

was Secretary for many years. This has resulted in over 600,000 children in the 5-14 years age group being withdrawn from work over the last 18 years. It has also helped in strengthening of government schools in 1500 villages with retention of 99% of all children in schools. At present the focus of the foundation is on girl-children and children engaged as bonded labourers, partnership with government teachers, women's groups, youth associations, PTAs and local bodies; and training and networking with other NGOs.

MVF also provides technical support to the SSA in Madhya Pradesh, 10 districts in Assam, and to NGOs in Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Rajasthan. It has extended its technical support to NGOs working in Nepal, Morocco, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Honduras.

Professor Sinha has changed the way people in Andhra Pradesh and India think about child labour and child rights. She has proven to the world that the poor and marginalised can think for themselves and want an education for their children, thereby shattering the elitist myth of poverty being the cause of child labour.

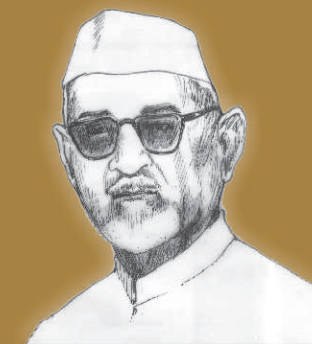
The Government of India, for the first time, set up a Commission exclusively for Protection of Child Rights in the country. Professor Shantha Sinha was selected to head this Commission as its first Chairperson in March 2007. On expiry of her first term on 4 March 2010, for the excellent work done by her, the Government of India has again appointed her Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for a second term from 18 May 2010 to 17 May 2013.

In 1998 Shantha Sinha was honoured with the Padmashri by the President of India and the Albert Shanker International Award (from

Education International, Washington D.C.) in recognition of M V Foundation's outstanding

## NCERT MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES 2010-11

ZAKIR HUSAIN  
FOURTH MEMORIAL LECTURE



### THEME

**Right to Education and Banning  
Corporal Punishment Once  
and for All**

### SPEAKER

**Professor Shantha Sinha**  
Chairperson, NCPCR

### CHAIRPERSON

**Professor C. Seshadri**  
Former Principal  
RIE, Mysore

**ON 20 September 2010**

**AT 2.30 p.m.**

**AT Regional Institute of Education  
Mysore**

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NCERT

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

## NCERT MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

### A Brief

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an apex organisation, assisting and advising the Central and State Governments by undertaking research, survey, and development; training and extension activities for all stages of school and teacher education.

One of the objectives of the Council is to act as a clearing house and disseminator of ideas relating to school and teacher education. We have initiated the Memorial Lecture Series in order to fulfil this role and to commemorate the life and work of great educational thinkers.

Our aim is to strive to raise the level of public awareness about the contributions made in the field of education by eminent men and women of India. We expect that such awareness will set off a chain of discourse and discussion.

This, we hope, will make education a lively subject of inquiry while simultaneously encouraging a sustained public engagement with this important domain of national life.

The memorial lecture series covers public lectures commemorating the life and work of nine eminent Indian educational thinkers and practitioners.

### TITLES OF MEMORIAL LECTURES

- Gijubhai Badekha Memorial Lecture
- Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Lecture
- Zakir Hussain Memorial Lecture
- Mahadevi Verma Memorial Lecture
- B.M. Pugh Memorial Lecture
- Savitribai Phule Memorial Lecture
- Marjorie Sykes Memorial Lecture
- Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture
- Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture

We invite persons of eminence from academia and public life to deliver these lectures in English or any other Indian language. Our intention is to reach large audiences consisting particularly of teachers, students, parents, writers, artists, NGOs, government servants and members of local communities. We hope these lecture series will be of use to our audience as well as the public in and outside the country in general.

### TALK BY PROFESSOR SHANTHA SINHA

#### RTE and Banning Corporal Punishment Once and for All

##### ABSTRACT

Corporal Punishment in schools and other institutions including the family is widely accepted socially and regarded as legitimate. There is shock and outrage only when there is a serious violence against a child in an institutional setting, but routine physical abuse and emotional harassment causing injury, hurt and humiliation is accepted as normal. Similar acts are likely to be considered as criminal offence if it were aimed at an adult but tend to be ignored when it is aimed at a child.

The liberty to treat children with such authority by the adults comes from the understanding that children are less than adults and that the adults have a duty as well as a responsibility to control and discipline children. Therefore in the best interest of children adults can use force and violence to correct them. Thus the act of violence and exercise of power of the adult over the child is repeatedly justified. It is seldom regarded that children are individuals in their own right and equal to adults. What distinguishes children from adults is that their capacities are evolving

and so would require greater care and protection. It is in the ambience of non-violence and respect that they fully develop to become confident individuals in their own right.

Research shows that corporal punishment contributes to children dropping out of school. More generally, fear of being punished makes children less willing and able to ask questions or challenge what they are taught, and so detracts from the quality of education. What is required therefore is to build skills of school teachers, care givers and adults at large to engage with children as equals, listen to them and address their concerns in a manner that does not hurt or humiliate them. The RTE Act bans all forms of physical and emotional harassment of children thus giving an opportunity to all schools and institutions to establish a culture of respecting children and non-violence.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor Shantha Sinha is India's foremost activist in the field of elimination of child labour. She has been actively involved in programmes for elimination of child labour through universalisation of education in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh covering more than 6000 villages in 137 mandals through M. V. Foundation, of which she

