।

साक्षात्कार का कमरा प्रदर्शनी बन गया, वह अपने बनाए सारे चित्र साथ ले आया था। सभी की आँखें खुली की खुली रह गई, सब अचंभित हो उसे ताकते रहे, मानो रंगों की नदी उस कमरे में बह रही थी, चयन होना स्वाभाविक था। रंग बोल रहे थे। दीवारें संगीतमय हो उठी और कहानियाँ कहने लगी। शब्दों का औचित्य नहीं रहा।

वह अठतिस वर्षों की तपस्या का परिणाम था। जीवन का नया सफ़र निर्धारित हुआ और गाँव में कोयले से चित्र बनाने वाले चमन ने राष्ट्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आसमान में रंग भरे। कायनात के प्रत्येक कण में चित्र दिखता। ज़िंदगी चलता-फिरता दृश्य बन गया। पहले वह द्रष्टा था, बारिश को बंद खिड़की से देखता था और सारी सृष्टि को स्वयं में आत्मसात् कर लेता।बूँदों को बिन छुए पी लेता।और मौन के अथाह समंदर में उतर जाता। अब वो दरवाज़ा खोलता और बारिश में तब तक भीगता जब तक वो बूँदों के साथ एक न हो जाए।

(डा. चमन शर्मा के जीवन पर आधारित)

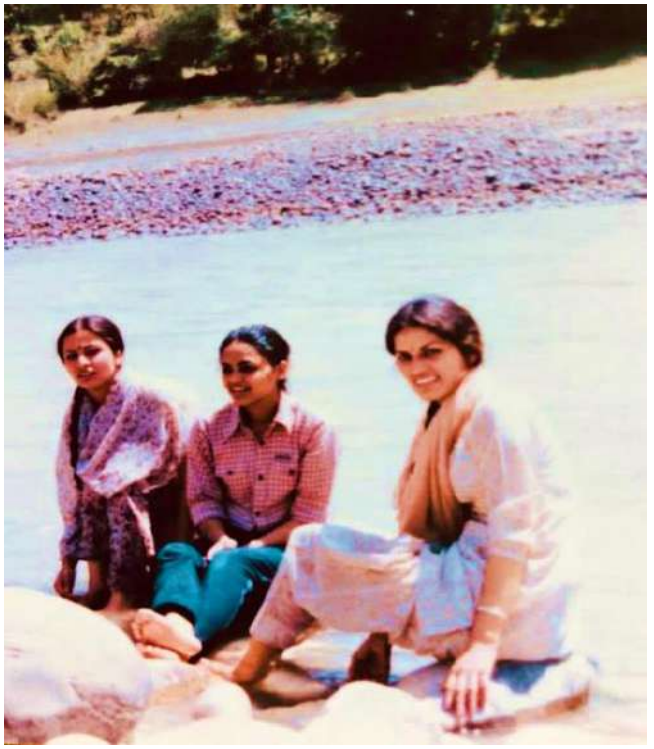
Cache Memories

Anuja Rathore Sharma
Department of English (Batch: 1982-84)



While the purpose of a university is getting on with education, it is also a unique and unforgettable time, with memories that will last for a lifetime.

HPU campus brings back so many memories. I joined the English department in 1982. The first day in the campus was a cultural shock. The classroom and the department were far from what I had imagined. It was 'tiny' and unimpressive!! But soon the physical dimensions of the rooms were relegated to the background and the sincere and committed teachers awed me with their knowledge and humility. Dr. Pankaj Singh, Dr. Girija Sharma, Dr. Pathania, Dr. Som P. Ranchan, Dr. Jaidev Dr. Kataria and Dr. Asnani, impacted and shaped my young mind. The camaraderie within the department put us all at ease. Lasting bonds with friends and teachers were made. The boys were lesser in numbers compared to the girls in the department, so we always had an upper hand in deciding where to go for a department picnic or when to bunk class en masse!!



Me, Mini and Vinod (in pic)

The Student Elections were a complete riot in those days with canteen window panes smashed and hockey sticks used more as 'weapons,' and also the elections had participation from the Shimla Medical College boys, who were an integral part of this 'hungama'!!

I do remember my seniors from Law, who are prominent national leaders now.

I have made lifelong friends on this campus.

We didn't know we were making memories, we were just having fun, but lessons of life were learned and when the two years flew by, we faced the daunting task of charting the course of our life. But confident

enough we did find our ways and destinations. I'm an associate professor at St. Bede's college, Shimla, now. Thanks to my Alma Mater, my life is a beautiful mélange of memorable moments and experiences, some gainful, some painful but overall enriching my life.

I'll conclude with an anonymous quote:

"Good days are to be gathered like grapes, to be trodden and bottled into wine and kept for age to sip at ease beside the fire. If the traveller has vintaged well, he needs trouble to wander no longer; the ruby moments glow in his glass at will".



I. D. Sharma, Gargi, Vinod and myself.

This song by Mary Hopkin, sums it up all-

'Once upon a time…. …. remember how we laughed away the hours

And think of all great things we would do

Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end

We'd sing and dance forever and a day

We'd live the life we choose

We'd fight and never lose

For we were young and sure to have our way…..'

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय विद्यालय में मेरे प्रारम्भिक वर्ष

प्रोफेसर पद्मनाभ गौतम
सेवानिवृत निदेशक, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय क्षेत्रीय अध्ययन केंद्र, धर्मशाला,
अध्यक्ष एवं प्राध्यापक, लोक प्रशासन विभाग, हिमाचल विश्वविद्यालय, शिमला



पहले कुछ दिन : मैंने 16 मार्च,1990 के दिन हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के लोक प्रशासन विभाग में ज्वाइन किया। मेरा मकान संजौली में है। अतः समरहिल तक का सफ़र बस से ही करना था। मुझे पता नहीं था कि संजौली से समरहिल के लिए विश्वविद्यालय की बसें कब और कहाँ से चलती हैं। अतः मैंने अन्य स्थानीय बस से ही यात्रा करना ठीक समझा। मुझे बस अड्डे (अब पुराना बस अड्डा) तक ही बस मिली। बस अड्डे पर जैसे ही मैं उतरा मुझे विश्वविद्यालय की बस दिख गई। मैंने हिम्मत करके हाथ दे दिया। वह विश्वविद्यालय की बसों को सवारियों को उतारने व चढ़ाने का स्थान नहीं था, फिर भी चालक ने मेरे लिए बस रोक दी। मेरे लिए यह बहुत ही ख़ुशी का क्षण था। मैंने चालक की शिष्ठता के लिए धन्यवाद किया। मुझे लगा की यह सज्जनता उन्होंने मेरे पहनावे तथा शारीरिक व्यवहार (Body Language) को देखकर, मुझे विश्वविद्यालय का अध्यापक समझ कर दिखाई है तथा विश्वविद्यालय के चालक व परिचालक बहुत सज्जन हैं। मेरा यह विश्वास मेरे विश्वविद्यालय के सम्पूर्ण सेवाकाल तक बना रहा और सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी रहा। अतः उन सभी का इस लेख के माध्यम से धन्यवाद करके मैं उनसे कुछ सीमा तक ऋण-मुक्त होना चाहूँगा।

बस बालूगंज व समरहिल चौक होती हुई विश्वविद्यालय पुस्तकालय के नीचे रुकी। विद्यार्थी, अध्यापक तथा कर्मचारी बहुत शीघ्रता से उतरने लगे। मैं भी नई उर्जा, आशाओं तथा संजोये हुए सपनों के साथ बस से उतरा और अपने विभाग की ओर जाने लगा। हमारा विभाग उन दिनों इस्पात के ढारों में चल रहा था। उस प्रांगण में कुछ और भी विभाग काम कर रहे थे। विभाग के पास दो कमरे थे, एक विभाग के अध्यक्ष तथा बाबू के लिए तथा दूसरा अन्य सभी अध्यापकों के लिए। विभाग के पास दो कक्षा कक्ष भी थे, जहाँ दोनों समेस्टरों की कक्षाएं लगा करती थीं। प्रोफेसर आर. डी. शर्मा विभाग के अध्यक्ष थे, अन्य सहयोगियों में डॉ. शिवराज सिंह रीडर, सर्व श्री पी.पी. एस. गिल, सेवा सिंह चौहान तथा संजीव महाजन लेक्चरर थे। इन सभी ने बाद में पीएच डी. की उपाधि ली। श्री

ज्ञान चंद क्लर्क तथा श्री देवराज चपड़ासी थे। इन सभी ने मेरा हृदय से बहुत स्वागत किया। नए सहयोगी को पाकर सभी खुश थे। इन्होंने विश्वविद्यालय के बारे में अनौपचारिक बातें बताकर मेरी जानकारी में वृद्धि की। ख़ुशी-ख़ुशी के वातावरण में समय बहुत जल्दी बीत गया। दोपहर का समय होने पर मैंने अपने साथियों से कहा, "चलो कहीं लंच कर लेते हैं"। मैंने विश्वविद्यालय में रीडर के पद पर ज्वाइन करने से पहले हिमाचल लोक प्रशासन संस्थान (हिप्पा), फेयरलॉन में लगभग ग्यारह वर्ष तक सहायक प्राध्यापक के पद पर काम किया था। वहां अपने सहयोगियों के साथ दोपहर का भोजन करना एक रूटीन बात थी। जबकि विश्वविद्यालय के आचार्यों में इस तरह का प्रचलन नहीं था। फिर भी मेरे सुझाव पर प्रोफेसर आर. डी. शर्मा जी ने खाना मंगवाया और हम सभी सहयोगियों ने एक साथ भोजन का आनंद लिया। नयी-नयी दुल्हन की हर बात मानी जाती है, वैसे ही मेरी बात भी मानी गई। किन्तु अगले दिन से मैंने विश्वविद्यालय के विभागों के प्रचालन के अनुसार अपने लंच का स्वयं ही प्रबंध किया।

पहले एक-दो दिनों में ही अर्थशास्त्र के लेक्चरर श्री एन. एस. विष्ट जी से मिलना हुआ। विष्ट जी हिप्पा से अध्यापन के लिये आया करते थे, अतः मेरा उनसे परिचय था। उन्होंने स्वभाविक प्रसन्नता पूर्वक मेरा अभिवादन तथा स्वागत किया और मुझे पास ही केन्टीन में चाय पीने के लिए गए। एक बहुत अच्छी और शान-वान की नौकरी छोड़ कर विश्वविद्यालय में आने का कारण पूछा, मैंने बताया मुझे पढ़ना, लिखना, चिंतन करना तथा स्वतंत्रता अच्छी लगती है। अतः मैं यहाँ आकर प्रसन्न हूँ। विश्वविद्यालय के पास चायली गाँव के मेरे परिचित एक सज्जन मिले, उन्होंने भी मुझसे वही प्रश्न किया और यह बताया कि आप व्यर्थ में ही बहुत अच्छी नौकरी छोड़कर एक बेकार स्थान पर आ गए हैं, पर मैं तो अपनी धुन का पक्का था।

औपचारिकता निभाने के लिये मैं उप-कुलपति प्रोफेसर मल्होत्रा साहब के कार्यालय में उनसे मिलने के लिए गया। उनसे मिलने के लिए चिट देना पड़ता था। वहीं कुछ विद्यार्थी भी उनसे मिलना चाहते थे। उन्होंने भी अपने चिट दिये। कार्यालय के बाहर खड़े होकर वे आपस में बाते कर रहे थे। उनमें से कुछ कह रहे थे, ये चिट का तरीका ठीक नहीं। सीधे वी. सी. से जाकर मिलने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। मुझे उनका सुझाव अव्यवहारिक होने पर भी अच्छा लगा। यह भी लगा कि यहाँ विचारों की स्वतंत्रता तो है, पर कुछ दिनों बाद लगा कि यह स्वतंत्रता बहुत ही ज्यादा है। स्वतंत्रता की पहली बानगी मैंने तब देखी जब एक दिन विश्वविद्यालय के कैंपस में एक अध्यापक के स्कूटर से किसी विद्यार्थी के स्कूटर का थोड़ा टकराव हो गया। उस विद्यार्थी ने आव देखा न ताव पटाक से



अध्यापक की पिटाई कर दी। बाद में अखबारों में छपी खबरों में उसे "manhandling" बताया गया। दूसरी बानगी, फिर कुछ दिनों बाद एक बहुत सम्माननीय वरिष्ट प्रोफेसर जिन्होंने वी.सी. साहब के पक्ष में कुछ कहा था जो विद्यार्थियों के किसी एक वर्ग को ठीक नहीं लगा, उस पर उनकी भी कुछ विद्यार्थियों ने पिटाई की। बाद में अपनी मांगों को लेकर विद्यार्थियों के मुर्दाबाद और जिंदाबाद के नारे तथा बैनर्स तो रोजमर्रा की बात हो गई।

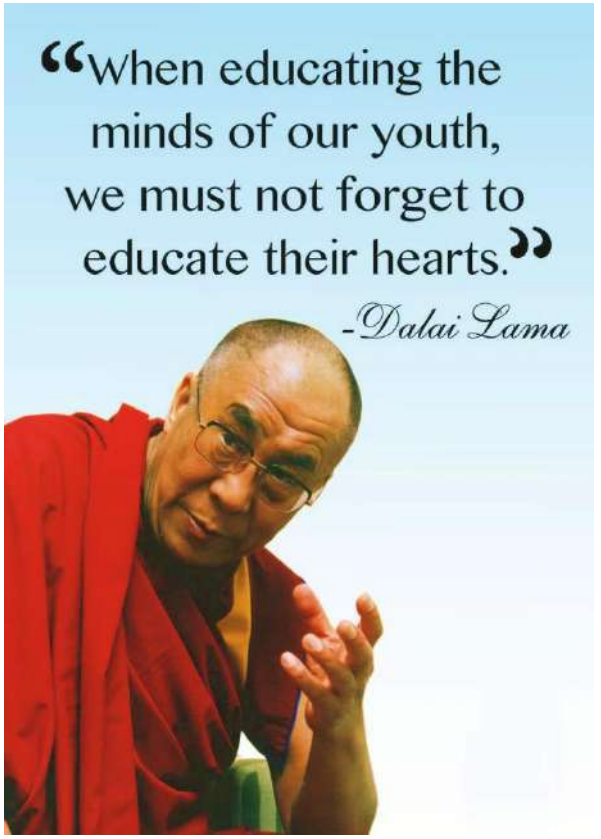
रजिस्ट्रार कार्यालय में भी मैं रजिस्ट्रार श्री ए. आर. चौहान तथा बहुत से शीर्ष अधिकारियों से औपचारिकता निभाने के लिए मिला। श्री बांके राम जी, मेहता साहब, डोग्गर साहब, मुझे अब विशेष रूप से याद हैं। श्री एम. एस. गर्ग पुस्तकालय अध्यक्ष थे, तथा शर्मा जी उनके सहायक थे। श्री राम कृष्ण कौशल जी पब्लिक रिलेशन आफिसर थे। सभी सज्जन पूर्व परिचित थे, अतः मुझे इनके साथ रहना तथा काम करना बहुत अच्छा लगा। मेरी वेतन सम्बन्धी तथा कार्यालय सम्बन्धी औपचारिकताएं बहुत सहज तथा सरल ढंग से पूरी हो गईं। अपने विभाग में भी विद्यार्थियों को पढ़ाना मुझे सहज तथा आनंददायक लगा। विभाग में भी बहुत समरसता का वातावरण था। संक्षेप में, विश्वविद्यालय का सारा वातावरण प्रारंभिक दिनों में बहुत अच्छा लगा।

हनीमून का अंत

कुछ समय बाद हनीमून की समाप्ति हो गई, होनी भी थी। मुझे भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, नई दिल्ली, एक सेमिनार के लिए भेजा गया। वापिस आने के बाद मैं अपना यात्रा भत्ता तथा बिल लेकर रजिस्ट्रार कार्यालय गया और वहां सम्बन्धित लिपिक से मिला। वहां एक साथ मुझे कई झटके लगे। पहला झटका, लिपिक महोदय ने मुझे बैठने के लिए कुर्सी तक नहीं दी। दूसरा झटका, बड़े रोब से बातें करने लगे। तीसरा झटका, मैंने डीलक्स बस से सफ़र किया था, अतः डीलक्स बस से ही राशि लिखी थी। मैंने टिकट संभाल कर नहीं रखे थे और बिल के साथ भी नहीं लगाए थे। अतः लिपिक महोदय ने कहा, आपको साधारण बस का ही किराया मिलेगा। हिप्पा में टिकट लगाने का प्रचलन नहीं था। एक सीनियर गजेटेड ऑफिसर का हस्ताक्षरों से यह लिखना ही काफी होता था कि उसने डीलक्स बस से सवारी की है। लिपिक महोदय और भी कुछ आपत्तियां लगाई। बिल तो कुछ समय बाद पास हो गया, किन्तु वे सारे झटके मुझे अपने विश्वविद्यालय के कार्यकाल में नहीं भूले। इसके बाद भी विश्वविद्यालय की लेखा ब्रांचों तथा स्थानीय लेखा-परीक्षा के साथ मेरे अनुभव अच्छे नहीं रहे। इन सभी अनुभवों का विस्तृत वर्णन फिर कहीं अन्य प्रसंग में करना चाहूँगा।

वास्तव में हुआ यूँ कि जब सन 1972 में विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना हुई, तब सचिवालय से बहुत से कर्मचारी यहाँ प्रतिनियुक्ति पर भर्ती किए गए। स्वाभाविक ही था कि वे अपने साथ नौकरशाही की कठोर जड़ता वाली नियमावली भी ले आए। वैसे भी सरकारी वित्त विभाग के सारे कानून यहाँ अपनाए जाते हैं। स्थानीय लेखा परीक्षा के अधिकारी व कर्मचारी जो वित्त नियमों में पारंगत होते हैं, वे बहुत कड़ाई तथा स्वविवेकहीनता से इनका कार्यान्वयन करते हैं। तभी बहुत-सी समस्याएं उत्पन्न होती हैं। यदि प्रारम्भ में ही एक स्तर की पदोन्नति देकर पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय से कर्मचारी व अधिकारी नियुक्त किए जाते तो बात कुछ और ही होती। और भी, विश्वविद्यालय के प्रशासन तथा सरकारी प्रशासन दोनों भिन्न हैं। यहाँ अध्यापन तथा शोध होता है। अतः हमारे यहाँ की लेखा-परीक्षा के मापदंड भिन्न होने चाहिए। ये मापदंड अभी तक न ही हमारे विश्वविद्यालय में बनाए गए और न ही भारत के अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में पूरी तरह विकसित हो पाए हैं।

मैंने विश्वविद्यालय में अपने प्रारंभिक वर्षों के खट्टे-मीठे कुछ अनुभव आपसे सांझा किए। बाकि पर फिर कभी बात करेंगे।



A TRYST WITH MY ALMA MATER

-Waryam Singh Bains
Deputy Registrar (Retd.) Himachal Pradesh University



"*Those who are armed with knowledge are skilful*."---Motto, HPU.

Just a mention of Summerhill and the picturesque campus comes before our eyes.

The first Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Parmar, had laid down its foundation stone. Earlier, it was the Regional centre of the Panjab University. The campus of the university is in close proximity of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study. Dr. Ram Karan Singh was the first Vice-Chancellor of this prestigious Alma Mater. The University is affiliated to UGC and got NAAC "A" Grade during the times of the former ViceChancellor Prof. ADN Bajpai.

Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, was set up on 22nd July 1970. I, Waryam Singh Bains, an alumnus and a retired Deputy Registrar served my Alma Mater for 42 years (Joined on 13th April 1973) and had the privilege to work under all the Vice-Chancellors, from first Vice-Chancellor, Prof. RK Singh till the superannuation of Prof. ADN Bajpai. Prior to the University, the Regional Centre of the Panjab University, Chandigarh, was set up in Shimla, in 1968, having its office in Dingle Lodge, near Victory Tunnel. My father late Mr. Kikar Singh Bains who was posted at Punjab University Chandigarh came to Shimla and served in the PU Regional Centre here. Dr. Jagdish Chandra was its Director and he taught English at the post graduate level. The classes of science stream, Chemistry and Physics were started from Manse Building, while the Bio-sciences classes were run from Boileauganj Campus. The Government B. Ed. College, Ava Lodge was used for Correspondence Courses and its Principal was appointed as acting director who was replaced by Prof. K. P. Pandey as a regular Director, who took the Correspondence Courses of the Himachal Pradesh University to new heights.

Now, the Correspondence Directorate has been given the name, International Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning (ICDEOL), which has its separate building in the HPU campus.

