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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1 Panchgani Declaration
- 2 Conference Report
- 3 Baha'i Academy Song
- 4 Feedback and Photos
- 5 Photo Gallery

## Panchgani Declaration by the Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Universal Human Values (11-12 June 2016)

**Organized by the Bahá'í Academy, Panchgani, in Association with the Department of Education, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and International Institute for Organizational Psychological Medicine (IIOPM), Australia**

**We**

The participants of the 1st International Conference on Universal Human Values, gathered at the Bahá'í Academy in Panchgani on 11 and 12 June 2016, affiliated to 14 Indian Universities as well as Institutions in 8 other countries -- Switzerland, USA, Saint Lucia Caribbean Islands, Ethiopia, Romania, Russia, Germany and Kuwait;

1. Determined to advance universal human values, peace and development for all humanity everywhere;
2. Acknowledge the role the higher educational institutions, teachers and students can play in the advancement of civilization the world over;  
And
3. Convinced that the greatest excitement about the future is that we can shape it;

**Reaffirm our commitment to:**

1. Help building students' and teachers' ethical research capacities to become confident, skillful and capable in undertaking such research projects that contribute to the national and global integration and development, thus becoming change makers and builders of a better society.
2. Practice and promote universal human values that should be the source code for all our personal and professional life and community developments, whether educational, social, legal, economic, environmental, or scientific.
3. Empower the youth, who can move the world, with a world embracing vision and moral capabilities based on Constitutional Values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity to create a world civilization whose hallmark is universal fraternity and unity in diversity for the entire human family.
4. Help reinforce scientific temper and reasoning faculty of the youth to do away with blind beliefs, stimulate unrestricted investigation of truth and take the whole world community up the ladder of an all-inclusive progress.



Inaugural Address by Prof. Dr. D. B. Shinde, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University



Felicitation of Padmashree Prof. Dr G. D. Yadav, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, ICT, Mumbai

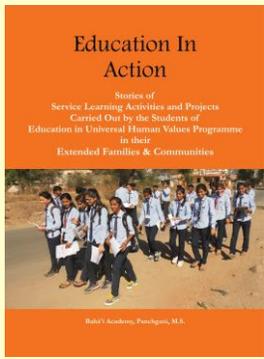


Felicitation of Padmashree Dr Janak P. McGilligan, Board Member, Bahá'í Academy



Some Participants of the Conference

**1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Universal Human Values** began with a warm welcome to the full assembly, chanting of a Unity Prayer and lighting of the Samayee Lamp. The Conference Coordinator Dr. Shashikala Gaikwad, then, read messages of congratulations and support received from several institutions and dignitaries, including: Hon'ble Mr. L.K. Advani, M.P., Prof. Dr. D.B. Shinde, Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University; Prof. M.M. Salunke, Vice-Chancellor of Yaswantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik; Dr. Pandit Palande, Vice-Chancellor of BRAB University, Bihar; Prof. W.N. Gade, Vice-Chancellor of Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune; Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Mumbai; Dr. Ashutosh Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of DAVV, Indore; and Mrs. Elizabeth Slosar, Chair of the Buckminster Fuller Center for Spirituality & Sustainability at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, IL, USA, Dr. James P. West, Moravian College, USA, and Dr. Jagdish Gandhi, Convener, International Conference of Chief Justices of the World on Article 51 of the Constitution of India. Dr. Gandhi said: "A conference to be addressed by Vice Chancellors, Professors and Academicians will certainly be enlightening to the students. Human values will become more important in the modern societies from which they are receding. The guidelines of the conference will form permanent record for the students."



“Education In Action: Stories of Service Learning Activities and Projects Carried Out by the Students of Education in Universal Human Values in their Extended Families & Communities”. In this book, students describe their service learning experiences, their personal reflections, and their many projects related to such topics as promoting gender equality, cleanliness and environmental projects, promoting literacy, health and hygiene, educating people on human rights, confronting blind beliefs, encouraging junior youth, and fostering community unity.

