

# Curriculum Vitae

## REKHA MODY

### Development Activist

Date of Birth February 10<sup>th</sup> 1955, Modi Nagar U.P India

Education B.A., Meerut University, First Division in 1972

#### **Institutions founded by Rekha Mody**

Divya Chaya Trust, Habiart Foundation, Stree Shakti- The Parallel Force ,  
Global Women Forum Singapore

**Divya Chaya Trust** , founded in 1984 provides social, economic and educational support to 1000 children in need and has established income generative programmes for women from lower income groups in both urban and rural areas. The projects undertaken are:

- **Save A Child Trust, U.K.**, initiated by DCT, sponsor around 300 children
- **Kusum Sarovar**, a project to provide education and care for children in the deep interior of Govardhan,U.P. It started as non-formal, but is now a govern-ment recognized school
- **Karam Bhoomi**, a project to develop the concept of connecting villages to cit-ies. Here three programs are run a pre nursery school, computer classes and **Pallavan**, an income generating project for women of lower income groups in both urban and rural areas.
- **Chiranjeev karam Bhoomi Old age home and community Centre Palam Vihar Haryana**
- **Community Center New Delhi**

[www.divyachayatrust.org.in](http://www.divyachayatrust.org.in)

**Habiart Foundation** founded in 1989 is an institution to promote contemporary art and traditional craft. More than 120 exhibitions have been organized. Art events, highlighting international artists work like 'White Nights' (etchings from Russia, sponsored by I.T.C. and Bank of America) in 1992 and highlighting of Russian culture in India sponsored by Lalit Kala Academy and the Russian Embassy. The following 'art camps' have also been organized:

- *'Art in Habiart'* 1989, in collaboration with HUDCO in Calcutta and Delhi
- *'Art and Contemplation'* 1992, sponsored by Goodricke
- *'Art in every day life'* 1998, sponsored by Goodricke
- ***Sphote a creative protest against terror 2001 to 2002 supported by seven centers and hundred and fifty artists. Exhibited in Parliament annexe on 13 December 2002. Peace Panels presented to the Parliament, Saarc and UN representative***
- *Art Walk 2003 featuring hundred and twenty five artists.*
- ***Redefining Mona Lisa 2004 –2006 a project involving twelve artists***
- ***India Splendor Los Angeles 2007, Singapore 2008***

Curated International Saarc Seminar on Art Perspective with ICCR 2009

[www.habiartfoundation.org](http://www.habiartfoundation.org)

**Stree Shakti The parallel force** 1998 is a dynamic forum aiming at 'Networking for Action'. This forum provides a platform for joint actions as well as for collection, systematic processing and distribution of information related to women's issues in particular and general networking. The movement aims at being a catalyst for fundamental social changes. Stree Shakti has instituted two annual awards:

- Dayawati Modi Stree Shakti Samman, instituted in 1998 for 'A woman who dared to dream and had the ability to translate the dream into reality'
- An award for A Woman Scientist of the Year
- *Vidushi Vidyottama Samman* is an effort to recognize current research work in Sanskrit by acknowledging the contribution of a contemporary Scholar of Sanskrit in Ujjain annually

### **International Conference**

Stree Shakti The Parallel Force was the co-organizer of The Fourth International Congress of **Women, Work & Health** held in New Delhi in November 2005. Delegates from fifty three Nations met and deliberated on improving the work environment for women with a view of improving their physical and mental health.

International Conference on "**Ageing women: Critical Challenges and Concerns**", which was held on the 26-28th Women (SAFAW) in New Delhi was initiated. Delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal came together to form this platform and to take up the cause of elderly women for supportive action August 2013 with the support of Help Age India and UNDP India, the South Asia Forum for Aged was launched during this conference.

A Collection of **Innovative Practices for care of elderly women in India** published with support of UNFPA in 2016 was released by Hon Speaker Sumitra Mahajan Ji .

From 2014 to 2015, Stree Shakti, along with HelpAge India, UNDP and other organizations has held five conferences on aging. With the help of UNFPA, Stree Shakti selected nine institutions with considerable experience in this field, and chose fifteen researchers to study and document the best practices being implemented.

Different models of elderly care including Sulabh International's work with Vrindavan widows, Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan's strategy of educating women on collective power, the International Longevity Center's programs for medical expenses sponsorship, compensated volunteering opportunities and housing for elder in Pune, the Calcutta Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology's day care centers, mobile clinics and livelihood programs, and the Nightingale Medical Trust's promotion of cost-effective medical services for Alzheimer's patients are included in the report. Additionally, the report also covers SEWA Bank's Life-Cycle Approach

reaching out to elderly women by acknowledging the particular financial needs of that age, and HelpAge India's Vidarbha Project, which provides financial assistance to widows affected by farmer suicides. Selected old-age homes in Mumbai have also been studied and the best practices implemented have been documented; the Kerala State Government's commitment to the cause of protecting the elderly has also been studied

## Women through writing and theater

- ***A Quest For Roots* Editor Rekha Mody Subeditor Rimi B Chattarjee**

### **Released in 1999 – Second edition November 2008**

This book contextualizes the experience of women in India from the earliest recorded times to the mid-20th century. We have compiled in one book the histories of women through the centuries, of all faiths, castes and communities. Today's women in India have a need to be aware of the experiences and the achievements of their foremothers, stories not always recorded in conventional texts. To fill this gap, we document individual women, whether well known or little known, whose lives have contributed to the identity and concerns of Indian womanhood. Living women have not been included as they are still making history.