When the Himachal Pradesh University took over the Evening Classes, its Principal was Prof. K.K. Malhotra. Under the stewardship of Prof. K .K. Malhotra, the Evening College became quite popular among the in-service people who took admissions in a large number.

Once I asked the University's Public Relations Officer (PRO), Dr. Ranvir Verma, the grandson of the then Rajya Sabha MP Mr. C. L. Verma, a close associate of the first Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Dr. Y. S. Parmar, about his role in setting up the university, he said that Dr. Parmar was a great visionary and the Architect of Himachal Pradesh and his contemporaries Mr. C. L. Verma, three time member, Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh and Pt. Padamdev, State's Home Minister and Uncle of the present Town and Urban Development Minister, Mr. Suresh Bhardwaj, were the spirits behind setting up this University. But there were many roadblocks in its long journey. Paucity of land was the main problem. For this, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the first Health Minister of India, came forward and donated nearly 241 Bighas of land. She also donated her residence to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, to be used as a Holiday Home, namely "Manorville," for the nurses and staff of AIIMS. It is said that Mahatma Gandhi used to stay here, whenever he visited Shimla.

This Holiday Home is in close proximity of the University. As of now there is no monument in the name of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur in the University. I would like to suggest the University authorities that some monument must be built in the name of this holy soul.

Same is the case with the first Vice-Chancellor of HPU, Dr. Ram Karan Singh. I would suggest that the Committee Room, in V.C's. Chamber, should be named Dr. R. K. Singh Hall.

The late Chief Minister, Thakur Ram Lal, in the capacity of Education Minister, was also instrumental in establishing HPU.

From its birth to Golden Jubilee, the University has also been a witness to turbulent times and has seen many ups and downs. From time to time the successive governments made amendments in its original Act of 1970. The University authorities, teaching fraternity and students opposed these amendments, which according to them was an attack on the University's autonomy. But facing all the odds, this University has again restored its lost pride and glory of being a University with a difference.

The Horticulture and Agriculture wings were separated to make independent Universities, more so, it was necessary in the face of paucity of space. Now these universities have their own identity and have proved a boon in imparting quality education to the students of Himachal Pradesh. They are, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan and Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishwavidiyalay, Palampur, set up in 1978, during the BJP regime by the then Chief Minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar. The Technical University was set up at Hamirpur by the then Chief Minister, Mr. P. K. Dhumal.

The examinations for the private and government medical colleges were earlier conducted by HPU. But these colleges are now run by the Atal Medical and Research University, functioning from Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Medical College, Ner Chowk, Mandi.





Now HPU is trying to spread its wings to fly high in the sky, touch new heights and explore new horizons.

The University had come up with the "*Drishti*"--Vision 2020 Document, framed by the former Vice Chancellor, Dr. A.D.N Bajpai, which had envisaged setting-up its second Campus at Ghanahatti to start professional courses. But non-availability of adequate funds is the major bottleneck on raising the state-of-the-art infrastructure. To cope with the situation, the state government should provide liberal funds or it should approach the centre to come to its rescue. Dr. SP Bansal, the present Vice-Chancellor, says that from *Vision Document 2020*, he will lead the University to Diamond Vision-2030, when the University will complete 60 years.

The process of filling up the vacant teaching and non-teaching posts has already started. Hope, in the hands of the present incumbent Vice-Chancellor, Dr. SP Bansal, who has taken over the charge after Prof. Sikander Kumar who was nominated to Rajya Sabha, the University will definitely achieve new heights and explore new horizons and earn name and fame, by adding the required excellent faculty which it had during its infancy.

The production of Himachal Pradesh University's "*Kulgeet*", is the result of the thoughts that emanated from the mind and soul of a thinker, who is none other than the former Vice Chancellor, HPU, Shimla, Dr. A.D.N.

Bajpai. After being inspired by the Banaras Hindu University's "Kulgeet", he asked for a thorough revision of a work by Acharaya Padamshree Abhiraj Rajendera Mishra. It not finding mention of the rivers of Himachal Pradesh, he asked the writer to add something about the beautiful rivers. After adding a few lines, in praise of Himachal Pradesh's beauty, the "*Kulgeet*" was given a thorough look from every angle of Himachal's dances, deities legacies, snow culture, the age old legacies of 'Rishis', reminiscences of Nalanda and the sprawling snow clad mountain range of Dhauladhar and the mention of cedars and the heights the HPU has touched in its long journey.

The task of preparing the music was given to Acharya R. S. Shandil and his students, the University's Music Department. The music of the "*Kulgeet*" is the result of two months' rigorous practice, which evokes the unending music of the heavens.

Before the release of the "Kulgeet", it got the nod from the then following members of the University's Executive Council. The then Education Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Suresh Bhardwaj (Now Town and Urban Development Minister), Prof. Pankaj K. Singh, Prof. Bal Krishan, Prof. B. P. Mahajan, Prof. Dhani Ram, Prof. Niraj Sharma, Prof. Abha Malhotra and me (Waryam Singh Bains).

It got the final approval from the Chancellor, H. P. Governor and the State Administration. To listen to the melody of the "*Kulgeet*", visit You-tube. Though all the Vice-Chancellors of the University gave their best but Dr. KC Malhotra, Dr. C. L. Kundu, Dr. Anil Wilson, Dr. HP Dixit and Prof. A.D.N. Bajpai were a class apart. It would not be out of place to mention here that late Mr. M.K. Kaw, a senior bureaucrat and Dr. Anil Wilson are still remembered for heading their respective administrative and academic reforms committees.

Now, another University namely, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University, Mandi, has been set up at Mandi, by the present Chief Minister Mr Jairam Thakur. But Himachal Pradesh Unviersity will always remain Mother University of all these universities.

समरहिल, नाम ही काफी है

-धर्म पाल भारद्वाज
वैज्ञानिक (सेवानिवृत) केंद्रीय जल आयोग, जल संसाधन मंत्रालय, रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़



मुझे इस बात का फक्र रहा है कि मैं अपने सहपाठियों और समकालीनों की तरह हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय का शुरूआती छात्र हूँ । जुलाई, 1970 में गवर्नमेंट डिग्री कॉलेज, शिमला में B.Sc. में दाखिला लिया था। खबर थी कि शिमला में हिमाचल की अपनी यूनिवर्सिटी खुलने वाली है। 22 जुलाई की दोपहर थी, कॉलेज में पता चला कि आज हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना हो गई है और हम इस विश्वविद्यालय के अन्तर्गत आ गए हैं।

एक यादाश्त मैं और साझा करना चाहता हूँ। बात वर्ष 1974-75 की है, जब मैं M.Sc. (Physics) का छात्र था। तब कक्षाएं माल रोड पर जनरल पोस्ट ऑफिस के पीछे 'दि मान्स बिल्डिंग' में लगती थी, जहां अब सांध्य कालीन महाविद्यालय है। केमिस्ट्री की कक्षाएं भी इसी परिसर में पूर्व स्कॉटिश चर्च बिल्डिंग में लगती थी। सृष्टि को जानने का भी एक जुनून रहता है। Three P's - Physics, Philosophy & Poetry मेरे लिए आकर्षण का विषय रहे। इन के सहारे सृष्टि को गहराई तक समझने में मदद मिलती है। फिज़िक्स की पढ़ाई तो चलती ही रहती थी। मन में कभी भावनाओं की हिल्लोर उठती तो कविता भी लिखी जाती। फिलॉसफी की ओर रूझान मुझे संयोगवश ग्रैंड होटल के उस कमरे तक खींच ले गया जहां एक प्रबुद्ध सन्यासी सूरज जी रहा करते थे। उस दौरान बालजीस ने, ग्रैंड होटल केन्द्र सरकार से लीज़ पर ले रखा था। उन्होंने ही एक कमरा सूरज जी के लिए पिछले कई वर्षों से निशुल्क दे रखा था। कदाचित वहां मेरा जाना रामकृष्ण मिशन के लिटरेचर के संदर्भ में हुआ था। श्वेत वस्त्र धारी उन सन्यासी का व्यक्तित्व ऐसा था कि मैं कभी उन्हें भुला नहीं पाया। वहां रविवार को जाना होता था। वे Gospel of Ramakrishna पढ़ा करते थे। पढ़ते हुए किसी बिन्दु पर आकर जब बोलने लगते तो घंटों बोलते रहते। विश्व की कई भाषायें उन्हें आती थी। बोलने लगते तो धाराप्रवाह बोलते चले जाते। उनके बारे में लोग ज्यादा नहीं जानते थे। वॉकर

अस्पताल (मिलिट्री अस्पताल) के एक बड़े सर्जन उनके बहुत करीब थे। रविवार को वहां नियमित रूप से आने वाले एक सज्जन जो ए.जी. ऑफिस में काम करते थे, ने बताया था कि सूरज जी वर्षों पहले समरहिल में भी रहे हैं। वे वहां के चीड़ और देवदार के जंगलों में घंटों अकेले घूमा करते, जहां ध्यान लग जाता बैठ जाते। प्रकृति के साथ उनका तादात्म्य था। वे प्रकृति को अपने अन्दर महसूस कर सकते थे। एक बार उन्होंने स्वयं भी कहा था कि उन्होंने कई बार घंटों टकटकी लगाए फूल को खिलते देखा है। फूलों का खिलना प्रकृति की एक अद्‌भुत क्रान्ति है। बड़ी सुखद अनुभूति है फूल की पांखुरियों को बाहर निकलते देखना। ए.जी. ऑफिस के उन सज्जन ने बताया था कि सूरज जी ने समरहिल के उन जंगलों में घूमते हुए कहा था कि एक दिन यहां एक यूनिवर्सिटी बनेगी। यह जगह उसी के लिए है।

शिमला शहर सात पहाड़ियों के मध्य बसा हुआ है। इनमें से एक समरहिल है। समरहिल उप-नगर इसी पहाड़ी पर बसा हुआ है। कभी मित्रों के संग घूमते हुए समरहिल भी जाना होता था। चौड़ा मैदान से लगी हुई एक पहाड़ी का नाम ऑब्ज़रवेटरी हिल है। उस पहाड़ी पर बने विशाल भवन, वॉयसरीगल लॉज से सन् 1947 से पहले हिन्दुस्तान पर अंग्रेजों का राज चलता था। आज़ादी के बाद, वर्ष 1965 में इस भवन में भारतीय उच्च अध्ययन संस्थान, IIAS खोल दिया गया था। इस संस्थान के गेट से दायीं तरफ का रास्ता सीधा समरहिल जाता है। दोनों तरफ पेड़ों की सघन हरियाली है। नीचे की ओर रेलवे ट्रैक कहीं-कहीं दिखता है। कभी सीटी बजाती हुई पहाड़ी रेल गाड़ी भी पत्तों के झुरमुट के बीच से निकलती दिख जाती है। गेट के बायीं तरफ का रास्ता बालूगंज से घूम कर समरहिल जाता है। बालूगंज से समरहिल तक का यह रास्ता मार्च-अप्रैल में बुरांस के फूलों से भरा रहता है। सड़क के दोनों तरफ बुरांस के पेड़ ही पेड़। बुरांस के फूल भी क्या होते हैं! बड़े-बड़े, सुर्ख लाल, तोड़ने को मन हो आए। पर बुरांस के पेड़ कच्चे होते हैं। टहनियां भार से टूट भी सकती हैं। जोखिम उठाना भी ठीक नहीं। इस सड़क पर एक बिल्डिंग में तब बॉटनी और ज़ूलॉजी की कक्षाएं लगती थी। विज्ञान की यह चारों स्नातकोत्तर कक्षाएं इससे पूर्व पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के अन्तर्गत लगती थीं। यूनिवर्सिटी जाने के लिए एक तीसरा रास्ता भी है, भारतीय उच्च अध्ययन संस्थान के गेट से होकर। पर यह रास्ता आम नहीं है। यह तीनों रास्ते समरहिल चौक पर मिलते हैं, जहां पर अंग्रेजों के जमाने से पोस्ट ऑफिस है - शिमला-5, मन्दिर भी तभी से है और शिमला का ऑउटर रेलवे स्टेशन



समरहिल भी। समरहिल में कुछ पुरानी सुन्दर कोठियां थीं जिन्हें विश्वविद्यालय परिसर के अन्तर्गत अधिग्रहण कर लिया गया था। इन में से एक हमारे एक रिश्तेदार श्री मूल चंद सरस्वती की भी थी। वे हिमाचल प्रदेश शिक्षा विभाग के प्रथम निदेशक भी थे। माता जी के साथ कभी-कभी उनसे मिलने जाया करता था। वे कोटगढ़ में, हमारी रिश्तेदारी में, पहले उच्च शिक्षित व्यक्ति थे। इससे पूर्व वे पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय के डिप्टी रजिस्ट्रार भी रह चुके थे। लेकिन एक इमारत अभी भी है जिसका अधिग्रहण नहीं हुआ, वह भी ठीक विश्वविद्यालय के प्रशासनिक भवन के सामने। यह इमारत है राजकुमारी अमृत कौर की। महात्मा गाँधी भी वहां ठहरा करते थे। अब इस इमारत में ऐम्स (AIIMS), नई दिल्ली का गेस्ट हाउस है।

समरहिल के पीछे की ओर, बायीं तरफ, एक छोटी-सी पहाड़ी है, उसका नाम है पॉटर्स हिल। यहां चिकनी मिट्टी बहुतायत में है, इस कारण वहां पर कुम्हारों की बसाहट ज्यादा थी। मिट्टी के बर्तन बनाना उनका पेशा था। इसी कारण इस पहाड़ी का नाम पॉटर्स हिल पड़ा होगा। मेरे एक घनिष्ठ मित्र श्री सुरेश शर्मा जी बहुत अच्छे चित्रकार रहे हैं। उन दिनों वे अंग्रेजी में एम.ए. कर रहे थे। वे अक्सर ईज़ल, कैनवास और रंग ब्रश लेकर छुट्टी के दिन निकल जाया करते थे, पेंटिंग बनाने। कभी-कभार मैं भी उनके साथ रहता था। यूनिवर्सिटी बन चुकी थी। तब यूनिवर्सिटी का फैलाव पोस्ट ऑफिस के ऊपर की तरफ ही था। शेष क्षेत्र में जंगल और खेत थे। एक बार हम घूमते हुए पॉटर्स हिल की ओर निकल गए। वहां एक छोटा सा गांव है - ताल गांव, कुम्हारों का गांव है। एक छोटा-सा तालाब (ताल) था वहां, कदाचित अब भी होगा। सुरेश जी ने वहां ईज़ल पर कैनवास टिकाया और सामने के लैंडस्केप को कुछ ही समय में ब्रश से कैनवास पर उतार दिया। अब उस गांव की सीमा तक यूनिवर्सिटी के हॉस्टल बन चुके हैं। वहां का वह पुराना लैंडस्केप यादाश्त के तौर पर इस पेंटिंग में ही बचा है। जगह बदल जाती है, यादें रह जाती हैं।

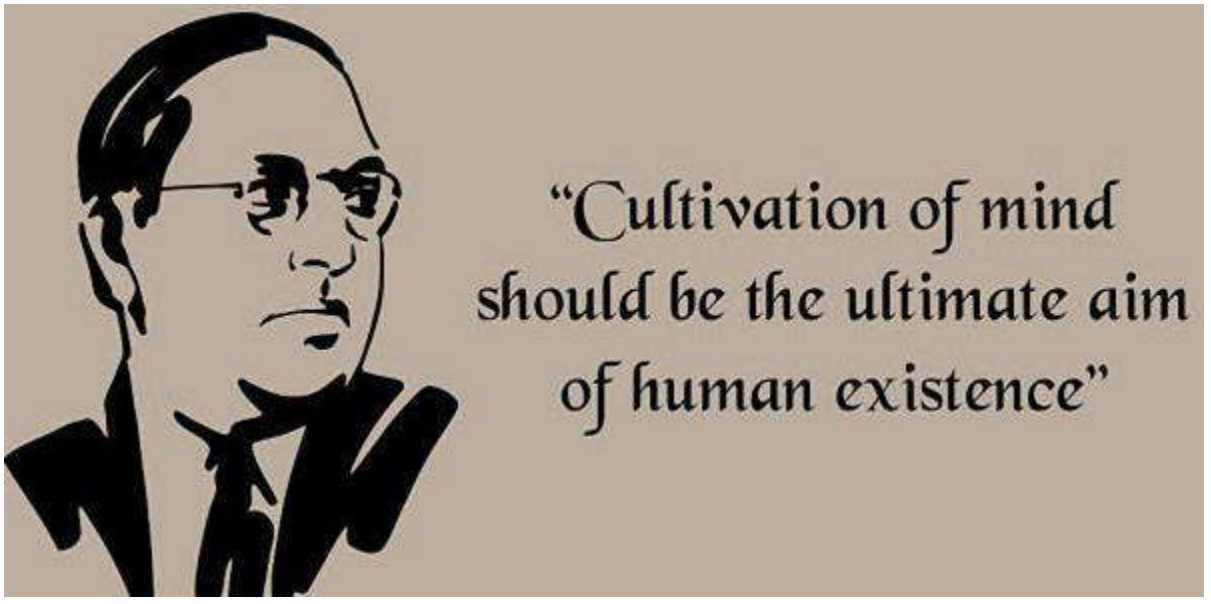
यूनिवर्सिटी बनी तो नए शैक्षणिक और प्रशासनिक भवन भी बने, हॉस्टल बने। परिसर के बीचों-बीच पैगोडा शैली में विशाल पुस्तकालय बना। भवन निर्माण की पैगोडा शैली में आमतौर पर मन्दिर बनाए जाते हैं, ताकि वहां बैठने वालों का ध्यान केन्द्रित रहे। पुस्तकालय भी मन्दिर है। यूनिवर्सिटी का यह पुस्तकालय शिमला के कई क्षेत्रों से

दिखाई देता है। समरहिल की यह पहाड़ी, जहां कभी जंगल था, चीड़ और देवदारों की स्वास्थ्यवर्धक खुली हवा थी, वहां से अब हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय, ज्ञान और विज्ञान की स्वास्थ्य और खुली बयार बहा रहा है। हमें इस पर गर्व है। चीड़ और देवदार के पेड़ अभी भी इस विशाल परिसर को अपने घेरे में सुरक्षित रखे हुए हैं।



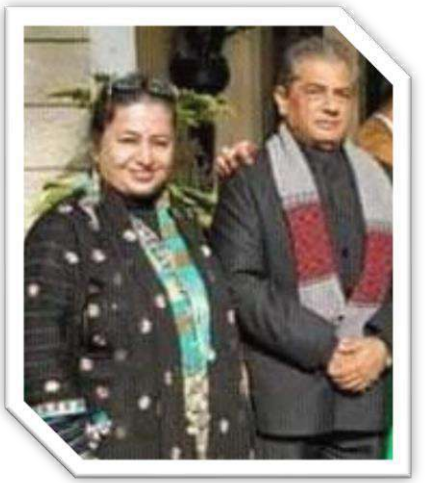


पॉटर्स हिल, ताल गांव की एक अन्य पेंटिंग, सुरेश शर्मा के सौजन्य से।



YAADON KI BARAAT- OUR HALCYON MBA DAYS IN HP UNIVERSITY!

-Dr. Purnima Chauhan
IAS, Retd, MBA Batch 1980-82
&
Dr Rajinder Chauhan
Sr Industrial Advisor, (Retd.) Govt of HP, MBA 1979-81



When I joined the MBA programme of HPU in 1980, I had no clue that my life was about to take a major turn. Change was not new to me! In fact, it was a constant in our peripatetic life led as an army daughter. School hopping nearly every year with Dad's transfers was routine and we took it in our stride. Having navigated the diverse syllabus, uniforms, atmosphere of most of the convent schools in Chandigarh, erstwhile Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, I landed in Loreto Convent Tara Hall, Shimla, and immediately fell in love with the snow fringed lawn of this vintage building. In those "*Achhe Din*" we jay-walked into Loreto Convent Tara Hall school as tourists and within two hours over a warm cup of tea in the parlour with the Principal Mother Consigliore, I walked out as a newly admitted student! Today we would not believe this episode as it is the stuff that dreams and fairy tales are made of.Perhaps being from Loreto Delhi was the clincher in getting instant admission into class 10 in this prestigious school.

Once again, as a family we had impulsively put the cart before the horse! Finalising a school before deciding on the city or house of your choice is certainly unconventional! But I guess army lends an easy air of adaptability since we are wont to have "ghat ghat ka paani" with frequent transfers! A home in Kelston near Longwood was the beginning of my *Shimla ki deewangi* and the freewheeling camaraderie that everyone shared while "Malling" an activity that meant walking rounds of the fashionable Mall Road where much of Cupid's action blossomed quietly.