“On my return I received your message announcing 1st International Conference on Universal Human Values which actually starts today. ... How much I wish I could have been able to be there this weekend and enjoy participating at this conference.”  
(Dr Iraj Ayman, Eminent Educationist, US,A. 12 June 2016)

**Inaugural Session:** Director of the Bahá'í Academy Mr. Lesan Azadi felicitated Prof. Dr. D.B. Shinde, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University and Dr. P.S. Patankar, HOD, Dept. of Education, Shivaji University. The Conference had specially invited two Padmashrees to the Inaugural Function to congratulate and felicitate them and acknowledge their distinguished services to the Nation. Padmashree Dr.G.D.Yadav, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of ICT Elite University, Mumbai, and Padmashree Dr. Janak Palta McGilligan, Member of the Baha'i Academy Board, were warmly welcomed and felicitated by the Academy Director and Asst. Director respectively. They were then requested to speak on the occasion. Dr. G. D. Yadav and Dr. Janak P. McGilligan emphasized the need for universal human values to be recognized and prioritized in every domain of the modern society, including scientific, educational and social aspects.

Keynote Speakers Dr. J.F. Patil, Former HOD, Dept. of Economics, Shivaji University, Dr. Jean-Pierre Mean, Attorney at Law, Geneva, Switzerland, and Dr. Jeanne Aguirre, Former Professor, Southern Illinois University, USA, were then felicitated and welcomed to the Conference.

Following opening remarks of welcome by the Conference Chairman Lesan Azadi, Prof. Dr. D.B. Shinde gave the inaugural address, which presented several perspectives on the role of education and the need for transformation and positive growth in society. He elaborated on the importance of practicing universal human values to achieve happiness, and appreciated the positive effects of the several Academy programmes related to improve student and faculty performance at Shivaji University. He said, “If we do not seek human values in the quiet moments of our life, we are not likely to find them when trouble strikes. How do we start imbibing more human values? That is through the habit of happiness through which we can look positively towards the human values. We have many habits except happiness! And throughout life we remain unhappy looking at the happiness of others. Values teach you how to develop the habit of happiness. Because nobody else can do it for you therefore it is said never accept the definition of life from others; it is your life and define it yourself. Many times we compare ourselves with someone else; compare it to yourself only because no one knows you better than yourself. You have the best competitor in yourself. You are the write, the producer, the director and the creator of your own life. Albert Einstein said, “Try not to become a person of success; try to become a person of values”. The beauty of human relations comes from human values. He narrated several stories to emphasize important points; they were liked by all the participants.

Another highlight of the Inaugural Function was when Prof. Shinde released a new Baha'i Academy publication, 'Education in Action,' which reports the Community Projects of students in the form of Service Learning Activities carried out by them after completing one or more Modules of the Bahá'í Academy's Programme. Each story and summary is in itself a journey recalling experiences of personal growth, individual and group empowerment through collaborative needs assessment of the target population, consultation, realistic planning, and positive social action in partnership with all the stakeholders.

Then after, a CD of the newly composed Baha'i Academy song was released by Dr. G. D. Yadav and all the dignitaries. The song expresses heartfelt dedication to education, strengthening of moral capabilities, personal development, beauty, knowledge, true happiness, and service to mankind. The song was written in English by Lesan Azadi and translated and adapted in Marathi by Gaan Hira Dr. Bharati Vaishampayan, internationally renowned musician and singer and former HOD of the Music Department of Shivaji University, who composed the melody and performed it personally at the Conference.

A total of 90 papers were presented throughout the conference. They offered an exciting range of topics on the 4 conference sub-themes. Full papers will be published in the Conference Souvenir with ISSN. There were about 230 participants affiliated to 14 universities and scores of colleges and several other institutions. They included former Vice-Chancellors, senior and junior professors, principals, HODs and students.



