

**BAHA'I CHAIR FOR STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT.
DEVI AHILYA UNIVERSITY, INDORE ,M.P (INDIA)**

The establishment of the Chair for Bahá'í studies at Devi Ahilya University was done by signing a Memorandum of Understanding by the then Vice Chancellor, Prof. M.S.Sodha, University of Indore and Late. Mr. R.N.Shah, Secretary, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India and endorsed as witnesses by Dr. V.D. Nagar and Dr. B.C. Chaparwal on 09.04.1990.

The purpose of the Chair for Bahá'í studies embodied in the agreement was as follows:

- a. to promote Research and scholarship in Bahá'í Studies.
- b) to design and conduct courses , seminars, and studies in the field of Bahá'í studies and related subjects within an interdisciplinary context and publish results and reports of such activities.
- c) to promote inter-university linkage through seminars, exchange lectures etc with a view to promote interfaith harmony, national/ international integration and world peace.

In pursuance of the agreement, the permission was sought by the university from the higher Education Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, for the establishment of the Chair on 22nd January 1991.

Administration: The Appointment to the post of Professor/ Head of the Baha'i Chair for studies in Development , Research Assistants and other staff sanctioned from time to time will be made in accordance to the rules of the university .Dr. V.D. Nagar was selected for the post of a professor of Bahá'í studies by the selection committee and joined on 16th May 1991.

The Bahá'í Chair for studies in development is presently devoted in energizing its task towards holistic development not only intellectually but also through inculcation in its associates moral values appropriate in life in a rapidly changing social environment. Training workshops, seminars and Symposiums are conducted for the university and college faculty.

Progress of the Chair

The Chair has been offering PhD programs, conducting Seminars, Symposiums and workshops on various interdisciplinary subjects in the past like:

1. Positive Thinking and Value based behaviour
2. Basic Concepts in Education
3. New Framework for Moral Education.
4. Social and Economic Development - in collaboration with the School of Economics, D.A.V.V.
5. Growth Strategies and Environment Issues- two day International Seminar was held in collaboration with School of Economics, D.A.V.V.
6. In Search for a Just Society
7. Workshop on Junior Youth Moral Empowerment for school Teachers.
8. A Disciplined Classroom- for school Teachers was organized.
9. Symposium on - A New Framework for Moral Education was organized for the College Faculty
10. Workshop on – Fostering Personal Development and Social Progress part I.
11. Workshop on Fostering Personal Development and Social Progress Part II was held by the Bahá'í Chair in Collaboration with the Bahá'í Academy Panchagani for the University and College Faculty.

So far six **Ph.Ds.** have been awarded by the University on various topics as follows:

1. **Contribution of Religion in the evolution of a just Society** by- Dr. Shripad Kale under the guidance of Dr. V.D.Nagar

2. The Concept of Soul in Various Religions with special reference to the Bahá'í Faith by- Dr. Ram Sevak Yadav under the guidance of Dr. T.K.Vajdi.

3. Vaishudheva Kutumbaakam and Human Prosperity as integrated in some selected Religions with reference to Bahá'í Religion by- Dr. Sashi kant Panigrahi under the guidance of Dr. T.K.Vajdi.

4. A Comparative study of the contribution of Sikhism and the Bahá'í Faith in the Socio –Economic and spiritual evolution of Mankind. By- Dr. Indrajeet Kalsi, under the guidance of Dr. T.K. Vajdi.

5. Sustainable community development through training of Tribal and Rural Women as human resources: A case study of Bahá'í Vocational Institute of Rural Women, Indore .by- Dr. Janak Palta Mac Gilligan, under the guidance of Dr. Shirin Mahalati.

6. A Comparative Study of Bahá'í Writings on Education with philosophical foundations of Chinese Education. by - Mr. Hamed Mohajer , under the guidance of Dr. T.K. Vajdi.

At **present, six candidates** have **been registered** for the PhD course.
The details are as follows:

1. Mrs. Lalita Sharma
Topic: **The Role of Bahá'í Administration in the New World Order.**
Guide: Dr.(Mrs.) S.Mahalati.
2. Mr. Praveen Kumar Mallik
Topic: **Universal Education through Community School with special reference to Society of Universal Learners (SOUL) model of Bihar.**
Guide: Dr.(Mrs.) S.Mahalati
3. Mrs. Priya Sharma
Topic: **Contribution of Bahá'í Institutions in Human Resource Development in Madhya Pradesh with special reference to Indore.**
Guide: Dr. (Mrs.) T.K.Vajdi.

4. Mrs. Sadhna Mitra
Topic: **The Bahá'í Perspective of Human Development**
Guide: Dr.(Mrs.) S.Mahalati.

5. Mr. Yogesh Jadhav.
Topic: **Need for Good Governance in achieving Sustainable Development with special reference to Special Economic Zones (SEZ)s in the State of Madhya Pradesh.**
Guide: Dr.(Mrs.) S.Mahalati.

6. Mr. Anil Sarwal
Topic: **Exploring the Teaching and Learning of English as a Universal Auxiliary Language in A Globalised World for the Bahá'í Perspective based on the Developmental Approach- An Exploratory Study in Urban and Semi Urban areas.**
Guide: Dr. (Mrs.) T.K.Vajdi.

Out of above six, two candidates namely, Mrs. Lalita Sharma and Mrs. Sadhna Mitra have submitted their thesis.

Future goals of the Chair will include-

Training Workshops (in topics like- Modules of Fostering Personal Development and Social Progress)for the University and College Faculty in Collaboration with the Bahá'í Academy, Panchagani , Maharashtra, India.

To help growth of Individual capabilities for transformation of society towards true development.

To develop a team of Educators focusing on promoting value education.

To plan for a Certificate course for the College Faculty in moral values as emphasized by the UGC.

Library: We have a functioning Library at the Bahá'í Chair , according to the University Standard with some hundreds of books which were provided by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India

Dr.(Mrs.) Shirin Mahalati

Prof. and Head

Bahá'í Chair for Studies in Development.