My graduating from St Bede's College with a gold medal surprised me more than anyone else. But I was even more astonished at sailing through the MBA admission test of HP University that had stiff competition being a much coveted programme. The co-ed University atmosphere jolted us out of the sheltered cocoon of a girl's college. The group discussion during MBA admission test attracted an unprecedented audience since we were six Bedians pitted strategically against each other. It should have come as no surprise that subsequent ragging

was clearly directed to bring us down from the stereotypical image of the 'high horse ' that presumably all Bedians rode. Well prejudice prevails in all institutions and we were at the receiving end…romance turned the tables! And good ol' harmless ragging was the ice breaker about which seniors salivated and freshers dreaded!

Seniors kept an eagle eye out for any fresher blessed with even a remote semblance of talent in any field! Trust me if such harmless ragging instead of stark sadism was the norm in all educational institutions no Court would have banned this practice that actually helped shed many inhibitions and created cherished memories that many alumni now share over a beer! In our case my senior, now my husband, Rajinder Chauhan's popularly called Raju's unwavering focus on me was disconcerting to say the least. Secretly I was flattered by this attention showered on me by this very popular, handsome, fiery young debator who was gallant enough to ensure that the ragging doesn't get ugly.

'If music be the food of love, play on, play on' wrote the Bard in Twelfth Night! The nostalgia of my university days is peppered with musical interludes! Shimla, the queen of the hills, is also popular as the favourite abode of Cupid whose love darts pierce hills and valleys to find and bind soul mates until every "*patta patta boota boota*" knows "*haal hamara jaane re*"! Having discovered wide ranging budding talent during MBA ragging freshers were summarily ordered by the senior "sirs" and "mams" to put their best foot forward in dancing, acting, mimicking, singing, poetry to win the Inter Faculty Trophy by beating the permanent challenge that the Law faculty gleefully posed to our Commerce Faculty!

While practising the Lata song, "*aap ki nazron ne samjha pyaar ke kaabil mujhe, dil ki aii dhadkan thehr jaa mil gai manzil mujhe*" from the film Adalat little did I know that my husband-to-be, Raju, stopped in his tracks on hearing my voice! Mesmerised, he walked into the auditorium and kept looking unblinkingly at me which was very disconcerting until it dawned on me later that wicked Cupid was turning his arrow! "*Zara nazron se keh do jee nishana chook na jaaye*!"! Suffice it to say that Raju missed his bus to return home that evening. Not surprisingly he continued to miss the homebound bus every day since I had joined the Chandrabhaga hostel! To join the hostel I had convinced my parents that a 12 km walk to and fro daily was impeding my studies! Later they knew better!

If this unerring *Do dil mil rahen hain* "heart trouble" took some time to dawn on me it was clearly visible to our delighted friends. These pals are still a vital part of our slice of a Bollywood romance! It is strange how they continue to add chapters to our memory of those halcyon days. Raju and I, in a world of our own, walked on a cloud blissfully unaware of much that was happening around us! Even today we laugh at the parallels of our story with old romantic Hindi films of holding hands under the library table while staring unseeing into thick management tomes. Of a library table being unofficially reserved just for us until one wannabe fresher

invaded this privacy to get Raju's attention that led to a full blown war between us! Of he and his pals pushing me into joining them for tea at *Shahji ka dhaba* by throwing a well aimed cardboard carton from the first floor that landed with a loud thump on my library table shattering the silence forcing me to hastily abandon preparing reference notes! My blushing deep red at the embarrassment of the sniggers that followed with some serious candidates tapping their pens on the tables to restore silence! The Earth could have happily swallowed me!

Memories return of merrymaking in our ramshackle MBA department. We could not bear the ignominy of it being labelled as "cowsheds" so the inimitable Bedians decided to take matters into their own hands. Much to the amusement of our amazingly intellectual and completely unconventional Head of Dept, Dr MK Sharma, we asked for brooms to clean up the "cowsheds" and plant flowers in the surroundings! I have a strong suspicion that this instinctive action did much to instil respect in his heart that replaced the inherent bias against Bedians being candy- floss type.

Freshers are fledglings trying to find their feet in a new milieu. As an attempt to cobble a cultural performance for the seniors we did an impromptu gypsy dance! Lo and behold - it made headlines for all the wrong reasons! Props are always hard to find for our last minute acts! We converted our midi skirts into gypsy look by stitching colourful streamers on them! Someone spread a malicious rumour that these girls were dancing in 'paper skirts"! Well we could not have scotched that rumour since there was nothing like digital social media. But its unwitting outcome was that any MBA performance had a "house full". Our desire to keep the Faculty banner high made cultural evenings follow galore. Despite the senior junior divide we all had an unwritten pact to excel in all spheres so that competition comes nowhere near breasting the tape for Commerce Faculty. This strong bonding for the Faculty led us to many memorable eleventh hour wins despite odds being stacked against us!

For a prestigious Inter Faculty Event I remember becoming 'Indira Gandhi" in 15 minutes and frantically looking through stacks of old "Eve's Weekly" magazines to get the white streak with zinc oxide on the correct side in the hair! Despite Ms Gandhi's iconic persona we were lucky to resolve our dilemma by finding a small black and white picture! Even today we break into laughter recalling our frantic search for a *bandgala* for our "healthy" version of Giani Zail Singh and fretting why he could not fit into any of the white churidars in our wardrobe. Ultimately we settled for a wedding *achkan* and grey trousers for him. The dialogues and action sequence was innovated and spontaneously spouted out only once as we walked into the auditorium for braving the last lap to the trophy that seemed out of reach! Amazingly every loose piece of this jigsaw fell into place and we walked away with the first prize and the overall trophy. Our joy knew no bounds when next year

too we repeated this miracle. Our ever smiling classfellow, Amarchand, who adds cheer to the bohemian town of Manali with his enigmatic smile after retiring from the Indian Forest Service, crafted the way to our win. Had

RK Narayan met Amarchand he would have penned a Mougli type adventure series on him. As we were losing the trophy battle Amarchnd took mere 15 minutes to shave off his head and reinvent himself as Gandhiji in complete outfit- with round spectacles and a watch hanging from his dhoti! An alarmed goat was found and tied to a cot on the stage! However we discovered that our "Gandhiji's" motivation to get a bald pate was clearly attributable to the pretty young girls enacting Manu and Miraben with Gandhiji's arms around them for the longest time even while receiving the first prize and the trophy! However Amarchand's delight stemmed more from this unique opportunity to embrace beauty than the actual award. He was on a high treating all of us to the hot dogs and gulab jamuns from the famous Calm Café that was our local 5 star eatery!

Amarchand's rendezvous on the stage had another eventful episode where for the fancy dress event he sported blue denim jeans and frayed jacket with sharp "dum maro dum' style handlebar moustaches, a polka dotted colourful bandana, round Gandhi goggles and a chillum without any smoke to join a band of the 1970s pot smoking group on stage. Despite this authentic outfit Amarchand's undying love for the canine species made him pick a stray dog and put a leash to channelize him onto the stage; but the puppy had a mind of its own. Evidently he had stage fright and nil interest in the arclights! The more amarchand tugged at his leash the more the puppy bared his teeth to growl his displeasure until our newly minted Ganja type nearly fell backwards to make a hasty dog pulled exit from the stage leaving everyone in fits of laughter. Again Amarchand walked away with the first prize! In retrospect I think this episode may have been the reason behind his animated stint in the wildlife sector during his career!

My reminiscences of those *beete hue dins* would be incomplete without recalling the stellar roles played by my pals Arjeet Baweja (nee Rekhi) now in New Zealand who joined the hostel primarily to discover the formula that I used to stay on top of the class. Seeing my schedule close up and after having issued all vital MBA reading material from the library Arjeet sat me down to advise me to cut down on my rendezvous with Raju and focus on my studies! Pritima, my dear roommate, had realised much earlier that this advice was in vain and became my partner in crime. When we joined Chandrabhaga hostel we were boycotted by the other girls as they felt that Bedians were some kind of non- virtuous, polluting virus! To be honest we tried every trick to befriend them and it ultimately worked. I still recall that evening before the critical 4th semester MBA exam when at midnight our creative juices began to flow! We abandoned the tedium of revision to put our heads together to devise naughty rhyming slogans and quiet as mice tip toed to paste them on each of the 16 hostel

room doors using wet atta as glue. We pasted one slogan on our door to avoid suspicion. As expected there was mayhem in the morning as girls read the slogans that succinctly described their defining traits – some were amused, other furious enough to complain against us! But the hard evidence of a slogan on our door too smartly deflected attention away from us!

I still retain a copy of those rhymes coined in 30 minutes as a measure of our creativity to beat the exam blues! Astonishingly, we all did so well in our exam and this *jazbaa* stood us in good stead in life. Raju was the first to land a government job even before completing his MBA as he had to ask for my hand in marriage! At that critical juncture I am sure his expertise in quiz and being President of the Young Speakers Club had much to do with his answering my father's searching questions with aplomb.

To my utter surprise I cleared the Civil Service exam in the first attempt.Until my days as a probationer in HIPA (Himachal Institute of Public Administration) the onerous responsibility this job entails had not completely dawned on me. Our children still call marriage at 24 years as cradle snatching. Hence juggling an inter-cultural marriage with motherhood at 25 and a challenging job was definitely a tall order but memories of these good times raised the boat very often. But change having been a constant in my life helped me tide over these landmark days that transformed me as they challenged every fibre of my being.

Raju and I both recall the time when my unsuspecting father in his olive green great coat drove into the University on his scooter almost directly into us as we walked under one umbrella – *ik chhattri aur hum hain do, ab kya ho kuchh to karo!* We nearly froze since it seemed the romantic cat was out of the bag! Well we were rudely jolted out of our moonstruck reverie and before Dad could register what happened both of us bolted to opposite sides with the umbrella fallen midway looking guilty as hell! If Dad had guessed he never quizzed me about the incident.

No wonder that later in life this "jazbaa" of 'work-life-fun" balance took us places. Arjeet bravely took the major plunge of leaving excellent jobs to relocate to NZ that has given the entire family a fillip that they could never have envisioned. Despite being a small town girl Pritima proved her mettle in the hardcore corporate sector of Delhi to come out tops and continues to meet new challenges with the deep rooted values ingrained in magical Shimla and those memorable university days and friends. Himalini joined the Indian Revenue Service and has many firsts to her credit as a star performer. To our children's delight she mischievously recounts our numerous library episodes, rendezvous in and out of class with animated debates on socio-economic- political issues stimulated with endless cups of tea on the library steps!



Renu Puri Khosla, our rock of Gibraltar, whom we called "mother" for her innate wisdom and perfectionism, continues to be a precious sounding board when in doubt. Bindu Mehta Sikand with her buoyant vibrant fiery zest for making the world a better place was nicknamed "granny". Unconventional, feisty Bindu would brerak into our favourite numbers as we walked miles to the Mall. "*There's a kind of hush all over the world*" to "*killing me softly with his song*" were like an on-going antakshri which no Spotify could ever beat.

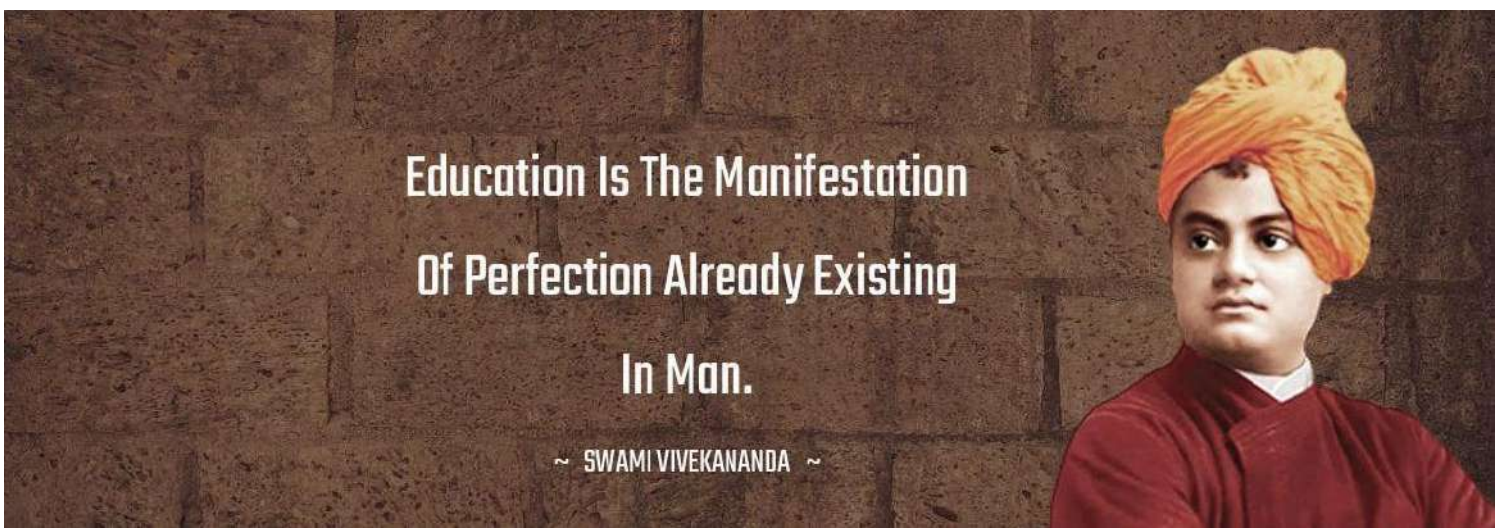


Pritima, myself and Raju in the University MBA meet 1980

As I hear the Mary Hopkins number "*once upon a time there was a tavern, where we raised a glass or two*" I wistfully recall our memorable MBA days where shaking a leg with our class fellows raised eyebrows with the rest of the University until our young Head of the Dept signalled green by joining us with total gusto. I wistfully remember our set of teachers who encouraged Raju in sports and debates where he won not just accolades but my heart too. Raju has fond memories of debating with none other than our eminent Sh JP Naddaji who was the bulwark for the Law faculty and is now the pride of the country. Those were the days when a Pritima, myself and Raju in the University MBA meet 1980 reclusive future President of Afghanistan, HE Hamid Karzai, was studying at HP University. Our faculty, mentors and friends took all this in their stride and loved just us as we were, overlooking many of our pranks. They remain friends even today.

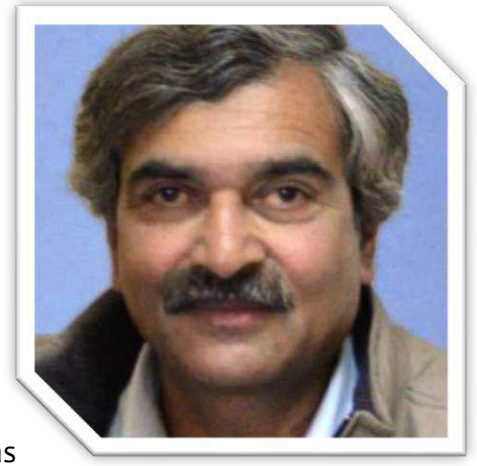
Our alumni groups now weave a bond that can only be shared by people who go back a long way! As Himalini described it so beautifully with such *pals* conversation begins without commas and full stops even if we left it at a meeting years ago! Thank god for wassap, insta, facebook that has reconnected us as an alumni physically and virtually to meet and share these and many more instances, pictures, updates that we can never get enough of. The list of HP University friends cutting across all faculties is too long to share here individually, but

each one inhabits an exclusive niche in our hearts. We hope that our ways continue to cross as we walk into the sunset of life. During the last 4 decades many of those young faces have gone, '*bichhde sabhi baari baari*", yet their legacy and '*yaadon ki baraat'* remains as a cherished memory making us look forward to each alumni event creating more memorable moments. Hence this story has a sequel that will be shared in the next issue.



First Decade of the Department of English (HP University, Summer Hill)

-Dr. Suresh Sharma



Master's in English Literature and Ancient History. Recipient of two gold medals; CSGM, DHMS (Homoeopathy and Bio-chemic System of Medicine); Honoured by Lalit Kala Akadami and Sanskar Bharti. Author of 'Astronomical Milestones of the Four Eras' and 'Four Eras of the Battling Gods and Mortals.'

Himachal Pradesh University was established on 22nd July 1970 to provide higher education to the urban, rural and tribal areas of the State through formal and distant education modes. The University is located at Summer Hill and now is spread across an area of around 240 bighas surrounded with lush green jungle having rhododendron, silver oak, pine, and deodar trees. At the incipient period of its formation, the University faculties functioned in very modest and humble wooden cabin structures, completely merged with its natural Pahari surroundings. It provided a cosy and serene atmosphere to its students.



Dr. Atma Ram Sharma

After doing BSc I sought admission in the Department of English in the year 1975. The department of English was established in the year 1971, and it offered Master's degree and subsequently MPhil in 1974, followed by Doctor of Philosophy. The founder Vice-Chancellor Prof RK Singh is rightly credited with bringing to the Department, some of the finest scholars from all over the country like Prof BK Tripathi and Prof K Chatterjee. When I took admission in Post-graduation Centre at Summer Hill, Dr. BK Tripathi was the Head of the Department, and the faculty included Dr GR Sud, Dr BS Pathania, Dr K Chatterjee, Dr Atma Ram and in the year 1976 we had Dr Kataria. In 1978 the Department had Prof Jaidev Sharma also. All the professors were very friendly, courteous and intelligent, and best in their respective fields of studies.

Remembering Dr Atma Ram Sharma, he was the Principal of Govt. College Hamirpur before joining University. He had done extensive tours of USA and UK for delivering lectures on comparative study of the education

patterns in these countries. He visited Universities of Cambridge, London, California, Los Angeles, Georgia, Athens, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute for his lectures.

He was the first from Himachal Pradesh to be selected for the study tour entitled Indian University Administrators Project. Dr Atma Ram Sharma was witty, sarcastic and a critique par excellence. Can't forget him! Dr Tripathi, Head of the Department, was very pleasant to talk with, a very fine, lovable teacher. No student ever missed his lectures**.** Prof. BK Tripathi immensely contributed to establish the literary traditions that brought prestige and glory to the department.



Sitting from Left to Right: Kaushaylya Thakur, Dr Pankaj Khanna, Reeta Handa, Dr BS Pathania, Dr GR Sud, Dr Kataria, Amia Jha, and Anita Dutta.

Standing from Left to Right: Savita Sharma, Renu Vasistha, Ramesh Gupta, Suresh Sharma, Urmil, Meena Pathania, Anita Sud, Kalpana Sharma, Rekha, Ajeeta Thakur, Chanchal Sharma, GD Kalia

Dr Chatterjee taught at Wisconsin University, but the love for India brought him back to the soil of his birth. After teaching a few years at Shantiniketan he finally chose Himachal University. He was very intelligent and often challenged anybody to ask any word from any dictionary for spelling and its meaning. He was an encyclopaedia and a dictionary in himself. He would often sit with his one leg crossed over the other; eyes closed for 40 minutes period and deliver a nonstop lecture. It was difficult to take such rapid notes from him, so two students would write down alternate sentences and then rewrite the notes after the class was over. He taught us the phonetics of the language and often sounded amusing. Dr Chatterjee was a lost philosopher, not infrequently he was seen wearing two different coloured socks under his shoes; he would often kick-start and speed away on his scooter before his wife could seated on the back seat of his scooter leaving behind his wife helpless on the road. Sadly enough, disillusioned by the bureaucratic corruption, he returned to University of Santiniketan. Dr BS Pathania, prepared his lectures well, would answer any query of the students without ever getting annoyed. Dr GR Sud taught old English history and poetry. He was a thorough gentle personality. In this decade, i.e., 1971-1981, the centre of activity, be it classroom studies or tea and lunch breaks, was the old campus, and the canteen situated below the row of wooden cabins. It was a busy, cosy, and very friendly atmosphere from 10 am to 4.30 pm.

The memoir is not complete if I don't remember the classmates also. Some of the unforgettable classmates with whom I am in touch or not are: Ramesh Gupta, who after doing diploma in Business Management served some of the famous medical companies and finally retired as Principal of Senior Secondary School, Suni; Amia Jha, after his schooling at BCS New Shimla, was a throughout topper. His English accent was marvellous. After his Master's he worked as journalist for India's leading newspapers. He had a tragic end, he died of cancer and never married; Reeta Handa, had a flare for art and craft. She was the student member of the editorial board for the magazine Devdaru run by HP University; Savita Sharma, was a very prolific and good reader, retired as



Girl students enjoying the exhibition



Students looking at the painting

senior officer from UCO bank; Dhruv Sharma, who was my classmate in BSc also, and a dear friend, worked as Language Officer in PNB; Meena Pathania taught English in a convent school at Chamba; Anita Sud, a little reserved but finest of the personalities, also taught English Language in an educational institution; GD Kalia, simple but smiling personality, retired from SBI as a senior officer: Anita Dutta, Rekha, Renu Vasistha, Urmil, Kaushalya, Kalpana, Ajeeta Thakur and Krishna Banerjee were other classmates all having unique personalities and thoughts.