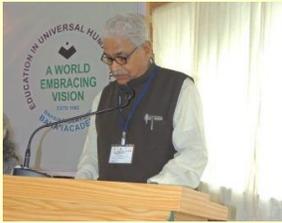
जन्म मानवी आहे अद्भूत, रत्नांची तर खाण  
शिक्षणव्दारे तिचे प्रकटते सौगंधित उदयान  
ही आहे आनंद बहाई अकादमी जाण - धृ

शिक्षण हेची ब्रीद असावे, दिव्य ध्येयनिष्ठा  
भौतिक नैतिक गुण वाढविती, नेती पद श्रेष्ठा  
औदार्याचे सदगुणअर्पिती नीतीचे वरदान  
ही आहे आनंद बहाई अकादमी जाण - १

वैयक्तिक तो विक्रम साधुन सुदिव्य उन्नयन  
क्षमताही सुप्रसन्न ठेवी मनात भरभरून  
इथे उमटती जानाचे ते अमूल्य अमृत कण  
ही आहे आनंद बहाई अकादमी जाण - २

लोभस ते सौंदर्य पिपासा आणि रुपांगण  
सत्य शांती अन सुसंगती ही लाभतसे पूर्ण  
अशी प्रक्रिया लाभे साधे तेजोमय जान  
ही आहे आनंद बहाई अकादमी जाण - ३

मोदभरे ही सेवा करिता मानवजातीची  
क्षमता ती वर्धमान होई नित दिव्यत्वाची  
अकादमीतून नित्य दरवळे सेवेचे चंदन  
ही आहे आनंद बहाई अकादमी जाण - ४



Dr. J. F. Patil delivering his Keynote Address; Session II



Dr. Jean-Pierre Mean being felicitated; Session II



Prof. Dr. Mrs. P. S. Patankar, Dr. Jeanne Aguirre and Dr. Mrs. S. Gaikwad in Session III



Prof. Dr. Mangesh Teli and Dr. Avinash De Sousa, Session IV



Prof. N. J. Pawar, delivering Keynote Address; Session V



Galaxy of former Vice-Chancellors Prof. Pawar, Prof. Jamkar, Prof. Pathan, BCUD Director Dr. D. R. More, Dr. Mean, Dr. Aguerri and Academy Director Lesan Azadi at the Valedictory Function

**Parallel Presentation Sessions: Day One** Conference sessions, focused on Universal Human Values from economic perspective and social-educational perspective, were opened by the Keynote speaker Dr. J.F. Patil who noted the dire need for integrity in modern society. The Speaker Dr. Jean-Pierre Mean elaborated further on various dimensions of corruption and their common cause, lack of honesty and trustworthiness-- both of which are essential elements of integrity. He stressed that leaders and officials in both public and private sectors must be held accountable for their actions. In her Keynote Address on the sub-theme of social and educational perspective Dr. P. S. Patankar said, "Values regulate and guide human behavior and action in everyday life. They are embedded in every word we select and speak, what we wear, ways in which we interact, our perceptions and interpretation of others reactions in what we say and so on." Dr. Jeanne Aguirre's Speech focused on bullying behaviors in schools, linking this to social apathy and poverty of spirit. She noted that American schools would benefit from service learning as conducted by the Baha'i Academy, wherein students benefit from transformative reflection as a service-related evolutionary process, rather than simply engage in community service as a 'project.' Presentations of papers continued smoothly throughout the day in 6 parallel sessions, with moderating chairpersons Dr. Bhalba Vibhute, Dr. Sanjay Thigale, Dr. Shashikala Gaikwad, and Prin. Dr. Vijay Javlekar.