It is biographical dictionary, a useful reference book to keep on your working table' –

**Kushwant Singh HT 1999**

Amazing tales .... So much strength, disappointment and tragedy ... A lot of beauty too' –

**Thomas Easely**

'A wonderful contribution' – **Dr Kiran Bedi**

'There is a common thread that binds all these achievers: they succeeded in transgressing the constraints of a patriarchal society in their own ways. It is a collector's item.' –Book

Club **The Asian Age**

'Profiles of great Indian women through the ages. It seeks to highlight the female contribution to Indian society.' –**India Today 1999**

- **Separate Journeys**, a collection of fifteen short stories from regional languages edited by Geeta Dharmarajan, introduction by Mary Ellis Gibson

First Edition India 1992 Garutman Ibd Publication

Second Edition India 1998 Katha Garutman

Third Edition India 2004 Katha Garutman

1993 U.K edited version published by Mantra ( Out of print )

2004 U.S.A University of South Carolina Press

“Outstanding women writers....a body of work which is equal to that of their internationally known contemporaries.” **Times Literary supplement London**

Anita Desai ( English ) , Anupama Niranjana (Kannada), Ashapura Devi (Bagala), T.Janaki Rani (Telgu), Jeelani Bano( Urdu), Kamala Das(Malyalam), Mahashweta Devi ( Bangla), Mamoni Raisom Goswam ( Assamese), Mrinal Pande ( Hindi), Qurratulain Hyder ( Urdu),

Rajee sethi ( Hindi), Rupavati (Tamil), Urmila Pawar ( Marathi), Viswapria L Iyengar(English), Varsha Das ( Gujrati).

### **The Play Vidyottama A gender perspective 2007**

VIDYOTTAMĀ , a contemporary play, is based on the life of the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa and his scholar wife Vidyottama, princess of Ujjaini. The relationship between Vidyottama and Kalidasa is extremely close and intriguing. Everyone in the kingdom believes that Kalidasa is the sole creator of four epic poems and also a playwright of great merit. The king and the courtiers as also the common man of Ujjaini, venerate Kalidasa, whose fame has now spread far and wide, along with the story of the proverbial fool who was once sitting on the very branch that he was axing, but has now received the blessings of Saraswati, the goddess of learning. As is common in historical records, there is no further mention of Vidyottama the scholar princess, who was nurtured in an environment of learning and culture, and was equally erudite and sensitive.

Vidyottama is a contemporary play reassessing history with a gender perspective, very subtly highlighting the untold story of women's contribution to art and literature. Vidyottama is not a mere inspiration for Kalidasa but an actual equal partner in creation. The spectator is made a privileged viewer of the entire process of creation. In the end, it is left to him to decide the difficult question as to who is then, the actual creator.

#### **National Achievements**

- Founder director of **Radio Net Work Pvt. Ltd.** first F.M. Radio of Calcutta 1994
- Director Sotheby's India – gave India its first commercial auction in 1992
- Treasurer of **All India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA)** from 1994 to 1997 (the parent body of Lady Irwin College)
- Returning officer for **AIWEFA** and Governing Body of **Lady Irwin College** election in 1997
- **Fund-raiser** for an international meet for women in October 1998 - 'Women on the March',
- Adviser for **CAPART** for Gramshree Mela Committee in 1987-1988
- Adviser India Habitat Centre New Delhi 1989 - 1992
- Adviser for **Dayawati Modi Kavi Shekhar Samman** from 1994 to 1997
- Member Board of Governors **Mody Institute of Education and Research**, 1999 to 2002, Laxmangarh, Rajasthan, which provides quality education exclusively for girl students from class III to Engineering Degree level courses.
- Received **Vijya Raje Scindia Award** For Excellence 2007
- Member international Committee on Integral Humanism **Mahabodhi Society**
- Vice President **Mahabodhi Society** 2009-2011
- Founding member **United Ways** New Delhi and NCR Region 2008
- Co –edited book **Vidyottama and Kalidas (Hindi)** 2010
- Vidyasagar ( Hon. DLitt) **Vikram Shila Hindi VidyaPeeth** 2013
- **Vidyottama** a workshop in Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan New Delhi 2015

- Co-organizer Win India 2013-16

### **International Experience**

- Organized podium discussions at Frankfurt Book Fair 1986
- Actively involved with establishing UK Save A Child Trust since 1987
- Actively raised funds in U.K for Indian children 1989-2004
- Japan 2000 Represented India in a meeting with Reverend Uchida in Tokyo.
- Participated in GOPIO meet in Zurich 2000
- Participated as an observer in UN Peace meet August 2000
- Peace Delegation Rev.Uchida Kyoto Japan 2003
- Delegate Occupational Health Conference Bangkok 2003
- Organizer Two Decades of service Divya Chaya Trust Uk Nehru Center 2004
- Head of Fund raising and N.G..O Committee Women Work & Health 2005
- A study tour to Pakistan to explore a Saarc Cultural Centre 2005
- Selected among the three hundred inspirational women by Asha Foundation U.K
- **Founder member Women Founders Collective New York 2006**
- **UN CSW delegate 2006**
- Art Exhibition Nehru Centre UK 2006
- India Splendor UCLA Los Angeles 2007
- Women Forum Dauville 2008
- India Splendor Singapore 2008
- Delegate WISE summit Doha 2009
- Curator women artists show Nepal 2009
- Win Conference Paris, Prague, Rome 2009-10-12
- **Founder Global Women Forum Singapore 2011**
- Fellow of Social Innovation Park Singapore 2012
- Delegate Global Citizen Forum Shenzhen China 2013
- Curated an artist tour to Amsterdam 2015 to study Van Gogh
- Winner of The Inspiring Women worldwide award by WIN 2016
- A study tour to Moscow and St Petersburg 2017
- WIN conference 2017 Oslo

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