During this period, I made few rapid portrait sketches of my classmates and teachers which included Meena Pathania, Urmil, Kalpana, Dhruv Sharma, Ramesh Gupta, Professor Robin Brooks of California University, a visiting faculty; and an oil-paint portrait of Anita Sud; beside many portraits of my friends from other departments of HP University. I also painted landscapes of Summer Hill. This activity culminated into the first ever exhibition of Paintings and Photography in University campus from 25th April to 30th April 1981. I did Diploma in French and Master's degree in History, and grabbed two gold medals.

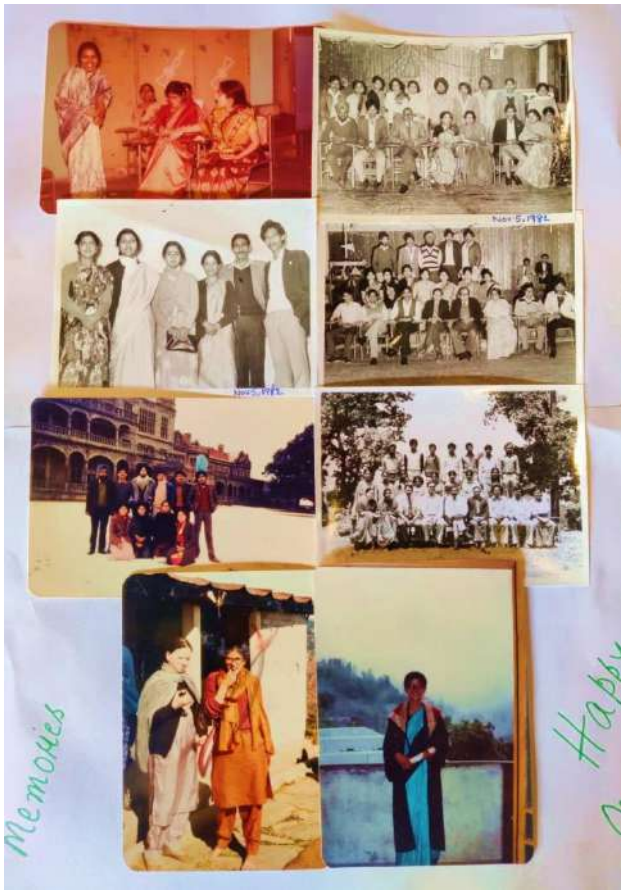
I am indebted to my finest of the teachers that I had in English Department and few unforgettable classmates that were instrumental in influencing and moulding my future. Love you all!

My Student Days in HP University: A Deluge of HAPPY MEMORIES

-Dr. Shramja Munjal
Associate Professor, St. Bede's College, Shimla



The most enjoyable, lovable, memorable and fanciful phase of my life has been my university years. I still have some of the memories of university fresh in my mind which fills me with nostalgia and cheerfulness. Spending four years at a stretch for M.Sc. and M.Phil. was a great experience of hard work, learning, struggle and enjoyment as well? If I stop and try to recollect the days, hours spent in Bio-Sciences department, library, coffee house and Shah ji ka dhaba(bread pakoras and elaichi chai) , I can see it all clearly and feel as if those days were not very long ago. Fond memories of the University evoke the images of people, places and time spent with teachers, seniors, juniors and many more. Welcome and farewell parties were always an attraction.



University years were challenging and enlightening experience for me. It is here I met some of the wonderful teachers and worthy role models who always inspired and motivated me. To name a few are- Prof. T. N. Lakhanpal, Prof. V. K. Rai, Prof. Surinder Mann, and Late (Prof.) Mukesh Seth. I would like to share one incident in M. Sc., we used to have our practicals in the afternoon upto 5pm and Dr. Mukesh wouldn't allow us to go home until we showed him the permanent slide despite our requests that we would miss our bus being day scholars. But his training and grinding helped me in training my students at St. Bede's. I always miss you sir.

I can't forget my daily visits to cafeteria in the morning only

after reaching university during my M.Phil. and when we would reach our research lab, my guide would always ask us--- (*chai pee aye tum log*). That was really fun, chit chating with other friends of the university.

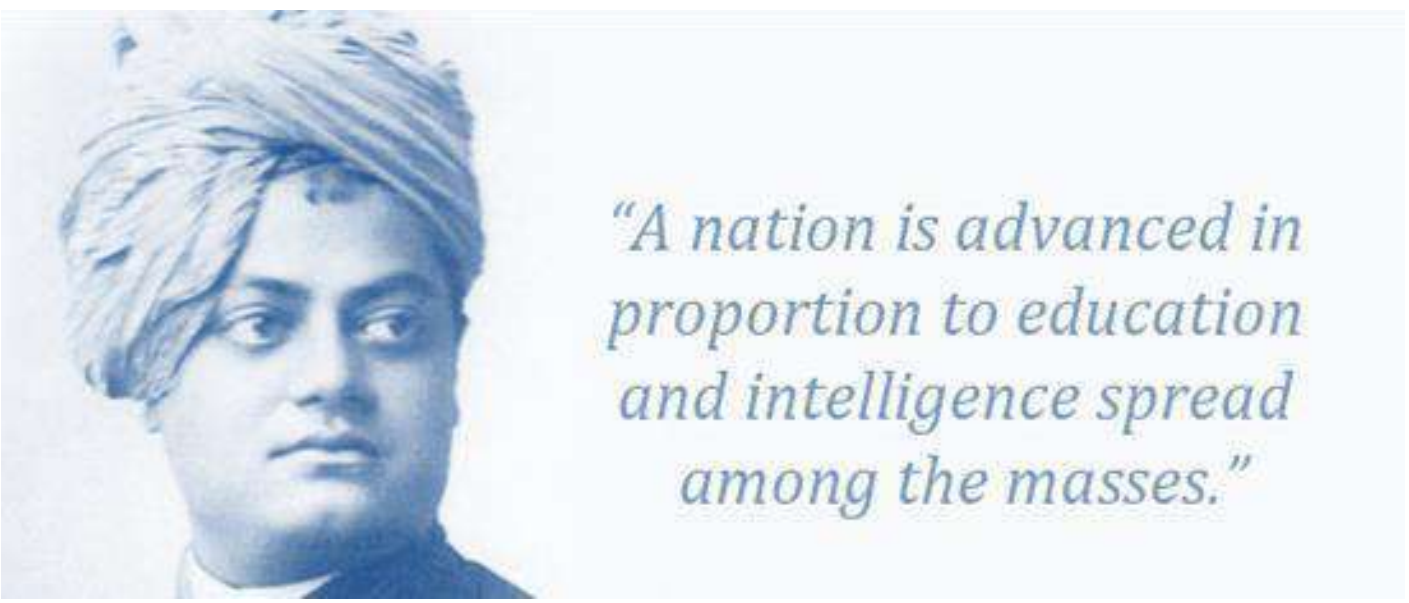
Working in my research lab was a great learning experience. We were around 6-8 students, some my seniors and some juniors. We had an environment where we worked with co-operation and harmony with one another. Sometimes we had hot discussions on various topics on politics, career and many more. It was always a learning and joyful experience.

I finished my M.Phil. in 1985 and started my Ph.D. work immediately. However, I joined at MLSM College immediately, Sundernagar in 1986 and then at St. Bede's in 1987. It was difficult for me to concentrate in my teaching work and research work. It was my teacher, guide and mentor, Prof. T.N. Lakhanpal who motivated me to continue my work and finish it. With his co-operation and guidance I could complete my Ph.D. in 1992. Otherwise, I would have left this assignment incomplete.

The list of memories is endless and I still miss people, places, time, fun which we had in the University.

I can relate to everything I left behind. And I wish all the students of the University best of everything for their future!!!!!!!!

"EACH HAPPINESS OF YESRERDAY IS A MEMORY FOR TOMORROW"



Reminiscences of my Alma Mater

-Dr. Mamta Mokta
Dean Faculty of Social Science
&
Chairperson, Department of Public Administration
Himachal Pradesh University



My heart is filled with immense pride, fondness, gratitude coupled with nostalgia and longing as to how those wonderful years flew by. What a marvellous journey we came to University as strangers and then we left University as friends loaded with memories full of life, thrill and excitement. We were fortunate to be taught by amazing teachers those meticulously taught us lessons of life. Memories of our worthy teachers classrooms, ragging, sha ji da Dhaba, freshers party, picnic party, classroom lectures, discussions with friends, eve teasing, political turmoil and elections those were full of action and life is vividly sketched in my memory. Our ragging was blending of singing, dancing, cracking jokes, lots of scolding and ridiculing. I still remember the day that on our senior's direction we all were shouting loudly in Advanced studies that we are administrators "Asi Administrators honde hain." Ragging helped us in learning humility, politeness and to be comfortable with one's personality and body. The habit of addressing sir or madam got wired into me after ragging only. While walking from Summer Hill chowk to our class rooms we used to wish all our seniors. Seniors also shared tips of studies and some grand seniors shared their notes withus also. Delightful memories of our university time are still fresh in our mind.

Memories of awesome fresher party are still fresh in my mind. We all continued that tradition and we became seniors and we had most wonderful time with our juniors. Our teachers were our God at that time we never missed any class and after classes also we use to sit in our classrooms and used to prepare for Administrative services at that time. Our time in University as student was unique and unforgettable memories that will last for a lifetime and emanate a pleasant feeling. Best time in my life was when I was a student in University although I am teacher now in University but the time as student was excellent. University life is that part of our life that will relive in my memories till I breathe. I can very humbly say I am what I am because of my Alma Mater.

Seasons will come seasons will go

Everything will wither away from life as we all know

But one thing will remain as fresh as dew

Sweet memories of my alma mater in my life









Students of M.A. Public Administration 1988-1990 Session

Down The Memory Lane

-Dr Gitanjali Thapar
Himachal Pradesh University Institute of Legal Studies, Ava-Lodge, Shimla



"I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence

Two Roads diverged in a wood, and I-

I took the one less travelled by,

And that has made all the difference"

The year 1981, when I was born, was resplendently rich with the numerous stars in the Himachal Pradesh University (Pic.1) I grew up in the academic environment, meeting and discussing literature and academics every now and then, till I joined the University in the year 1999, as an honours graduate from St. Bede's. At that stage of life, enrolling in a University Course infused a life-force of accountability as shifting from only girls' college to a co-education institute demanded a change of perception. Shift from a golden period to a golden era. Gradually the gender issues disappeared with the friendly associates and harmonious ambience of the department.

While admission counselling was held I clearly recall Prof. Girija Sharma Ma'ám asking me the academic interests and most importantly my expressed desire to pursue my Doctors under her guidance. The entire faculty of the department seemed like a treasure house of knowledge. The English Department reckoned with the glorious literary time periods of English Literature as each faculty member epitomised the eternities they taught. Lectures delivered by our esteemed and respectful teachers, Prof. Girija Sharma, Prof. Pankaj. K. Singh, Prof. Jaywanti Dimri, Prof. V.P. Sharma Sir were like reliving the 14th century to the 19th century. Infused with intellectual thoughts the historical blended with the contemporary and the Indian with the Canadian.

A rare reminiscence of a sparrow visiting our class room, adjacent to the office, only in Sir V.P's class is still a mystery, if it had connections with Conrad's Heart of Darkness or to the Belgian sailor. The silent spectator was often noticed engrossed in the narratives. Would have captured it, had it been the techno savvy, selfie clicking, and reels addictive times of smartphones likes now. The birdie was blessed indeed.

MA English students and teachers..HP Univ..1981 ..HPU Guest House





If it was not Coffee with Karan, it was Coffee at the Calm Café, a reason for getting together and the bundle of joy and the gaiety enjoyed there, over Keats's Poem, or the procrastination of Prufrock or of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart is nostalgic. I can still recall from the depths of my memory the narratives and the echoes, the quotes and the unquoted, while slogging downhill back home.

The colonial imprints were also visible in the old structures housing different departments like the Visual Arts and Mass Communication, where number of friends pursued courses simultaneously. Major Facelift is now visible and in the campus, as per various NACC requirements manifold advancements have eased out various academic pursuits, offline and online.

Along with the happy memories some gripping feelings of awe and fear holds me when I remember the times of violence in the University. The stone pelting and the rounds of blame games, all used to ruin the academic environment and the stigmas leaving pool of blood in the streets and a gruesome silent atmosphere with innumerable and perplex unanswered questions. As it takes both sun and rain for a flower to grow, the



campus is now an abode of thousands of students all over India and abroad with renowned academicians and the university is scaling new heights and setting new benchmarks.

The good old days at the campus were the most enriching years of my life. Apart from routine classes spending time in the repository of wonderful treasure of books; the folio and the finely bound, visiting the Library was a biological custom. The Corpus was colossal, I can still feel the touch of the velvety hardbound, the smudgy pastel yellowish paper and the old Bibliochor. The maroonish red and the ink blue jacket, holding epochs of considerations and hours of contemplations. The imprint "Shakespeare The Tempest or Beckett's Godot, all rested in the house of books. I still yearn to go back and walk around and in between the almirahs stacked with plethora of written scripts and manuscripts.

Recapitulating one of the finest memory on HPU campus is my Doctoral with Prof. Girija Sharma. Her elegance and astuteness is reflective of the pure soul and a beautiful human being she is. She infused in me a zeal to strive and to be determined, she not only guided me academically but in the intermingling crossroads of my life also. I learned, and she mentored me wherever and whenever I needed her support. Seeking her blessings every Deepawali is a family ritual.

Can't miss to mention her visit to UILS, as a Resource Person in a Workshop which happened to be convened by me. My most prized possession.

At life's juncture I always wanted to be an academician and it so happened that the first Lecture delivered in my life was in the English department, the year 2004 April, all decked up in the newly wed attire. A new life began then on. By God's grace I am a part of Himachal University as a Teaching Faculty since 2009. The academic life at University Institute of Legal Studies carved a new me. Owing to my Alma Mater I look forward to a life dedicated to my lovely students at UILS and the Himachal Pradesh University, with all my heart.

A Warm Phase in Cold Shimla

-Dr. Rakesh Kapoor
Retired Principal, at present, Ombudsperson (MGNREGA)



I am really grateful and feel obliged, as given, an opportunity to revisit and revive the happy memories of my Alma Mater, The Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill. Though engulfed in varied responsibilities, duties, tensions and many more, I feel rejuvenated and young as I travel back in the year 1978, when I had felt so proud to be the part of the University for pursuing higher education.

The University is situated on one of the seven hills, where the city of Shimla dwells. It has the picturesque beauty; Chedwick falls, Advance Studies, Boileauganj Tample, Sankat Mochan, Chaura Maidan and others for the young soulful hearts to roam about, life being a beautiful dream, a fantasy.

I was the M.Com., student,our classes ran in the barrack type small sheds, Education did happen as there were both dedicated teachers and seeking students. At present there are huge concrete buildings. I still remember one instance, when someone wrote on the outside wall of the office of our Department of Commerce "GURU BANIYA VIBHAG". No one in the department pointed it except Prof. R.N.Singh the Chairman of the department; he took our class, scolded for such immature behavior unexpected of the pupil seeking higher education. It is through him that we learnt the lesson of keeping the decorum and discipline, so important in life.

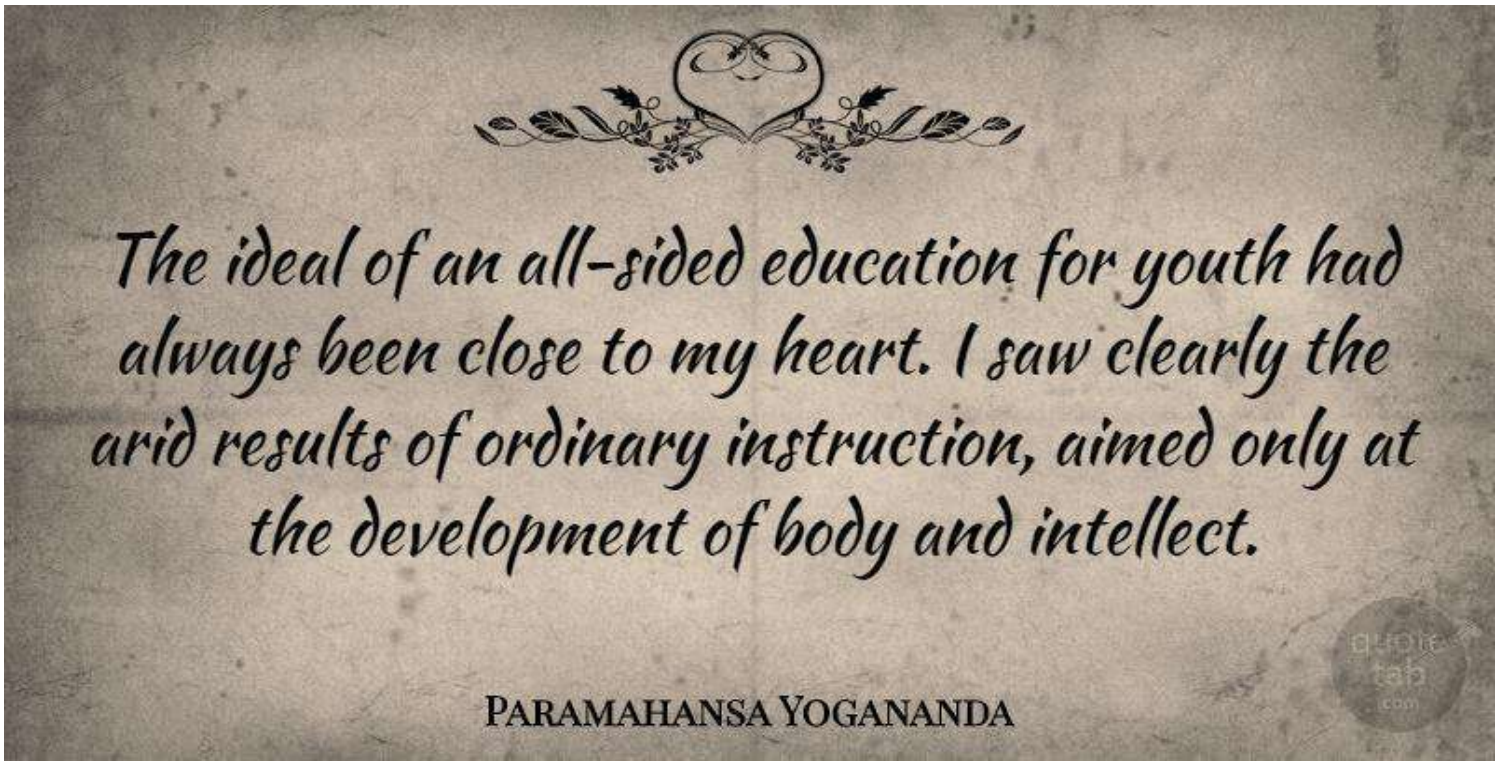
Commerce Department was a part of Management Department and most of the teachers of Management taught us. After the marathon class of Prof. B. K. Bali, every one found an urgent need of refreshing tea; Calm café and Pandit ji's shop were ever full, so a big group of the class found solace at the small tuck shop raised on wooden pillars. The proprietor first lighted a kerosene stove and tea would be ready in half an hour or so, meanwhile the peers had hot discussions, sometimes very serious, sometime light hearted, as if they have to bear the burden of the whole world.

After of the M.Com. I joined the Department of Law for doing LL.B. Prof. B.R.Chauhan was the chairman, he taught us International Law, was really an examplanary teacher also very strict and in case of the shortage of attendance he did not allow any laxity and not even of a single lecture was granted to the student having short attendance. However, he was so liberal in the class that after the attendance, anyone may move out of

the class during his lecture. Then Dr. P.L. Mehta and Dr. A.S.Paul were the new faculty, however, I still am bestowed with their love and support.

A few tit-bits of my University life were the mustache of one class fellow Mr. Rakesh Bermani, everyone made jests about it. At this juncture of life one wonders about the immature behavior of the hot blooded fellows, who used to have fights and quarrels, blood sheds at the slightest excuses, then there were picnics, welcome and farewell parties where everybody have the marry time but a small group after having hard drinks use to reign the show.

