

T.K. OOMMEN

Some highlights regarding Prof. T.K. Oommen

1. Appointed as full Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1976 (at the age of 39) and retired in 2002.
2. Put Indian Sociology on the World Map: Secretary General of the XI World Congress of Sociology, the quadrennial Congress of the International Sociological Association (1990-1994), in New Delhi in 1986 and the only scholar from Asia and Africa to be elected as the president of International Sociological Association, a fifty-year old body sponsored by UNESCO.
3. Recipient of all the three Indian awards for sociologists/social anthropologists: V.K.R.V. Rao Prize in Sociology (1981); G.S. Ghurye Award in Sociology and Social Anthropology (1985); Swami Pranavananda Award for Sociology (1997). Prof. Oommen was also the President Indian Sociological Society.
4. Twenty one books published: Polity Press; Oxford University Press, Macmillan Press and Sage Publishers are among those who published his books. Has been writing in newspapers such as The Times of India, The Hindustan Times, Indian Express and The Hindu on social, cultural and political issues thereby playing the role of an opinion leader.
5. Associated with thirteen journals as editor or as a member of Editorial Advisory Board, eight of them foreign and five Indian.
6. Visiting Professor to several Universities/Institutes including, Deptt. Of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley (USA); Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra; Institute of Advanced Studies, Budapest, Hungary and the Scandinavian Institute of Advanced Studies, Uppsala, Sweden.
7. An incurable pluralist, Prof. Oommen had published extensively on the intricate relationship between nation-state, minorities and multiculturalism. He firmly believes that there is much for Europe and India to learn from each other. As President, Forum for India and European Union, Prof. Oommen is continuously engaged in dialogue on themes of common concern for both.
8. Appointed as Ford Foundation Chair of 'Non-traditional Security' at the Delhi Policy Group (2003-4). A book entitled: Understanding Security: A New Perspective, is published by the Macmillan Press in 2006.
9. As Chair of the Programme Advisory Committee of Gujarat Harmony Project (2002-4) Prof. Oommen went beyond relief and rehabilitation and advocated the imperative need for reconciliation so that peaceful co-existence of groups and communities is possible in multi-cultural societies. A monograph entitled: Civil Society Intervention in Post-Godra Gujarat: Reconciliation from Below, is under preparation
10. Translating into practice the ideas of M.K. Gandhi and E.F. Schumacher, Prof. Oommen in his capacity as Chair, Schumacher Centre, Delhi is involved in rural development, employment generation and livelihood projects. At present he is Member of Prime Minister's High Level Committee for preparation of Report on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India since March 2005.

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