**Day Two** focused on Universal Human Values from scientific and environmental perspectives. They opened by Dr. Avinash De Sousa, Secretary of IOPM, Australia. He said: "Every value is brain-based even though we don't realize it, so we must consider neuroscience in light of other disciplines. Behavior is shaped in early foundations of culture and family and is strongly shaped by experiences in subsequent stages. Multiple influences along with genetics shape behavior." Prof. N. J. Pawar, the former Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University, presented the Keynote Address at the environmental session. He posed 4 basic questions: "Should the present generation conserve resources for future generations? Is it OK to destroy forests to create jobs? Are humans justified in driving certain species of animals to extinction? Is it OK for communities to be exposed to pollution more than others?" A recorded video from Mr. Shamil Fattakhov, Founder of the Academy for Positive Behaviour, Russia, described the origins and continued success of the Happy Hippo Show interactive theatre as used in Russia, India and other countries for dynamic discussion and problem-solving related to common issues and conflicts. He noted that this was especially effective for sensitive, challenging topics, as it teaches effective consultation skills and ethical decision-making. Presentations of papers continued throughout the day in parallel sessions that were chaired by Prof. Dr. Mangesh Teli, Prin. Dr. A. S. Dhake, Prin. Dr. F. F. Motiwala, and Dr. Prakash Sawant.

In the afternoon session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day Dr. Arun Jamkar, former Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, delivered an address on the critical importance of teaching values in the medical professions, citing efforts to promote a Bio-ethics program. He noted that moral values and ethics have long been a strong tradition in India, where Vedic principles stress "doing what you are supposed to do" and remembering that "service to man is service to God." Dr. Jamkar stated that we should study all religions to see the same principles, and bring all religion together as a source of unity, as the Bahá'í principles promote. Papers presented in the afternoon of Day Two sessions were chaired by Dr. Sanjiwani Mahale and Dr. Kavita Salunke.

Like the 2 previous National Conferences on Universal Human Values held at the Baha'i Academy in 2014 & 2015, this first international conference is a special landmark in providing both opportunity and a platform for dedicated teachers and students to share their research and discuss ways to promote the effective inculcation of Universal Human Values in both youth and the larger society. The conference weekend was permeated with a tone of unity of purpose, witnessing in each session multiple avenues for studying and implementing Universal Human Values in economic, social, educational, scientific, and environmental spheres. With the additional bounty of fine weather, over 160 participants and 70 visiting students were able to mingle each day and converse on dozens of related topics.

**Valedictory Session:** Dr. S. N. Pathan, former Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University, who was a guest of honour at the Function said: Values are not taught but learnt. When I completed my education through adverse situations I learnt the dignity of labour, I never forget it and always practice it... adverse conditions teach us values... The success of one's life is his values. Chairman of the Function, Dr. D. R. More, Director, BCUD, Shivaji University, summed up the value of the conference presentations and discussions, emphasizing that values should not merely be discussed but rather must be lived. He praised the Values Education programme of the Baha'i Academy for the positive effects over the last 15-16 years of the Education in Human Values programme at Shivaji University, saying that "all these values were there, but people forgot." He emphasized that "Charity begins at home...I can't tell you, or have a right to tell you, how to be in society unless I am doing it myself...how many universities are there? And how many Baha'i Academies? One! I think there should be a Baha'i Academy in every state. This can happen in these places also in future, I hope." Dr. More concluded with thanks to all.

## SOME GREAT FEEDBACK ON THE CONFERENCE

"The work you are doing is inspiring and has great potential for increasing the productivity and marketing opportunities for farmers and improving their lives." (Dr. Jeanne M. Aguirre)

"I liked the recognition of our own potentials...satisfaction of academics & freedom...applying human values in the legal profession...an action program for values...the relationship of values to ICT." (Dr. Kavita Salunke.)