Along my M.Com. LL.B., I did Diploma in Yoga and Certificate Course in French, what I retain and cherish of my University life is a long line of friends, well wishers and ultimately a good successful career owing a strong, confident personality.



HPU: My Karam Bhumi

-Prof. Keshav Chandra Sharma
Pofessor (Retd.), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla



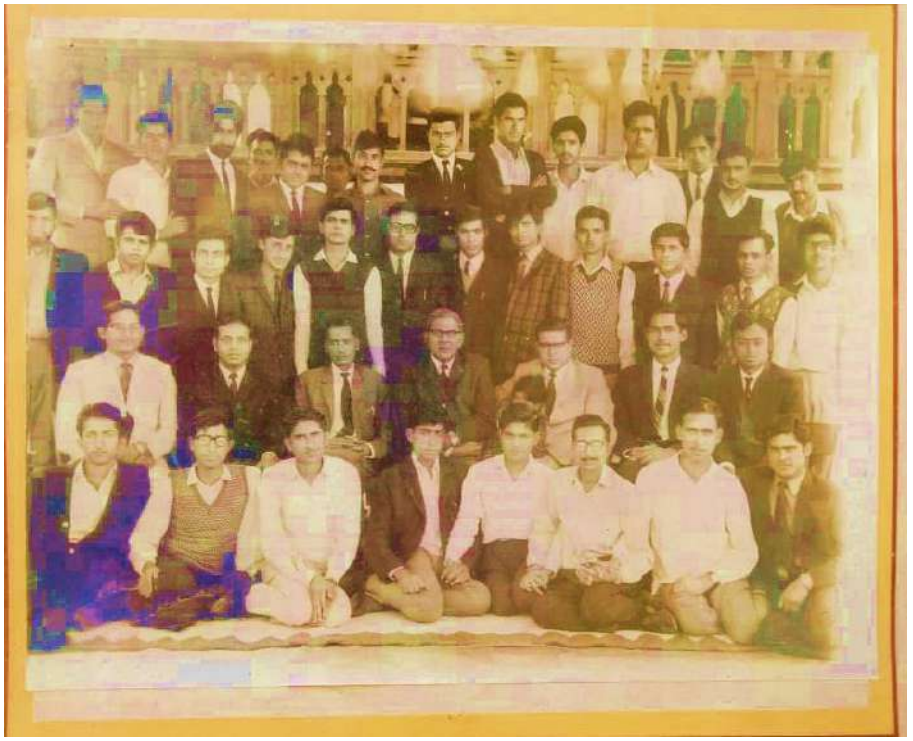
After my higher studies from Allahabad University (1959- 66), I was destined to reach Shimla via Institute of Theoretical Physics (as a Post Doctoral Fellow, 1966-68), University of Alberta, Edmonton (Canada); Punjab University Chandigarh ; Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (during 1968-70). I owe my gratitude to my teachers and mentors Prof. S.K.Joshi, Prof. R.K.Pathria, Prof. H.S Hans and Prof. J. Mahanty for this journey.

In 1970, the Punjab University advertised the positions for Science Departments at its respective regional P.G. Centres at Shimla and Rohtak. I applied and got the appointment as lecturer in Physics, opted for regional P.G. Centre Shimla where the Director was Dr. Jagdish Chandra (Head of the Department of English). The Science Departments had already started in July 1970. The first two appointments were of Dr. Bhuvan Chandra Pandey (a man of spectroscopy, from P.U. Chandigarh) and Dr. Sat Prakash Sud (in Nuclear Physics, also from P.U. Chandigarh). The Department of Physics was located in the Manse building. The Chemistry Department became functional in the adjoining hall (now Gandhi Bhawan) under the headship of Dr. K. C. Malhotra. The main office of Regional Centre was in the Dingle estate, where all the other departments were located. Some portion of the estate was also used for residential purpose of the faculty members.

On July 22, 1970, the University of Himachal Pradesh came into existence by an act of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, under the leadership of Dr. Y.S Parmar, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. It was the only University that was a Multi faculty, residential and affiliating University in the state devoted to teaching and research and with extension programs so as to enable a student to obtain advantage of the University education. On Jan. 25, 1971, the Union territory of Himachal Pradesh poised for full statehood in the Union of India.

I joined the Department of Physics on September 1, 1970. It was a transition period when I reported joining to Dr. Jagdish Chandra. Both my colleagues and friends helped me to settle down in Shimla. By October the name of the Vice Chancellor, Dr. R.K. Singh, a well-known educationist, dynamic and visionary academician, was

announced by the Government. Earlier Dr. Singh was the Vice Chancellor of Meerut University where he had introduced many reforms in the educational system. In 1971, Dr. O.P.Bahl (from N.P.L. New Delhi) and Dr. K.N.Shrivastava (with Ph.D. of IIT Kanpur, a student of P. Venkateshwarlu). A first group Photograph of the first batch of M.Sc. students (1970-71) with Dr. Singh, Dr. Jagdish Chandra and faculty/ staff members is here to refresh the pleasant memories.



In 1972 Dr. Amar Nath Maheshwari (a student of Prof. S. Chandra Shekhar, Nobel Laureate, and Univ. of Chicago) joined the Department as Reader in Physics. Initially, the Vice Chancellor had offered the position of Professor and Head, Department of Physics to Prof. A.K. Rajagopal, a well-known Condensed Matter Physicist from USA. He, however, declined the offer. Dr. R.P.Bajpai (in Particle Physics) joined the department as a lecturer in 1972. After that Prof. Ramesh Chandra (in Particle Physics) was appointed as the Professor and Head of the Department. Dr. S. Mukherjee (in High Energy Physics) from USA was appointed as a lecturer in Physics. Dr. Dhani Ram Sharma (in Electronics, from Pilani) joined the department in 1974. After Prof. Ramesh Chand left for United States, Dr. S. Rai Choudhry (High Energy Physics, from University of Delhi) was appointed as the Head of the Department. Dr. B.K.Pal (Particle Physics) was another faculty member who joined the Department in 1974. Overall, it was a good research group in High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics and Condensed Matter Physics which gave a direction to the Department in coming years.

It was really exciting for all of us when an International Conference on Statistical Physics was organized in 1972 jointly with the Department of Physics, Delhi University in which great and eminent scientists from Delhi University, U.K. and Europe, like Prof. D. S. Kothari, Prof. D. Ter Haar, Prof. I. Progogine, were invited. White Hotel of Shimla was the place where most of the guests/ participants were accommodated.

Dr. Singh believed in immediate implementation of his plans. He took no time to get Summer Hill area for the H.P.University campus, to get built class rooms and staff rooms in sheds for arts faculty, houses for the faculty were built on the Tennis Court. Further work on developing housing facility was started on the present University Teachers colony and for non-teaching employees on the other side of hill (Cheriton estate) and hostels as a Master Plan. He further believed that The teaching faculty coming from different parts of the country and abroad be provided with all the necessary facility/ furnishing in the residential Houses The faculty of Law of the university came into existence on the day of establishment of the university. For full-fledged Science Blocks (A and B) the work started which took some time and was complete by 1975. In 1976 the science Departments were shifted from Manse bldg. to these two buildings.

There were two big heritage builldings. Having wooden structure, one was at the present central Library site and another was at the Administrative building site. A solemn inauguration ceremony was organized in the first heritage building in 1971 when along with our then Vice Chancellor Dr. Singh, Dr. Y.S. Parmar, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and Shri Tapinder Singh, a very important leader in the Himachal Assembly graced the occasion. Unfortunately, both these heritage buildings caught fire and were reduced to ashes at different times before 1976.

Dr.R. K.Singh brought several stalwarts and distinguished professors in respective fields in different Departments, like Prof. P.L. Bhatnagar in mathematics, Prof. Ravindra Kumar in History, and Dr. Gokak in English in early seventies. He brought some innovative reforms through the semester system initially at P.G. level, and subsequent improvements in the examination system as was being followed in best institutions of the country. He always encouraged the faculty members to undertake research activities. I recall that in 1971, on receiving a communication from ICTP Trieste for attending an international conference, Dr. Singh gave a green signal to me. He was very affectionate towards his faculty members.

It was the beginning of the emergency period, imposed by the central Government and Dr. Singh ensured that no faculty member was touched without his permission during this period. Even after 1975-76, I used to visit Roorkee University and meet Dr. Singh at the residence of Dr. Kiran Singh (his son) on the University campus. He used to enquire about any new developments in finer detail as per his master plan of the University Campus at Summer Hill, Shimla.

At Summer Hill, initially Dr. Maheshwari remained the Head of the Department of Physics till mid-1977. For the next two years, Prof. A.C. Jain from the Department of Chemistry, Dr. S.P. Sud, Dr. S.N.Dube from the Department of Mathematics, and, Dr. R.P. Bajpai were given the charge of the Department. In 1979, Prof. I.M. Govil (a nuclear scientist from Punjab University), joined as Professor and Head of the Department. In 1981,

Professor A.W.Joshi from Poona joined as Head, the Department and remained till 1984. After that, Professor R.L.Blokhra from the Department of Chemistry was given the charge of the Head of the Department. From 1985, the system of rotation within the Department started for the headship as the Chairman of the Department. This year, I decided to join SSS Institute of Higher Learning, Prashanti Nilayam as Professor and Head of the Department of Physics, where the department was well equipped with State-of-the-Art facility of Laser Laboratory and Electronics Lab. with open ended experiments and computer lab. Lab environment was also quite pleasant and open where students could do experiments at any time of the day as per their convenience. In 1986-87, I got a research project from the University of Guelph, Canada, Accordingly I decided to join that research project "Molecular Dynamics of Lorenz Gas", and came back in 1987.

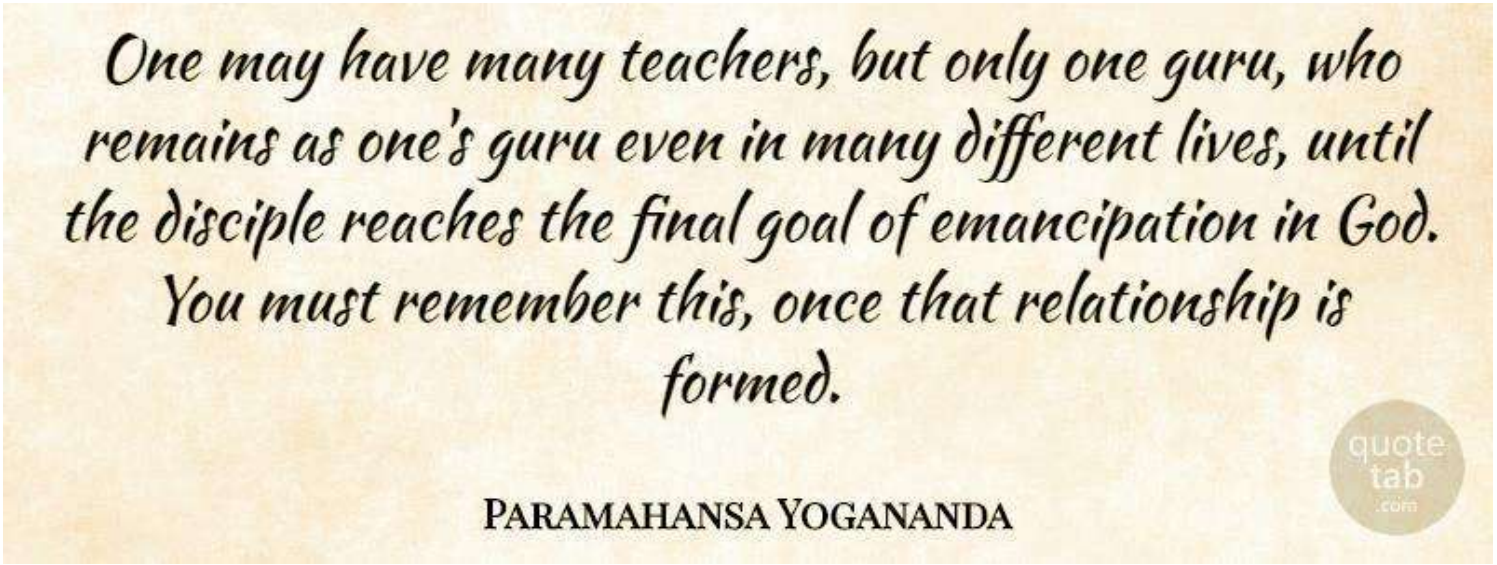
I got the opportunity to become the Chairman of the Department three times. During the first tenure (1987-89), I took the initiative to equip the Physics lab with Laser experiments, open ended electronics experiments and Transport Properties and Hall Effect measurements for M.Sc. Laboratory. Computational Physics lab was also established to do some simple experiments and also an idea was floated that all the Science (and also Economics) Departments should start their respective Computational Courses and also in Physics Departments of different colleges in the state, which was done to certain extent. At the same time, tried to build the Central Science Workshop (mechanical, electrical, electronics and also wooden) which could be used by all the science Departments of the University. In 1989, the responsibility of Computer Center and Computer Science came to me where I took the initiative to start M.C.A. Program with 15 students only. Though my dream was to start a P.G. and research Program in Computer Science having a tie up with Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), but the proposal was denied by the Director DRDO in New Delhi, as this facility was only open to good engineering colleges of the country.

Before the second tenure (1991-93) one of our friends Dr. R.C. Verma (a Particle Physicist from Punjab University) joined the Department as Reader in Physics. , We along with Dr. P.K. Ahluwalia decided to go on a book writing project, which took 3-4 years, initially in the form of a lecture series and then writing the book "Computational Physics : An Introduction" In the last tenure (1997-99), a full-fledged computational Physics Lab became functional in the department.

Next two years (1999-2001) were very productive for the University, which provided me a great satisfaction, during this tenure as Dean of Studies many initiatives were taken: establishment of UIIT, the master plan of networking on the campus, computerization of entrance examination and establishment of Cyber Café, and the development of Intercom Telephone facility on the Campus (of course DID facility remained a dream due to some technical reasons on the part of the Telecommunication Department) with the full support &

blessings and firm determination of Prof. S.K. Gupta, the Vice Chancellor and other authorities of the University, along with a team having my colleague and friend Dr. P.K. Ahluwalia. Initially, it was thought to have an IIIT at the University campus, but as per the UGC norms it was not feasible. In this situation, the name was changed to UIIT which was started within the UGC norms, with a firm notion that the standard of this institute will be the same as of IIIT of the country, along with the integrated Master program in Information Technology. A year after or so, on student's demand, it got approval of AICTE to initiate an engineering program on the campus.

It is great feeling to recall that a computer culture was initiated with a first Personal Computer (magnetic card based) that was purchased in the Department of Physics around 1975 while still in Manse bldg. It was with the support of Dr. Maheshwari that some progressive thinking went on and with him it was a very fruitful period so far as the research atmosphere in the Department was concerned. He gave a series of lectures on Path Integral Formulation of Quantum mechanics, Topology and myself gave lectures on Quantum Field theoretical techniques. Other initiative were: to strengthen the electronics lab by bringing the microwave wave guide experiment to measure the dielectric constant of solid and fluids, to start a Photography Club, with the required infrastructure/ facility, that was continued to Summer Hill Campus for which the basic facility of dark room was provided in the Department of Physics.



My Alma Mater – Always Young, Always Cheerful!!

-Dr Usha Bande
Retd. Principal, Govt. Degree College, Arki and Former Fellow, IIAS, Shimla



Memory has the unique attribute to select and eliminate, alter and exaggerate; but "in the end it creates its own reality," avers Salman Rushdie. Toward this reality I would like to turn the pages of my notebook of memories and open -- *Bhanumati ka Pitara* (I won't call it Pandora's Box, for obvious reasons) -- with moments sweet and sour, elevating and enriching, but always decorous and courteous.

Till 1970, colleges in Himachal Pradesh were affiliated to the Punjab University – a prestigious educational institution, indeed; but one cannot deny that to have our own University means 'to belong'. And understandably, there was cheer in the academic circles with the announcement of HP University being established "as a response to the needs and aspirations" of the people.

To be candid, I did not have much affiliation or sense of belonging to any school so far. It was hop, stop and jump from school to school, every two or three years, wherever father was transferred during his army years. I joined HP University for M.Phil course in 1980-81 when I had already put in approximately 10 years of service as a lecturer. That was the beginning of my journey of belonging and I am rightfully proud of my Alma Mater.

We, as college faculty were exempted from attending regular M.Phil classes and the joy of sitting on the benches and listening to the erudite professors with rapt attention was missing for us. Anyway, we compensated the lack with personal interactions with eminent professors like Prof. Som P. Ranchan, Prof Atma Ram, Prof B.S.Pathania and Prof Jai Dev. I remember the days when I was stuck up with some tricky issues in literary theory and then I would trudge all the way from RKMV to Summer Hill after finishing teaching. Thankfully, never was I disappointed in my professors who would always be available for discussion or explanation. Walking all through the densely wooded Summer Hill road was refreshing in itself. Since there was scant traffic on this patch of the road, you could afford to be absent minded to enjoy the scenery en route, stop a while to take pleasure in the perennial water spout trickling down a crack; but on the flip side of it, sometimes if you remembered the story of the 'Dhobi ka bhoot' with horse hooves in place of hands, you

almost sprinted through the isolated spot with uncanny haste. The story was much in circulation those days but later I learnt that it was a popularly narrated tale in Shimla with ever-changing venue. So be it!!

Anyway, my association with the University was varied: as a faculty teaching in an affiliated college; as a student browsing in the library; resource person at Academic Staff College; guest faculty in the Department of English; and also working on some exciting projects like Forts and Palaces of Himachal Pradesh or European travelers in Himachal Pradesh offered by Institute of Integrated Himalayan Studies, (incidentally, Forts and Palaces was a joint project with Prof Him Chatterjee and this was published as a coffee table book with colored photographs).

In brief, the University made me what I am. I still remember the day I showed my first term paper to Dr Atma Ram expecting a 'shabash'. He read through the script, looked at me briefly and said, "good analysis but why this flowery English? crossing two of my opening paragraphs. Let me mention that I used to write newspaper articles much in the 19th century English literature style that my generation had almost internalized. "Well, that's magazine style not academic. Use direct and simple sentences. Hit the nail on the head" he said. A great turning point, indeed!! From thence on, I learnt assiduously to write in an organized manner with precise expressions which stood me in good stead later in my research and other writings. I did my Ph.D under him and learnt many finer and subtle points of research writing.

For my M.Phil dissertation I was to write on "Metaphysical Reality in William Golding's Novels," a difficult writer with an esoteric blend. I sweated, literally, on the subject, read metaphysics; peered over incomprehensible ideas and struggled comprehend the subject but ultimately I was a gainer with a Gold Medal in my bag. Thanks to late Prof Ranchan who had helped me through this.

Time passed, as is its wont, quickly. The English department changed hands and I found my students at the helm of affairs – nothing can be more satisfying for a teacher. Overwhelming affection and undiluted respect came my way; reason enough to visit the premises even after retirement.

The exuberance of youth is always infectious; you shed your years, mentally though and feel as young as they are. These are the perks of the teaching profession.

That is my Alma Mater, always young, always cheerful!!