"It was commendable to see that corporates would live up their corporate mottoes."(Dr. Dereck D'Souza)

"The presentations were good, and it was more interesting when questions were asked and answers were given." (Ms. Leminacy Lamale)

"Important aspects of social life were included—e.g., adolescence and inclusive education." "Good presentation on how technical projects in ICT have been formulated considering human values." (Prin. Dr. A.S. Dhake)

"Good presentation. It talked about how we as humans can help change our world through our thoughts."(Betsydora Mawlong)

"This presentation explained a good use of technology for positive impact on half the world's population." (Armiti Shukla)

"It was really nice to see students of P.H. presenting papers—their research topics were innovative." (Rohan Manerker)

"This presenter presented in Marathi so she can explain her emotions from the bottom of the heart." (Dr. Pratibha S. Desai)

## AND MORE GREAT COMMENTS...

"We learnt many things in this Conference and could see the real meaning of unity in diversity through the consensus about the need for education in universal human values in every aspect of human life and every country of the world." "Good explanation, clear, understandable! It is the first research that I have heard that deals with migration of faculty, as this is what happens in today's world, especially India. Research should continue as to what is really the cause...that has led to brain-drain, as this is what is happening in India." "Thank you for a passionate and inspiring address on the social aspects of economics! I was inspired by every part of your presentation." "Wonderful presentation on the temple-flower re-cycle, and processing initiative!" "Thank you for a very thorough and inspiring presentation on aspects of responsibility and trust in the social contract." "This was (the most) unique presentation I have ever seen. I really liked the idea of this presentation." "Good presentation as it mainly deals with study of curriculum and the ways of teaching, as this is what is needed in today's education." "Detailed work through 9 ways of determining Trust." "Spending time with youngsters seems to be the solution." "Presentations of content were very good. All presenters have done great efforts." "Feedback from the expert was remarkable and very specific, to the point." "Very good research problem on this topic." "This presentation should be published and education should be given to teachers as well as students." "I liked all 9 of these presentations!" "A detailed case study was presented—good paper & presentation." "Core emphasis was on school education & its growth with human values. It was great!" "While people were asking questions it was feeling like fun getting extended!" "The paper-presenters were really resourceful and excellent. All the papers were research-based." "Had a great time!" "A student from ITC Mumbai presented confidently." "Important topic and good effort to motivate the students!" "Good effort to sensitize the future generation." "Very good to see real-life adaptation of universal human values! Commendable job!" "Excellent work being done to promote a neglected area of women's health in India." "Once again—it is heartening to see that efforts are being made to promote 'Make in India' and empower the poor." "Thank you for your very interesting research and creative vision!" "A sound and statistical study, well-focused!" "Though an abstract, it created interest to go through the paper and raised many important questions." "Very exhaustive and well-conducted study!" "I liked the social utility of this research project." "A sensitive topic, extremely well handled." "I feel you should really work on this to bring it into practice to help poor people." "I liked the presentation on the need for universal human values among engineering students." "Nice theme in this presentation. Keep it up." "I enjoyed & learned a lot during this session about various methods of values inculcation." "A knowledgeable session, all presenters nicely motivated." "This is the first research I've heard about eye donation." "The Chairman summarized the papers very clearly." "The whole thing was awesome!"

### AND A FINAL CONGRATULATORY REMARK By Dr. D.R. More, Director, BCUD, Shivaji University:

"How many universities are there in India? And how many Baha'i Academies? One! I think there should be a Baha'i Academy in every state in India."



Prof. Arun Jamkar Delivering the Keynote Address, Session VI



Dr. D. R. More, BCUD Director, chaired the Valedictory Function



Dr. S.N. Pathan at the Valedictory Function



Prin. Dr. F. F. Motiwala and Dr. P. Sawant chaired Session V in Hall 'A' and 'B'.



Releasing the book "Education in Action"



Mrs. Sayali D. of the Academy and Miss. Shiva E. of Bangalore at the Scientific Session



Students of Surabhi Computers, Wai, presenting their paper in Hall 'B'



Releasing the CD of the Song of Education in Universal Human Values Prog.



Dr. A. Shukla of SNDT University presenting her paper



Prin. Dr. S. G. Joshi of Symbiosis University shares his research findings



The Conference Hall "A"



Dr. Sadhna Mitra of Bhopal offering her volunteer service



A glimpse of the Conference participants



Dr. Bhalba Vibhute chairing Session II



Some of the participants of the Conference