शिक्षक से योगी तक की यात्रा

-प्रो जयवंती डिमरी
रिटायर्ड प्रोफेसर, अंग्रेज़ी विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय



1987 का वर्ष था जब हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय, शिमला में मेरी नियुक्ति सांध्य कालीन कॉलेज – सेंटर फॉर इवनिंग स्टडीज में हुई। यह एक सर्वथा अप्रत्याशित, एक बिल्कुल ही अलग प्रकार का अनुभव था। मुख्यधारा से हटकर हाशिए पर स्थित होने जैसी स्थिति। शिक्षण संस्थाओं में पढ़ने पढ़ाने की अवधि प्रातः काल से सायंकाल तक होती है, लेकिन हमारा कॉलेज 5:00 बजे शाम से प्रारंभ होता था क्योंकि हमारे छात्र छात्राएं नौकरीपेशा वर्ग से आते थे जो नौकरी के साथ साथ अध्ययन अभिलाषी थे। आम लोग जब अपने उद्यमों, ऑफिसों से घर लौट रहे होते तो हम 'उल्टे बांस बरेली को' की उक्ति चरितार्थ करते विद्यालय जा रहे होते थे। सारा दिन खाली होते हुए मन में अनिश्चितता का भाव बना रहता।

दुविधा की मनस्थिति यहीं पर समाप्त नहीं होती थी। यह दुविधा बहुआयामी थी। शाम को तैयार होकर अपना व्याख्यान तैयार कर जब हम कॉलेज पहुंचते तो सारा उत्साह रफूचक्कर हो जाता। कक्षा में विद्यार्थियों की संख्या कम, खाली, बेतरतीब कुर्सियों की संख्या अधिक होती थी। ऑफिसों, दुकानों से काम कर कक्षा में बैठे उन छात्रों के थके मांदे चेहरों में ऊर्जा का संचार करना एक चुनौतीपूर्ण काम था। नियत समय पर कक्षा में बहुत कम छात्र-छात्राएं पहुंच पाते थे। आखरी कक्षा तक तो इरले विरले सूरमा ही रुकते। स्थिति यह की मुद्दई सुस्त गवाह चुस्त। शिक्षक हाजिर, विद्यार्थी नदारद।

दिन का आखिरी लेकिन सबसे कठिन इम्तिहान था 9:00 बजे, विशेषकर जाड़ों में घर पहुंचना। इस समय घर जाने के लिए बस नहीं मिलती थी। माल रोड से समरहिल के रास्ते तक कदमताल करते हुए हम सहयोगीगण हंसी मजाक करते हुए, रोज एक नई योजना बनाते, हाथ में टॉर्च लिए मन ही मन ईश्वर का स्मरण करते हुए सकुशल घर पहुंचने की कामना करते। इस रास्ते पर लकड़बग्घा मिलने की आशंका थी। अपनी एक सहयोगी से जब एक दिन अपनी झल्लाहट साझा की तो उन्होंने शांत, परम बैरागी भाव से समझाया,"बस यह समझ लीजिए मैडम हमको पैदल चलने की भी पगार मिलती है।"

हमारी इन परेशानियों दुविधाओं से अनजान हमारे मित्रगण जब हमें माल रोड पर मिल जाते तो उनकी प्रतिक्रियाएं जले पर नमक छिड़कने के समान थी। "आपके तो मजे हैं। माल रोड पर कॉलेज है। रोज माल रोड की सैर हो जाती है।"

स्टाफ रूम में बैठे शिक्षक गण अपनी विशिष्ट परिस्थितियों का वर्णन, विवेचन और विश्लेषण नवीनतम विशेषणों और अलंकरणों से करने में माहिर हो चुके थे। एक व्याख्या जिसे सुनने के कान व्यस्त हो चुके थे, यह थी -

"हम सब तो निशाचर हैं, लोग रात में सोते हैं, दिन में अपना काम धाम करते हैं। हम रात में जागते है, दिन में सोते हैं। पिछले जन्म में हम लोग निशाचर रहे होंगे, तभी तो यह नौकरी मिली है।"

रात में अपने ठिकानों तक सुगमता से पहुंचने का एक विकल्प हो सकता था कि रात्रि के समय सांध्य कालीन कॉलेज के लिए विश्वविद्यालय की बस सेवा की व्यवस्था की जाए किंतु न जाने किन कारणों से यह सुविधा उपलब्ध ना हो पाई। उस समय प्रोफेसर के. सी. मल्होत्रा हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के उपकुलपति थे। पुराने, अनुभवी शिक्षकों ने परिस्थितियों का अपनी समझ, सुविधाओं और साधनों से निदान कर लिया था। नए लोगों में अपेक्षाकृत अधिक उत्साह था और वह बस सेवा चालू करवाने की दिशा में बहुत समय तक प्रयत्नशील रहे किंतु स्थिति वही ढाक के तीन पात की रही। और इसी दौरान हमारे कॉलेज के वार्षिकोत्सव का आयोजन हुआ। उपकुलपति प्रोफेसर केसी मल्होत्रा मुख्य अतिथि थे। कालीबाड़ी हॉल में आयोजन था। सभी चेहरे डरे, सहमे थे। ना मालूम क्या सुनने को मिलेगा। निशाचर की संज्ञा से तो हम स्वलंकृत थे ही इसके आगे क्या विशेषण सुनने को मिलेंगे। प्रारंभिक औपचारिकताओं के पश्चात उपकुलपति महोदय का भाषण प्रारंभ हुआ। ऐसी अनुभूति हो रही थी जैसे हम विद्यार्थी हैं और वक्ता महोदय कोई कड़क शिक्षक जो अभी घुड़की देंगे। अब घुड़की मिली तब घुड़की मिली। कान इसी प्रतीक्षा में थे कि तभी कुलपति जी के यह शब्द सुनाई दिए:

"आप लोग मात्र शिक्षक नहीं, आप लोग तो योगी हैं। जब सारी दुनिया सोती है तो आप जागते हैं और सांध्य कालीन कॉलेज के छात्र छात्राएं सच्चे अर्थों में विद्यार्थी- विद्या+ अर्थी हैं जो जीवन की कठिन परिस्थितियों के बावजूद जाड़े और बरसात की परवाह किए बिना शिक्षा ग्रहण करने आते हैं।"

भगवत गीता का यह प्रसिद्ध श्लोक

"या निशा सर्वभूतानां तस्यां जागर्ति संयमी,

यस्यां जाग्रति भूतानि सा निशा पश्यतो मुने:।।"

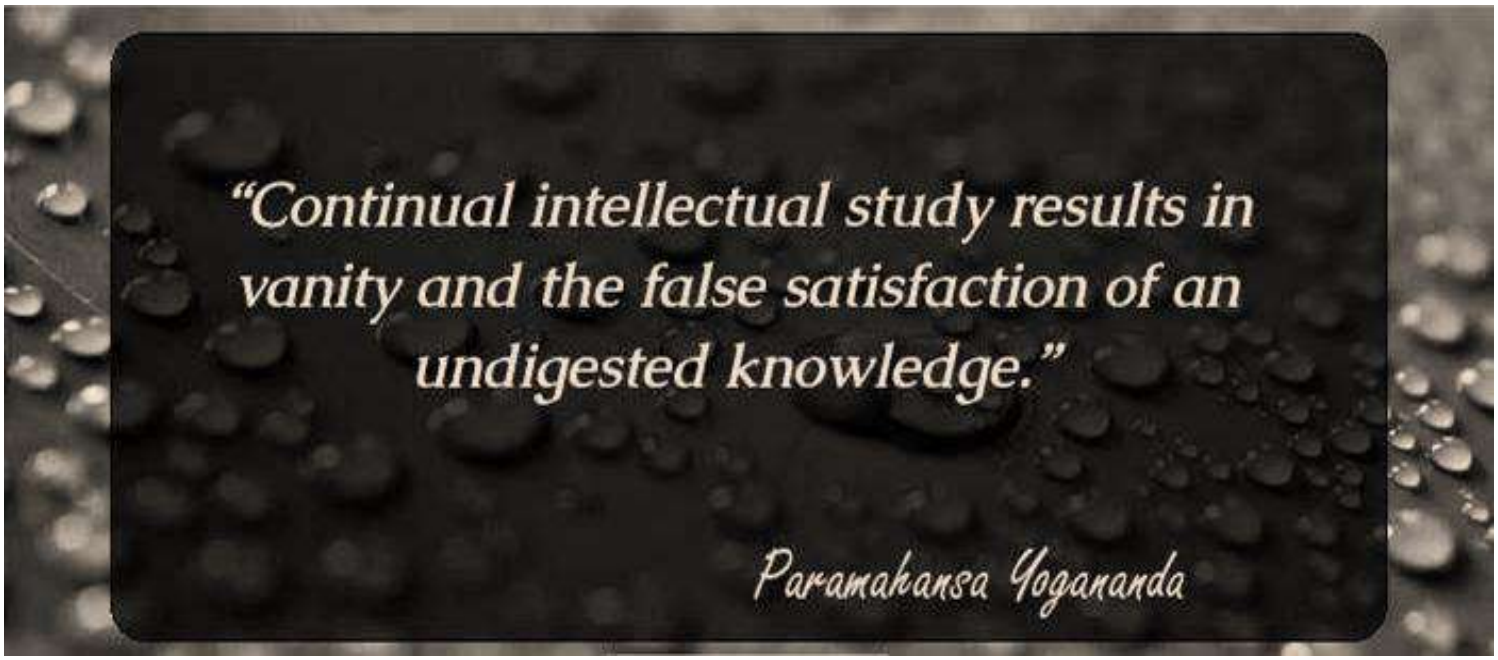
(भगवदगीता, अध्याय 2)

अर्थात सब प्राणियों के लिए जो रात होती है, उसमें संयमी जागता रहता है और सब प्राणियों के लिए जो जागने का समय है वह देखने वाले मुनि के लिए रात होती है।

सांध्य कालीन कॉलेज के शिक्षक गण संयमी अथवा कालदर्षि मुनि थे अथवा नहीं यह बात महत्वपूर्ण नहीं थी। महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य था कि अपने विश्वविद्यालय के शिक्षकों को संयमी योग मुनि की संज्ञा देकर उपकुलपति जी ने मात्र मुख्य अतिथि की भूमिका नहीं निभाई अपितु शिक्षक समुदाय के आत्मबल का संवर्धन किया तथा विद्यार्थियों की प्रशंसा कर सभागार का माहौल ही बदल दिया। करतल ध्वनि के बीच यह एहसास हुआ कि पद की गरिमा क्या होती है और शब्दों में कितना बल होता है-- हमारे शास्त्रों में शब्दों को ब्रह्मा की संज्ञा दी गई है। समारोह के पहले और बाद के वह दो दृश्य आज भी मानस पटल पर अंकित है। आज भी जब संध्याकालीन कॉलेज के दिनों को याद करती हूं और वह हास परिहास उपमा और उपालंभ को याद करती हूं, कॉलेज का वार्षिक समारोह और उसके अंतिम चरण का वह अविस्मरणीय क्षण प्रसिद्ध सनातन नीति का वाक्य स्मरण कराता है-

"सत्यं ब्रूयात, प्रियं ब्रूयात, न ब्रूयात सत्यम अप्रियम।" सत्य बोलो, प्रिय बोलो किंतु अप्रिय सत्य ना बोलो। इस सनातन नीति धर्म का अनुसरण कब और कैसे किया जाता है और इसके क्या सुखद परिणाम होते हैं, उप कुलपति प्रोफेसर केसी मल्होत्रा ने उस दिन भलीभांति समझा दिया।

आज भी जब कभी सांध्यकालीन कॉलेज के बिताए दिनों को याद करती हूं तो उन भिन्नातिभिन्न हास परिहास के पलों भले बुरे क्षणों की स्मृति रूपी, तारागणों के मध्य 'संयमी मुनि' ध्रुव तारे के सदृश्य चमकता मन को आह्लादित करता है।



UIIT - The Ground Beneath my Feet and The Sky Above My Head

-Vijay Kumar Sharma
Adobe Consultant
Founder Travellingcamera.com



There are some moments that take us back into the past, which are full of memories and evoke different emotions in us. One of the common threads in these memories is about friends that I made at different phases of life and who are still in touch, despite not being in the same geography. Many times, I feel that our brain works like a linked-list, a computer science concept which is about one thing pointing to another and the chain goes on. Our Brain works the same way. We enter the memory lane through some conversation and then it keeps navigating to different other connected memories. So coming back to 'friends', I made some great friends during my college time and a recent conversation with one of the most respected mentors from our time in the University, Dr P. K. Ahluwalia, refreshed these memories and I recalled the different people I met and how they influenced my journey so far.

While at HPU Campus, I was a student of UIIT (University Institute of Information Technology). The institution was in its early years of existence and as a student certainly I was somewhat unsure if it was a right choice for me or not. Before joining the institute I had limited exposure about how one should choose an institution. Some of my classmates were much better aware on this front than I was. But at the same time, there were a few things that always helped me stay confident in my decision and just keep looking forward. At that time, Dr. Ahluwalia was leading the institution as the Director of UIIT and this was also the time when everyone was passionately trying to establish UIIT as a great educational institute. And this was also the time when many of us students used to associate UIIT with Ahluwalia Sir. However, I am also grateful to the entire staff of UIIT for taking the institute to a stage where we were able to manage campus placements for our batch. This was one of the most crucial points of career growth for many. I was able to get a campus placement and that's the best way to enter into the software industry. I am not sure how many institutes are able to pull it off for their initial batches. In 2001, UIIT was also the only institute in HPU campus to run an undergraduate course. That meant that at a relatively young age, we were getting exposed to a lot of things in the wonderful environment of university campus. Things like having a library to read in, being surrounded by civil services aspirants preparing and PhD students putting a lot of effort into their research etc. Certainly, there was also a downside to this -

we didn't have an engineering-focussed campus with multiple courses. But this has changed over the years and now there are multiple engineering streams running within the UIIT Campus. Over the years, UIIT has evolved in many ways and today it has its own building with very good infrastructure. UIIT has evolved multifold in the last 20 years to UIT (University Institute of Technology).

There are a lot of fond memories from the beautiful campus of HPU, which is located amid tall deodars of Summerhill in Shimla. Now that I am not in the hills, I miss the place even more. Some of the key events that always remained special for me were - meals in canteens, studies in Library, walks through dense deodars to Mall Road on some evenings, strolls in university campus during free time, etc.

I remember how difficult it used to be to find one empty seat in such a huge Library. And during winters everyone wanted to grab a seat close to a window so as to have enough sunlight to keep one warm. Lawns around the Library used to be in high demand due to good sunlight. Groups used to prefer this place for general discussions and chit-chat.

After spending 15 years outside Himachal and visiting multiple places across the world, today I am able to appreciate the location of our university. The weather heare is perfect for educational institutions.

There are some fond memories of all class friends studying together for exams and also celebrating special moments together. Those evenings before exams were special when we used to divide chapters among ourselves and then each person used to teach the whole group on the topic they owned/read. Somehow this was much more effective than six months of hard work all of us had put in studying each chapter in our own silos. When I am now thinking about it, I also realize that we learnt a lot outside the classroom. All this taught us the power of community and coordination and cooperation. As a community or group, we can achieve a lot if we work together rather than if we fight our battles alone.

When it comes to food on campus, three main dishes come to my mind - Paranthe, Rajmah-Rice and Kadhi-Rice. I have eaten these dishes more than anything else in my life, and till date these continue to be my favorite dishes. You might call these my comfort food. I will prefer these over any lavish dinner at a 5-star hotel. Most of the dhabas/canteen around HPU campus used to serve these. Some used to serve a little more fancy stuff, but that was not affordable on a daily basis.

It is true that student life shapes your future - not only in terms of academics, but also in the kind of human being you will grow up to be. Thanks to my university, I appreciate simpler things in life, am happy in a minimalistic set-up and do not feel the need to participate in any ratrace for luxury. The values I gained at UIIT have kept me grounded while the skills I gained here have helped me fly.



Live Your Reveries!

-Dr. Vandana Thakur
Assistant Professor, St. Bede's College, Shimla



Himachal Pradesh University is a renowned institute for excellence. After completing graduation, my reverie was to get admission in MA (English), which was enormously tough, because of limited seats. I was fortunate to join the university in the year 2004 and also got admitted to French Certificate Course. I was full of eagerness, zeal, and enthusiasm. The Department of English was always encouraging and supportive towards pupils to achieve their life goals. Professors were extremely cerebral and generous. I participated in extra-curricular activities, which enhanced my confidence and skills. I represented HPU in Youth Festival, and won second prize in the Mime competition and third prize in the Skit competition to name a few. The















University auditorium and stage gave me the platform to showcase my talent for dancing, acting, and anchoring. French classes were great fun to attend; I met lifelong friends and secured third position. I can never forget performing a dance, mimicry of the professors and students on Teachers' Day. The university campus was lovely and serene for studies. I relished traveling in university buses







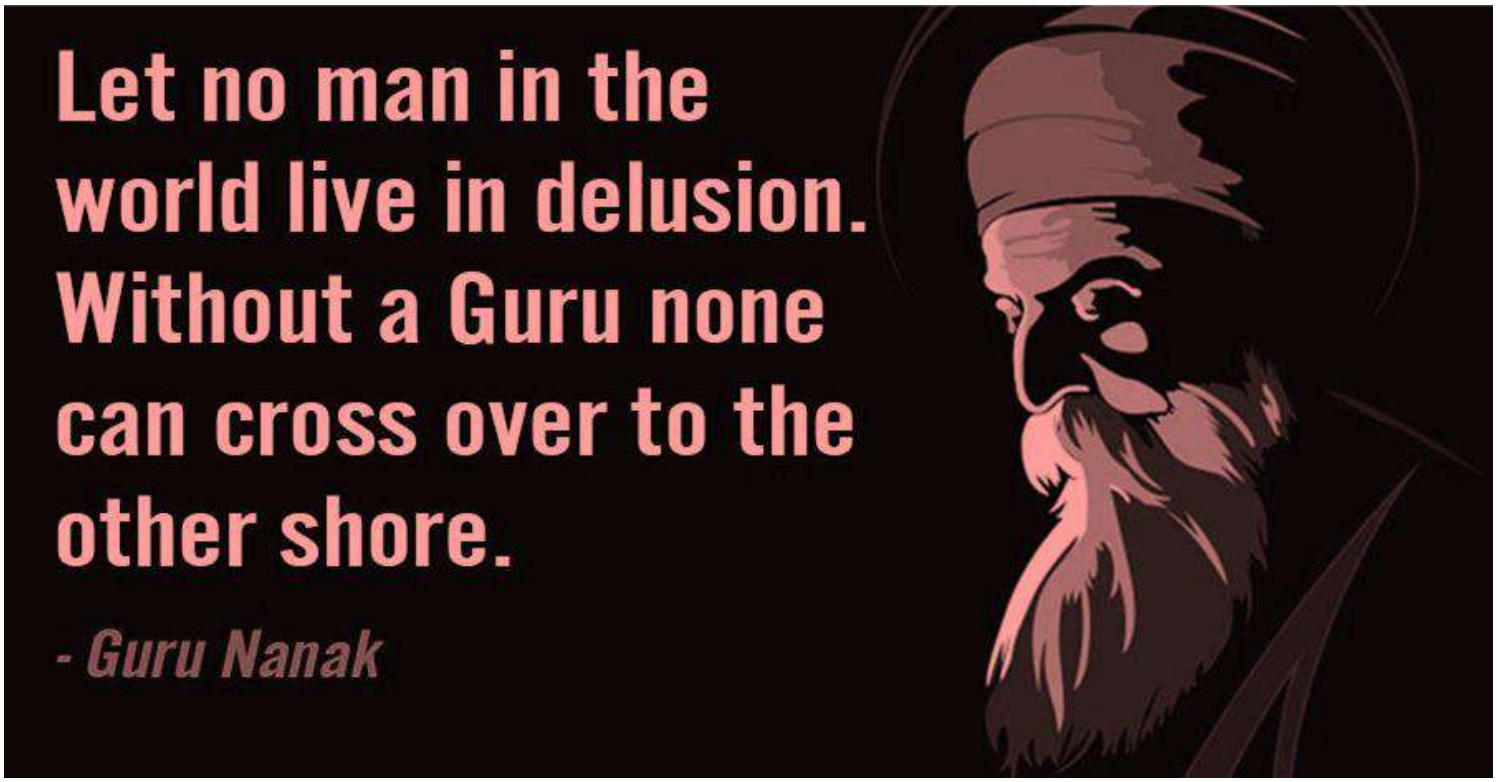
which included; singing songs, and cracking jokes. The names of the buses were unique such as *Alaknanda, Airavat, Neela, Nandi, Chaitanya,* and *Pushpak*, which were named after gods' vahanas. The picnics with seniors and batch mates were awesome and knowledgeable. I did BJMC in 2007, and attended SAARC conference, and also got the chance to work with ZEE Network as an Anchor, which was my first job. I am associated with Doordarshan as an anchor.

I completed my M. Phil. in English under Dr. Ashwani Rana Sir, who is full of life, frank, and a scholar. Like most of the students, I also wanted to add the Dr prefix with my name, hence I got the opportunity to do my Ph.D. under the able guidance of Prof. V.P. Sharma Sir, who is so compassionate, helpful, deep thinker, and intellectual. With the edification and exposure which I got at the university, I started my teaching career in the year 2011. I was blessed and lucky to be associated as a Lecturer with the Department of Evening Studies and HP University College of Business Studies, which was a wonderful experience. Determination is the one word that describes me the

most. I participated in the Mrs. Himachal contest, where I was declared the First Runners-up, and also won sub-titles: Mrs. Talented and Mrs. Ramp Walk.

I am thankful to God who has blessed me beyond measure. I feel thrilled, whenever I hear my name being called, Dr. Vandana Thakur, Mrs. India Globe 2018. It gives an immense honor, pride, and pleasure to represent our state Himachal Pradesh on the Mrs. India stage. I feel proud to say that I am the first woman of Himachal Pradesh, who won the title of Mrs. India Globe in 2018 and the sub-title: Mrs. Fashionista. All achievements in life come from hard work, inspiration, and lots of motivation. Achievements do not come overnight somewhere along the path to your achievement there are always your loved ones who have been there to help you in some way or another. George S. Patton avers, "Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory".

Presently, I am teaching as an Assistant Professorat St. Bede's College, Shimla. I achieved my goals in life, because of the education and confidence that I got at this prestigious university. If I have to define happiness, then I shall say, happiness is being a part of Himachal Pradesh University.



An Architect takes on HPU Campus

-Ar. Arun Kumar Seam

Architect (Retd.)
Himachal Pradesh University
Shimla



Since its inception in July 1970, the Himachal Pradesh University slowly but steadily has taken a definite shape. Starting from a scratch and housed in temporary sheds and existing private buildings, it has come a long way. Now the campus can take pride in its several modern structures that dot the skyline of SummerHill on the western hills of Shimla city. Campus planning is a complex job. But to plan it on a hilly terrain with restricted spaces available for building use and financial constraints, the task becomes more difficult. As against 200 acres of required area for a campus, the University Campus has only 30 acres. On top of that, the land acquisition was not done properly and done in several different pockets. That is the reason that Campus still lacks cohesion in its physical form because of intrusion of private lands and several Government agencies.

Nevertheless, despite these constraints after more than 50 years, the Campus has taken a definite shape. It can boast of having Central library, academic blocks, and residential buildings with latest facilities. An auditorium with a capacity of 800 persons furnishes a place for artistic, musical and dramatic performances to culturally enrich the University community as a whole.





Due to higher cost of construction than in plains, more emphasis was laid on the functional aspects than



the form. The Campus is surrounded by rich natural forests and emphasis was laid that these be protected. Beautifully landscaped exterior spaces are as important as the interior space and help in creating the right kind of environments in the Campus. On this, Dr. Him Chatterjee has done a commendable job with wall murals and landscape as can be observed as one move around the Campus. The Campus has grown in a closely and unified clusters of structures with pedestrian and open spaces providing the right kind of atmosphere for living and learning; a campus which encourages the students to go in their pursuit of the knowledge earnestly.



Glorious Journey of 25 Years
Department Of Biotechnology, Himachal Pradesh University

Prof. Arvind Kumar Bhatt
Dean Planning & Teaching Matters



The fascinating journey of Himachal Pradesh University, initially a Regional Center of Panjab University Chandigarh, started on 22nd July, 1970 when it was established as the first State University of Himachal Pradesh. The campus of Himachal Pradesh University at Summer Hill is situated on outskirts of Shimla that is globally known as summer Capital of British India and famous for its tranquility and mesmerizing natural beauty. It is rightly said that the journey of thousand miles starts with a single step and indeed in July 1970 the first step for this long journey was taken in the right direction. During its journey, the Himachal Pradesh University has witnessed several ups and downs but it has always strived for excellence with a great deal of determination, enthusiasm and commitment. The foundation laid by the pioneers has helped the University not only to grow and expand its horizon but also to excel and its presence is felt world over.

Starting from 11 Departments and nearly 300 students, the H.P. University presently encompasses 11 Faculties, 48 Departments besides several Institutes and nearly 10,000 on-campus students besides off campus and other students including distance learners through ICDEOL. Initially a few traditional courses were taught in the University but now many advanced courses have been started, which have become the face of the University which has recently celebrated its Golden Jubilee Year.

One of such departments is Department of Biotechnology, established in the year 1995 which has independently grown and extended its Diaspora across the globe through its ambassadors & alumni, who are serving in different capacities within India and abroad including USA, Europe, Asia in various MNCs, Research and Development Institutions, Universities, IITs besides very successful Entrepreneurs.

Looking back in time, I still remember that I always had a dream to work in a department like this which is an offshoot of Department of Biosciences but due to several administrative reasons, non-risk taking attitude of

the then Faculty and lack of efficient, young human resources, this dream could not take shape until specialized course of Microbiology started in Department of Biosciences in June, 1985.

I always wanted to pursue my career in Microbiology or Biochemistry but due to non-availability of such course in Himachal Pradesh University I started looking for other Universities/Institutes like NDRI, Karnal, IARI, New Delhi, FRI, Dehradun and UHF, Solan. However, the destiny was only waiting for something new to happen and even after joining NDRI and FRI and assured fellowship by one of the practical examiners Prof. P.K. Khosla, in last semester of my Master's Degree, I joined M.Phil. Course with Prof. Hari Om Agrawal, a stalwart, principled academician and committed scientist along with Dr. M.D. Upadhyay, Regional Director, International Potato Centre, Region VI, South Asia to work on Potato seed Biochemistry.

However, this route was diverted when I opted out of CIP and joined my Ph.D. again with Prof. H.O. Agrawal & Prof. T.C. Bhalla, a duo of inspirational personalities who taught me the basics of Microbiology and laboratory techniques. My Ph.D. journey completed in December, 1990 but thereafter, search for a job has been a continuous effort. Although, I left very good offer for Post-Doctorate from Prof. Rolf Carlson, University of Uppsala, Sweden and Prof. J.N. Saddler, University of British Columbia, Canada besides several other options with ICIMOD, GB Pant Institute, IMTCH, IIT Delhi which were also there.

We started working to start a new Department of Microbiology and after completing all ground work & official formalities, this new department was successfully established under Faculty of Life Sciences, H.P. University. This dream could become reality owning to the unforgettable role of Prof. H.O. Agrawal as a visionary leader and efforts of Dr. T.C. Bhalla combined with my personal efforts as and when required.

Till that time there was no indication of possibility of new Department of Biotechnology until Prof. H.O. Agrawal met Prof. V.L. Chopra, DG, ICAR on the occasion of National Hindi Day at CPRI, Shimla probably in 1992-93 Prof. Chopra who was a good friend of Prof. H.O. Agrawal in University of Wageningen, Netherland and also in USA; asked him "Harry what are you doing these days?" These words came out to be a turning point in the history of Himachal Pradesh University.

Prof. Agrawal replied that we have started Department of Microbiology but Prof. V.L. Chopra said "Why don't you start Department of Biotechnology for which I can help you. Chitaranjan (Dr. C.R. Bhatia, Secretary, DBT, Govt. of India) can help you in this.' Prof. Chopra's words filled us with a sense of determination and after the event was over, under the guidance of Prof. H.O. Agrawal and consistent efforts by Dr. T.C. Bhalla, we finally submitted a proposal to the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government



of India to seek financial support from Govt. of India and partial support from Government of Himachal Pradesh, to start such a department in the University.

The efforts made to establish a new Department of Biotechnology seem to be very easy but I still remember how difficult, tricky and laborious job it was. I used to type in WordStar 4, computer which was luxury at that time which was available in the Chamber of Prof. H.O. Agrawal bought through Project Director, Prof. Room Singh Thakur and I used to stop writing in between due to frequent visitors and disruptions. Despite so much opposition from several senior faculty who never wanted to take the risk and also used to discourage us not to take it forward, we continued our efforts and with the help of our Advisory Committee Member Prof. G.K. Garg from G.B.Pant Agriculture University, Pant Nagar, Prof. Subhash Chand from IIT, Delhi and Dr. V.P. Gupta, Advisor, DBT, Govt. of India, the success was inevitable. I still recall the day at Rudarpur bus stop in the Uttar Pradesh when my laboratory colleague Dr. Narendar Sharma presently Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Northern Region at Chandigarh fell unconscious while waiting for a bus and I had tough time in handling the situation. I was used to travel continuously for long distances without taking rest and delaying meals but my friend was not and this aspect I did not care for him. It was consistent help of advisors who were kind enough to help us in getting the proposal through. I used to print the typed document and take that to Dr. G.K. Garg to Pant Nagar, Nainital, U.P. several times for corrections and then Dr. Subhash Chand & finally Dr. V.P. Gupta used to make final amendments in the document.

Ultimately on one fine morning we got a call from Govt. of India that a Department has been sanctioned in 1993-94. Few faculty positions were also supported by UGC and the State Government. The Department of Biotechnology started working from one room i.e. Lab-cum-lecture hall in the top floor of old Science Block-A. Further, some recruitments were made and teaching/research started in due course of time and the department kept progressing thereafter.

All the former Secretaries, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India had been very kind in helping the University in supporting this cause & also to provide funding from time to time for core infrastructure besides recurring expenses. The Biotechnology faculty & family kept on growing under the dynamic and fatherly leadership of Prof. H.O. Agrawal who shaped the Department and found a permanent space in top floor of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose building. Prof. Agrawal left for Lucknow in 2001 and before leaving, he handed over the department in the safe hands of Prof. T.C. Bhalla who was a very sincere, dedicated and a virtuous human being. By that time the department was self-sufficient with good infrastructure facilities and our ambassadors spread all over.



The hard work of faculty members and performance of students paid off and the soon the department was rated among top 10 Biotechnology Institutions (B++) out of 45 such institutions in the country supported by GOI, (DST) through a survey conducted by BCIL, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. Till date the department has generated more than 18 Crore grant through various projects of faculty members besides regular grant of Govt. of India, UGC and State Government.

With vigorous efforts of Prof. T.C. Bhalla, the Department of Biotechnology got its own building i.e. Multi-faculty Phase-I in 2012 which included Lecture halls, teaching labs , research labs, major instrumentation lab, IT lab, conference room, Bioinformatics Centre and small but extremely valuable departmental library. I would like to sincerely thanks the visionary IAS Officer Dr. Shrikant Baldi, the then Secretary Biotechnology, Finance and Liaison Chief Secretary to H.P. Government, who was kind enough to provide Rs.1.00 Crore grant for supporting infrastructure and lab facilities in the Department in 2009 when I was heading the Industrial Biotechnology Division of State Government. However, this grant remained un-utilized until 2011 when I came back from deputation of State Government in July, 2011. This Rs.1.00 Crore grant was utilized for developing infrastructure and lab equipments in the department.

Today our students are proudly working in different Universities, R&D Institutions, IITs, National Laboratories and Industries throughout the country as well as many places outside India. Our students can be located everywhere round the globe may be USA, Europe, Asia or elsewhere. I still remember our student waiting to receive us in Boston, Albama, San Diego, New York, Las Vegas and Los Angeles in USA and other places including Munich, Heidelberg, Hanover and other places whenever our faculty visited these places. The performance of the students in the National Entrance Examinations like UGC, CSIR, DBT, JRF, ICMR, ARS, GATE and other competitive examinations has been the phenomenal. Although this trend showed a decline for some time but regained the previous momentum shortly. The Department has become one of the most preferred institutions among all other participating Universities funded by DBT.

The Govt. of India scrapped this programme in 2019 as some of the top institutions had become less effective. However, when fresh proposals were invited, the department also participated and based on the past credentials of the department, feedback from the pass-outs, publication by faculty members etc. and also effective presentation before the task force, the department was again considered for funding by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India with funding commitment to the tune of Rs. 5.94 crores and a sanction of Rs. 3.24 crores in 2020. Everyone was surprised when other Institutions were not allowed to run the course and few others got very minimal students, the Himachal Pradesh University was sanctioned 30

students per batch while we had requested only 25 students. This shows the strong and positive reputation of the Department among the students, society and funding agency.

We are among top 5 preferred Institutions by the students which were being admitted through Regional Centre of Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad. One important thing which I forgot to mention is that while making the presentation, the Incubation Centre being run by the Department was greatly appreciated and the efforts made in the past of generating entrepreneurial skills among the students were also lauded by the experts. Moreover, after the success of our entrepreneurship module, other Institutions were conveyed to follow the same. We also started M.Sc. Microbiology in 2007 and with more students' intake & workload; the Department of Microbiology was separated from Biotechnology as an independent self-sufficient department. Further in view of growing role of science in investigation cases and society, Department of Forensic Science was also started in the University in 2021.

I would like to convey heartfelt thanks to all the former Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and other officers including all respective Dean of Studies who have always been very generous in helping the department to flourish. The department also received the requisite supporting grants from University through Planning Division under XII Five Year Plan and RUSA Grant for which we are indeed grateful to all concerned especially the Project Monitoring Unit-RUSA, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dean Planning and all the supporting staff in Planning Division. The department had a new facelift under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Sikander Kumar, former Vice-Chancellor who is hard-working, true to his word and committed towards progress of the University. We recently undertook major renovation activities to upgrade the labs, class rooms and most important creation of the "Hari Om Agrawal Seminar Hall" which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor in July, 2021. This Seminar Hall is not only a unique milestone in the history of University & a guiding light to all other departments to plan execute and excel but also a mean to pay tribute and express sincere gratitude to the founder-coordinator, Prof. H.O. Agrawal.

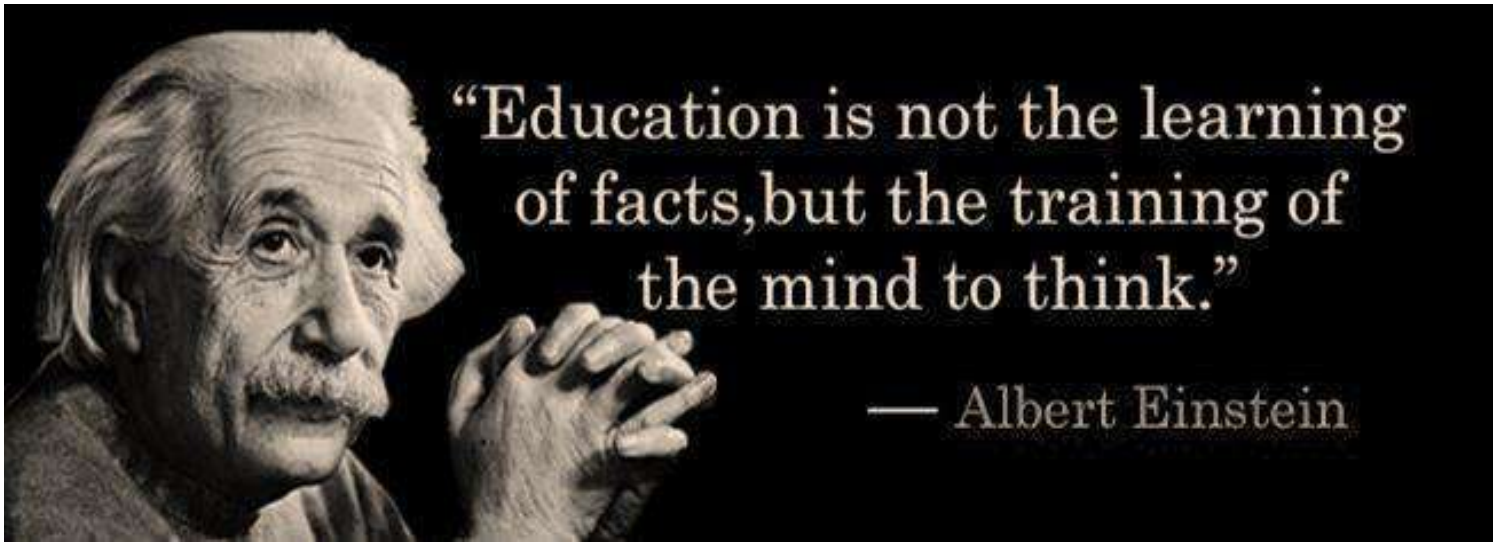
The ever-increasing vacant faculty positions in the University had been a major challenge for us to ensure the quality education in the department; however, most of these vacancies have now been filled by recruitment of new faculty members recently. The Department of Biotechnology was also benefitted with creation of two additional faculty positions after 25 years of its existence. Both these posts were filled in golden Jubilee Year, which will certainly help the department to grow and prosper further.

The Incubation Centre with financial support of Rs. 10.20 crores from Industries Department and partial assistance from RUSA is also performing well and besides developing infrastructure till date we have incubated 39 incubators, distributed subsistence allowances of Rs. 1.36 crores and 11 incubators are still

working. We are grateful to Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, State Industries Department, Directorate of Industries and specially Chief Secretary, Govt. of HP, Sh. R.D. Dhiman and Sh. Manoj Kumar, Director Industries Sh. Hans Raj Sharma and Rajesh Prajapati and especially Executive Director State Entrepreneurship Development Cell Ms. Deepika Khatri for their support and cooperation which has helped the BIC-HPU to a greater extent. The Incubation Centre of HPU has also contributed in projecting Himachal as number one State in implementing "*Make in India*" Scheme of Govt. of India under 'Chief Minister's Start-up Scheme' of Department of Industries.

Even with least financial resources, we have excelled and our ambassadors have brought laurel to the Department and University. Now we are self-sufficient with State-of-Art R&D labs and all the resources are available for student guidance. With the blessings of our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor we are determined to grow further to serve society and bring glory to our Department and State.

With change of our leader, we have a new visionary, dynamic and action oriented experienced Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sat Parkash Bansal who is known for building Institutions which has also been reflected in his working during a short spell after taking charge of HP University. We hope that the department and University will further develop under his able and visionary leadership reflected in his Vision 2030, a roadmap for growth of University and also pro-active steps for implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020).



Life Changing Memories of an Introvert

Prof. (Mrs.) Neeraj Sharma (Retd).
Retired Professor, Department of Chemistry, HP University



I am overwhelmed and thankful to H P University Shimla Alumni Association for giving the opportunity to share my thoughts, feelings and experiences with faculty, students and others as alumnus of HP University.

At the very outset I would like to say that I am extremely thankful to my revered late parents for their unconditional love, selfless sacrifices, endless support and strength forever, the way they raised my life. I learnt a lot from the teachings of those noble and simple souls to whom I owe an infinite gratitude.

I am always truly indebted to my wonderful family members, outstanding teachers, amazing students and people with whom I remained strongly connected and who occupy a very special place in my heart. I grew up in Bilaspur (H.P.) where I completed my primary, secondary and college education. The year 1976 (July) marked my journey with H P University Shimla when I joined Department of Chemistry at The Mall Shimla as M. Sc. student as a shy, hesitant, hidden, and unassuming young girl from a middle class and academic minded family. It was my first time living away from home and had acute home sickness.

Since 1971 the Chemistry Department of H. P. University was in an Old Church building called "The Manse". This Church building was not used by anybody for religious purposes after the British had left India. The main Church building was used as laboratory while the Bishops houses were used as lecture rooms. The actual building of the Chemistry Department at Summer Hill Shimla came into being in December 1976.

One memorable incident of that time I want to share here. Prof. K. C. Malhotra was the head of the Chemistry Department at that time. Prof. K. C. Malhotra along with his wife Mrs Raj Malhotra visited me at Chandra Bhaga Hostel and consoled and counselled me that gave me great moral support and encouragement. They taught me the empathy of the teacher with her student. He also gave me guidance on several aspects of life on which I worked hard. This proved a lifelong learning for me for my career.

I felt fortunate to join Chemistry Department which at that time had many dedicated and committed

Professors named as Prof. K C Malhotra, Prof. A C Jain, Prof. B N Mishra, Prof. B C Verma, Prof. R L Balokhra, Prof. D S Gill, Prof. S C Sharma, Prof. C S Pande, Prof. R K Mahajan, Prof. V K Syal, Prof. S C Chaudhary and others whose intellectual eminence and constant motivation taught me to move ahead in my Career. I am always grateful to each and every teacher who made me a better person.

After completing my M. Sc. Degree it was a privilege for me to work for M. Phil and Ph. D Degree (1983) with Prof. KC Malhotra, my most respectable mentor whose expert guidance, rigorous research training, rare academic and administrative acumen, punctuality, vision, wisdom and professional dexterity have always been a driving force behind my achievements.

I started teaching in Chemistry Department as Research Associate since April 1981 while pursuing my Ph.D. I used to work very hard to prepare my lecture notes. I was appointed as Assistant Professor in 1985.The Department of Chemistry because of academic and research accomplishments of the faculty and hard working students and good practices gained the recognition as one of the most prestigious department of University. The discipline in the Department was like air in the environment. The punctuality of the teachers was remarkable. There was personal bonding, unity, solidarity, affection, warmth and cohesiveness in the Department.

I was promoted as Associate Professor in 1992 and Professor in 2000. During this time the other faculty members of Chemistry Department Prof. M L Parmar, Prof. Mrs I K Mehta, Prof. G S Chauhan, Prof. M S Chauhan, Prof. D K Sharma, Prof. S K Lomesh, Prof. S S Bhatt, Prof. S B Kalia, Prof. Suvarcha Chauhan and Prof. Baljit Singh were fully supportive. I am equally thankful to the office and lab staff namely Shri Prithvi Dhar ji, Pritam ji, Devender ji, Krishan ji, Nandlal ji, Balmukund ji, N R Chauhan ji, Sanjayji, Sunil ji, Vinay ji, Vinay ji, Shanker ji, and Vasudev ji of the Department who were ever cooperative.

With a long teaching and research career as a Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, I authored over 120 research publications in journals of high repute by guiding 22 students for their Ph.D Degree and 35 M.Phil. dissertations to the best of my ability and also executed various research projects. I put a lot of hard work with each of my student and devoted maximum time with them.

The University gave me many opportunities to present my research work in the form of lectures at various National and International Conferences, Seminars and Symposia at various places in India and also in Germany, Italy, USA and Thailand.

The University has given a very respectable place and identity to me in the society and opportunity to work in various academic and administrative positions. A few achievements of my career as Chairperson Chemistry

Department during 2004-2006 were that for the first time the Chemistry Department received financial assistance under UGC SAP and DST FIST grant with the dedicated contribution of committed teachers of Department. The department organized for the first time National Conference in collaboration with BARC and second under UGC SAP program.

Like wise on other positions which I hold in University viz. Director UIIT, Dean Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Dean Faculty of Physical Sciences, Member Executive Committee and member of Financial Committee two times, I actively participated and contributed effectively. In the process I also enriched myself and enjoyed working on these positions.

Presently I am associated with University as Coordinator of Swami Vivekananda Study Centre and also as Convener ISCA Shimla Chapter for promoting Science & Technology activities among the students of Himachal Pradesh.

I feel that I met best people in my life and inspiring personalities at H P University Shimla. I have no words to express my feelings about the kind of love and affection that people continue to shower on me even today. I would be happy to be associated with University through HP Alumni Association and give back to students as far as possible to help in growing their life.

After having association with University for 42 years I understand that the University is well on its way to an exciting growth journey all the way.

I wish best of everything to all in your endeavours to raise the University to the new heights as a team in spirit and action with perfect attitude to be the best. So give your best as giving comes before receiving and sowing before reaping. The message from me is:

"Let us promote each other and derive the greatest satisfaction that we are all progressing together."

With best wishes.

हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय में मेरी भागीदारी

ओमप्रकाश सारस्वत
पूर्व निर्देशक, राष्ट्रीय दूरवर्ती शिक्षा एवं मुक्त अध्ययन केंद्र, हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय, शिमला।

आज 40-45 सालों की, अध्ययन-अध्यापन काल की स्मृतियों-विस्मृतियों को पुनः एक मंच पर आमंत्रित कर उनसे संवाद स्थापित करना एक लंबी जीवन यात्रा के कुछ पलों को उन्हें जीने जैसा है। आप भी जानते हैं कि भूत को वर्तमान की तरह जीवित करना या देखना सारे मनो प्राण की शक्तियों को जगाने के समान है। आज जब प्रोफेसर आहलूवालिया ने जब यह पूरा द्रविड़ प्राणायाम करने का आदेश दिया तो उनसे आत्मीयता और अपने लेखन की लंबी यात्रा का स्मरण करके रहा नहीं गया और मैंने प्रोफेसर साहब को अवश्य कुछ लिख भेजने का आश्वासन दे दिया।

मित्रो! विगत की खट्टी मीठी घड़ियों को कहां से निमंत्रित किया जाए एक असमंजस का कार्य है फिर भी कहीं ना कहीं से तो बिस्मिल्लाह करना ही होगा इसलिए कर्म से तो नहीं परंतु बीच-बीच में से जो जो क्षण हत्थे चढ़ेंगे उन्हें जरूर पंगत में बिठाने की कोशिश करूंगा।

22 अप्रैल 1972 को जब मैंने इस हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय के पत्राचार विभाग में अपने सेवाकाल की शुरुआत की तब यह विश्वविद्यालय उंगलियों पर गिनी जाने योग्य बिल्डिंगों का इतिहास था। प्रोफेसर रामकरण जी इस विद्या संस्थान के कुलपति थे। वे एक जाने-माने शिक्षाविद् तथा ऊंचे व्यक्तित्व के मालिक थे। उनसे कभी किसी खास अवसर पर ही साक्षात्कार होता था, अन्यथा अपने काम से वास्ता रहता। एक बार विश्वविद्यालय में कवि सम्मेलन हुआ जिस में जाने का मौका मिला। मुझे भी कविता पाठ का अवसर मिला, उसी एक दिन जाना कि डॉ रामकरण सिंह ना केवल एक अच्छे प्रशासक ही थे अपितु वे एक तलस्पर्शी साहित्य ज्ञाता भी थे। सभी कविताओं या कवियों पर उनकी प्रतिक्रियाएं मर्म भेदी थीं। उसके बाद कुलपति



१. आदरणीय कुलपति श्री नेगी जी का स्वागत करते हुए पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम निर्देश आले के अध्यापक संघ के अध्यक्ष डॉक्टर सारस्वत

२. आदरणीय कुलपति श्री अरुण नाथ दिवाकर वाजपेई जी के साथ प्रोफ़ेसर ओमप्रकाश सारस्वत

जी कभी मिलते तो पूछ लेते की कैसी चल रही है कविता? मैंने इस विश्वविद्यालय में अपने समय तक के सभी कुल पतियों के साथ कार्य किया, उनमें से मेरी सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद आए आचार्य प्रोफेसर अरुण दिवाकर नाथ वाजपेई जी से मैत्री रही। एक कुशल प्रशासक एवं दूरदर्शी शिक्षाविद् तथा उच्च कोटि के साहित्य मर्मज्ञ तथा साहित्य स्रष्टा थे। उनके कार्यकाल में विभाग के अध्यापकों की कमी के चलते मुझे पांच छः सालों के लिए विश्वविद्यालय से फिर जुड़ने का मौका मिला। कुलपति प्रोफेसर अरुण नाथ दिवाकर बाजपेई की आत्मीयता सौहार्द एवं सौमनस्य अनुकरणीय थे। वह जब से यहां आए तब से छः सात सालों तक विश्वविद्यालय के जन्मदिवस पर पर एक बड़ा साहित्यिक समागम कराते थे, जिसमें देशभर के प्रसिद्ध कवि भाग लेते थे। मुझे भी शिरकत करने का निमंत्रण रहता था। कई विद्वान इसी से चिढ़ जाते थे कि "मैं" कौन सा कवि हूं। जब तक कि तब तक मेरी आठ पुस्तकें और कविता पर करीब पचास कवियों की पुस्तकों पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर की पत्र-पत्रिकाओं में समीक्षाएं छप चुकी थी। मैं तब समझा कि लेखन के क्षेत्र में भी बड़े-बड़े मगरमच्छ हैं जो किसी दूसरे का अस्तित्व सहन ही नहीं कर सकते। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भी, भले ही आप उसे गला काट स्पर्धा मत कीहिए पर घोर ईर्ष्यालुता का तांडव तो खूब रहता है। विभागों में अंदर-बाहर सब तरह की राजनीति होती है। स्वयं पर किसी दूसरे के हित स्वार्थ की परछाईं तक, शिक्षा से निर्मल चित्त और कपटिचार में दक्ष कतई नहीं सहते। दो तीन बार ऐसे कुअवसरों का भोक्ता मैं भी रहा हूं।

अमृतसर से यहां शिमला आने पर, बड़े बड़े षड्यंत्रों की भूमिकाएं और रंग देखे। बारह से अठारह साल तक जिन्होंने अपना शोध पूरा करने में लगा दिए, उन्होंने अपनी योग्यता का परिचय विश्वविद्यालय की राजनीति में शामिल होकर दिया। पर मेरे लिए कुछ दो-चार अच्छे काम करके बीच-बीच में गहरे संतोष के कुछ साल भी आए। एक बार तो मैं और मेरे साथ डॉक्टर शेर सिंह राणा जी (अब नामशेष) तत्कालीन, कुलपति श्री नेगी जी से डॉ० के पी पांडे पूर्व निर्देशक दूरवर्ती शिक्षा की सस्पेंशन बहाल कराने, प्रार्थना करने गए। कुलपति नेगी जी ने हमारी सारी बातें तर्क सुने और हमारे समक्ष ही डॉक्टर पांडे को बहाल कर दिया। इसके पीछे कुछ बातें या कारण और भी रहे होंगे, परंतु डॉक्टर नेगी की सदाशयता के हम सदा के लिए कायल हो गए। अमृतसर में मेरे कॉलेज में कोई यूनियन बाजी नहीं थी, परंतु यहां आने पर दो बार पूरे विश्वविद्यालय की यूनियन का सह सचिव आदि तथा एक बार पत्राचार के संगठन का अध्यक्ष भी चुना गया। इन चुनावों के पश्चात विश्वविद्यालय के लिए मैंने क्या हितकर किया यह तो याद नहीं पर छोटी मोटी राय कभी-कभी मैं भी रखता रहा होऊंगा।

रेगुलर हिंदी विभाग में, एक बार डॉक्टर हरबंस लाल शर्मा ने तथा एक बार डॉक्टर राजदेव सिंह ने मुझे रेगुलर छात्रों की कक्षाएं लेने हेतु सौहार्द वश अथवा मेरी कुछ योग्यता देख, बुलाया परंतु उसमें भी मेरे अपने ही विभाग के मित्रों ने यथाशक्ति छल करके मुझे वापस पत्राचार में ही भेज दिया। कुछ विभागों में तो कुछ साथी दूसरे स्थानों के विभागों तक में जा जाकर, गुण कीर्तन कर आते थे।

विश्वविद्यालय में मेरे अंतिम पांच साल जिन दिनों मैं पत्राचार निर्देशक अथवा जिसको मैंने भी तत्कालीन कुलपति प्रोफेसर दीक्षित के साथ इसका नाम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दूरवर्ती शिक्षा एवं बुद्धा ध्यान केंद्र रखा का निर्देशक था, थोड़ा उलझन भरा भी रहा। यूं तो इस शिक्षा केंद्र में मैंने अथाह काम किया, जिसमें इसका नाम बदलने से लेकर पाठों के मसौदे तथा उनके आकार प्रकार परिवर्तन, समय पर पाठ मुद्रण और प्रेक्षण कोशिश एवं वक्त पर छात्रों के परिणाम और रिजल्ट कार्ड या डिग्रियां भेज कर इसे दूरवर्ती शिक्षण संस्थानों में खूब प्रशंसा अर्जित की। परंतु इस पर भी कुछ मित्र आग में पानी डालने का काम करते ही रहे। अंत में मैंने स्वयं ही एक दिन शाम को इससे मुक्ति का पत्र कुलपति के नाम लिख दिया। फिर उसके बाद दिल्ली, अंबाला, सोलन आदि स्थानों पर प्रो वाइस चांसलर होकर काम किया।

मित्रो! इस कथित झंझट के अलावा मैंने, पंजाब विश्वविद्यालय में संस्कृत की परीक्षाओं में तीन बार विश्वविद्यालय में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। मेरी पहली पुस्तक "संस्कृतसाहित्येतिहास:" 1971 में छपी थी जो आज तक कई विश्वविद्यालयों की संस्कृत परीक्षाओं और एम० ए० तक में पढ़ाई जा रही है। मेरी अब तक कविता की सात स्वतंत्र पुस्तकें और एक ॐ सतसई, महाकाव्य प्रकाशित है तथा एक 'बुद्ध ने कहा' महाकाव्य प्रकाशनाधीन है।

समीक्षा की मेरी अब तक कविता, कहानी, नाटक, उपन्यास तथा संस्कृत साहित्य पर करीब दो दर्जन पुस्तकें प्रकाशित हैं। मेरे शोध छात्रों की संख्या, जिनमें पीएचडी तथा एमफिल हैं, डेढ़ सौ के करीब हैं। साहित्य का अध्येता होने के नाते, अभी भी छात्रों का तथा स्वयं का संस्कार करता हूं।

मैं हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय का, इसके सभी साथी मित्रों का तहेदिल से कृतज्ञ हूं जिन्होंने, समय-समय पर मेरा सहयोग किया और मुझे इस यशस्वी संस्थान का एक योग्य अध्यापक होने का गौरव प्राप्त करने के काबिल बनाया।

Himachal Pradesh Alumni Association

The dawn of 22nd July 1970, in the twenty-first year of the Republic of India, witnessed the birth of the Himachal Pradesh University in fulfilment of the aspirations of the people of Himachal to establish a premier and inclusive institution of higher learning. Since its inception, the University has striven untiringly to realize the vision of its founders, to disseminate and advance knowledge, wisdom and understanding by teaching and research and by the example and influence of its corporate life.

Himachal Pradesh University Alumni Association (HPUAA) was founded on 23 July 2012 to build on the legacy of bonding and friendship fostered at the University and to honour the venerable tradition of giving back to the alma mater as well as to society at large. In consonance with its origin and purpose, the association chose the motto "Satvadhina hi Sidhaya", "Excellence through Diligence" that guides all its endeavours. It is registered under H.P. Society Act-2006, No. 591/2012

HPUAA Undertakes the Following Aims and Objectives

- To enable the alumni to participate in activities that would contribute to the general development of the University.
- To keep the alumni abreast of the latest developments in various fields of international and national importance.
- To arrange and collect funds for the development of the University.
- To provide prizes, medals and scholarships, and render financial aid to the deserving students of the University.
- To contribute towards the welfare of the alumni.
- To further such other aims and objects as the General Body may, from time to time, decide.
- To establish educational, management, technical & other professional institutions, schools, colleges with the object to spread literacy in all its manifestation and to impart real education to the peoples of the world and to achieve intellectual social and cultural harmony and brotherhood in the world.
- To open, run and manage educational vocational and management /Computer School /Colleges and institutions, such as Arts, fine Arts, technical, scientific, medical, engineering architectural, law, environment, music, astrology and other type of school, colleges and institutions in any part of India or abroad.

- To establish a Board of School education, Universities, Technical Universities, deemed Universities, Autonomous Colleges of various natures.
- To affiliate schools, colleges, institutions, educational, cultural, social charitable institutions run by other societies, Trusts, individuals or organizations.
- To publish books, maps, charts, illustrations, journals, magazines and periodical and other publications in different languages for the propagation of above aims and objects.
- To support and maintain and if necessary to take over any other educational and technical institutions run by other societies/trusts organizations and individuals.
- To institute awards, scholarships, prizes or other recognitions in the field of education.

We Warmly Welcome to HPUAA

- All alumni who have been awarded any Diploma or/and Degree by the Himachal Pradesh University or
- who is a faculty member of the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla having not less than two years of regular service as such; or
- who is nominated by the Governing Council; or
- who donates to the Association an amount not less than Rs. One lac, or
- who is or has been the regularly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.
- Any such person may apply to become a member of the Association on the prescribed form and on payment of Rs. 2,000/- as life membership fee. However, no membership fee is payable by a person who is nominated to the membership of the Association by the Governing Council under clause c) above.

Provided further that a person who, for the time being, is enrolled as a student in any diploma/degree course of the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla cannot be a member of the Association so long as he/she is pursuing the said course.

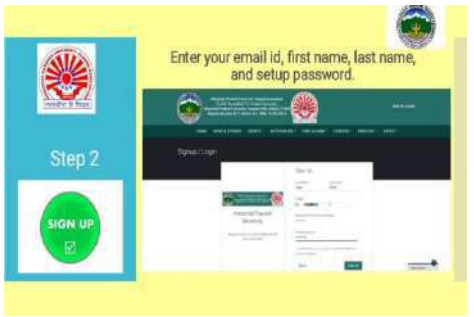
How to become members of Alumni Association?



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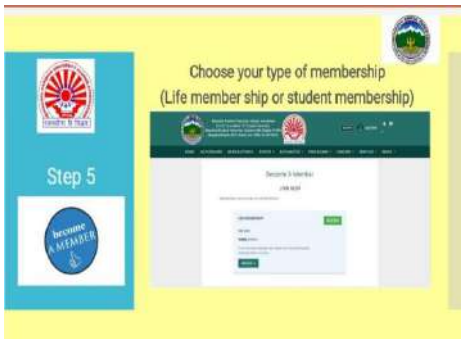
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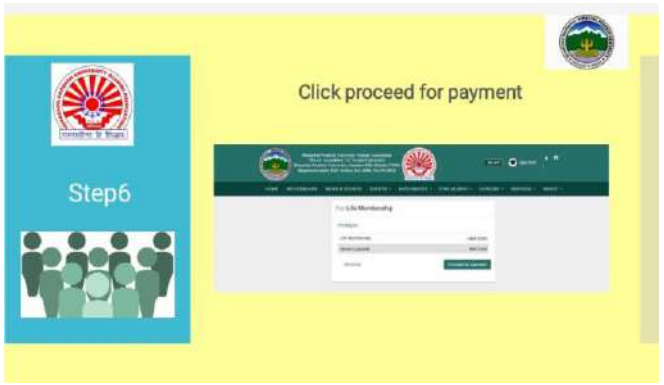
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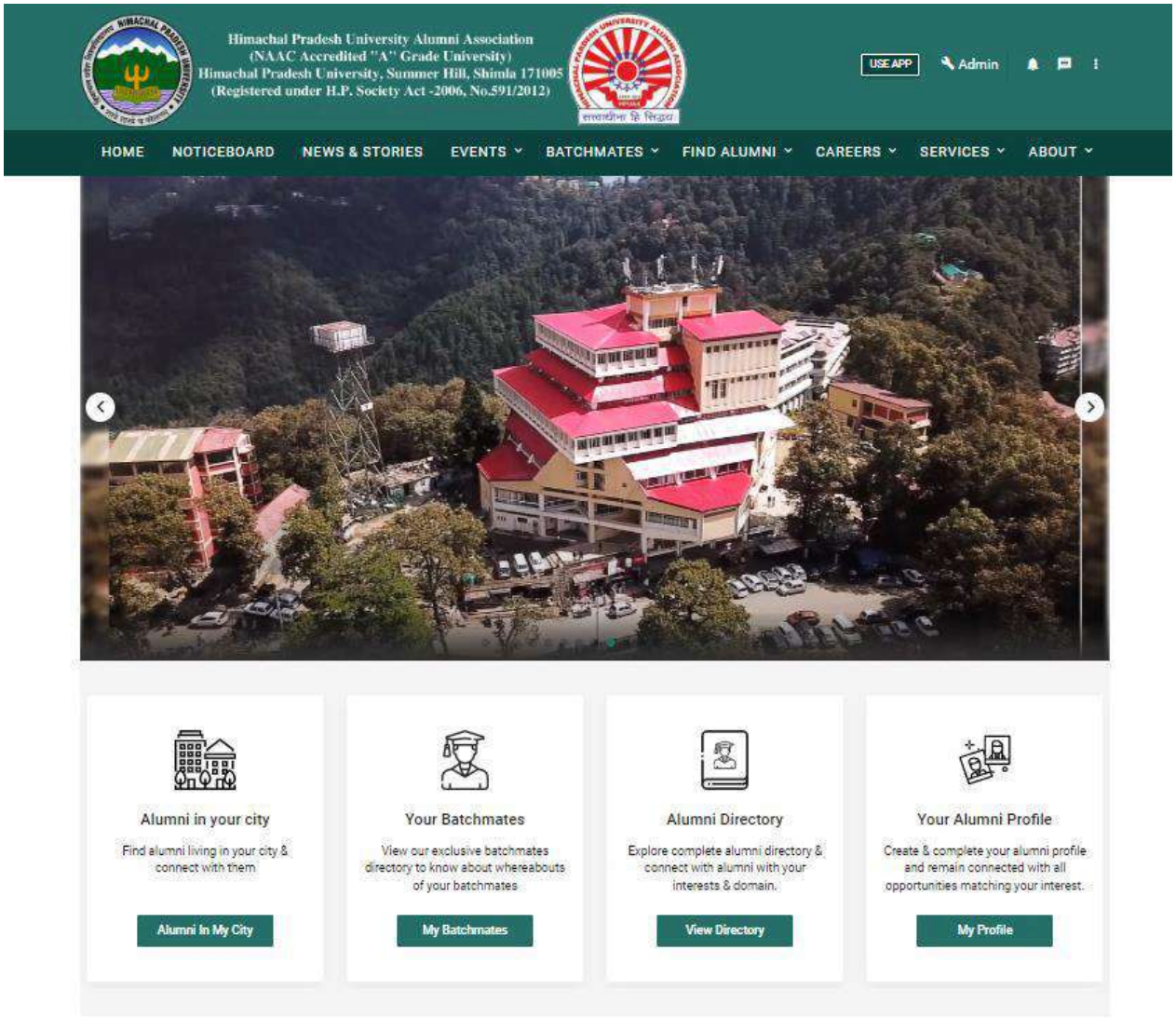


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