

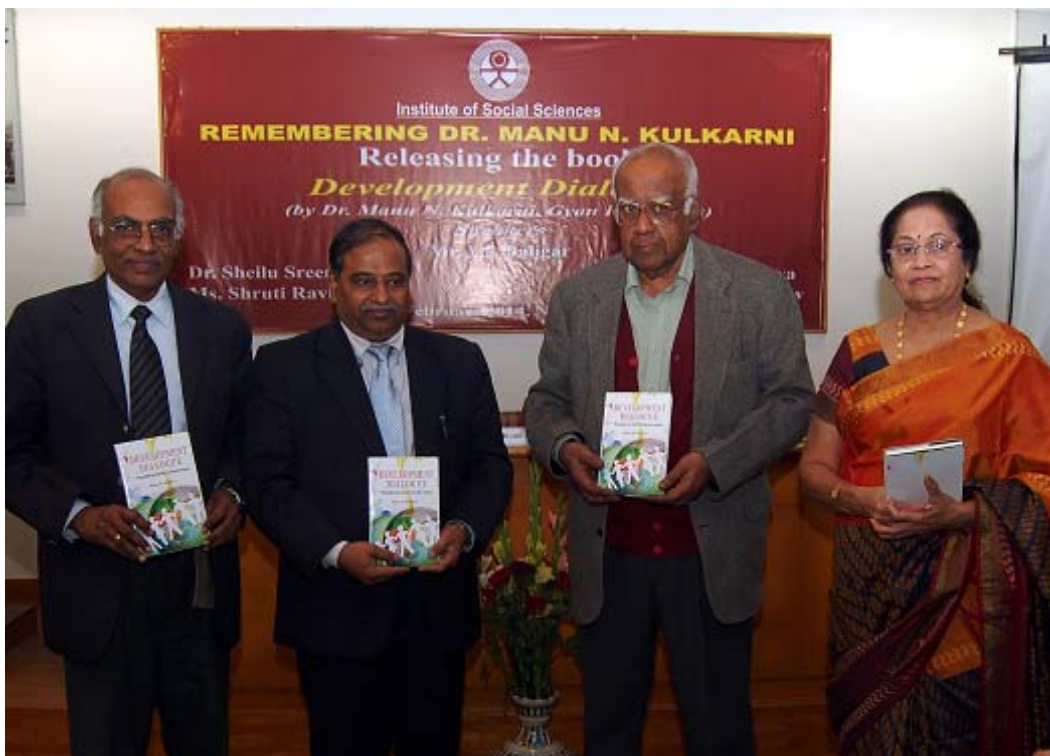


## Remembering Dr. Manu Kulkarni

The Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), New Delhi was host to a special evening on the 22 February 2014. An evening to pay tribute to the Late Dr. Manu Kulkarni, a humanist, social activist, friend, philosopher and guru to academics, writers, activists and students. The function was a celebration in honour of Dr. Kulkarni's life, a toast to his vision, zeal and commitment to the children and people of India.

Dr.Kulkarni was a well known thinker and writer in contributing social progress in national developmental programmes. Aided by his indepth knowledge and practical experience, he was continuously innovating the Gandhian thoughts of all round rural development for India's progress

Mr. Digvijaya Singh M.P. Rajya Sabha was requested to release the book titled as "Development Dialogue" authored by Late Dr. Kulkarni. However, due to a sudden political compulsion, he could not attend



Release of the Book on Development Dialogue.From left to right Dr. George Mathew, Mr. V.P. Baligar, Prof.K.C.Shivaramakrishnan (releasing the book) and Dr. Sheliu Shrinevasan

the program. He sent his wishes through email, excerpts of which are as follows:

*I have very fond memories of my association with Manu when he was working in Bhopal. He was deeply committed to the Health and Education issues and I valued his advice and suggestions. He was a Gandhian who believed in Gram Swarajya and empowerment of the Local Bodies. I had the pleasure of spending a very relaxed evening with your Family and had delicious dinner at his residence in Bangalore. He was a great Host. In him I had a good friend. His going away has been a personal loss to me. Regards - Digvijaya*

The evening began with a two-minute silence.

Dr. Ash Narain Roy the Director of the Institute, began the evening with a fond recollection of Manuji's interaction with the Institute and his passion for grass roots development with Gram Swaraj.

Dr Ash Narain Roy, in his welcome address, said that the gathering was to celebrate the life of Manu Kulkarni. "His life was a life fully lived", said Dr Roy. He further said that most people exist. To live is the rarest thing in the world. Quoting Einstein who said, "Life is like a riding bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." Manuji kept moving till the very end.

Manuji was charm personified. He was straightforward and simple. What I liked most about him is that he was never 'me', 'myself' and 'I'. He talked about others, institutions, books, publications.

In the end, Dr Roy said what Manuji meant to ISS: 'A single rose can be my garden, a single friend, my world'.

Mr. V.P. Baligar, IAS and Managing Director of HUDCO recounted a brief life journey of Manuji from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) days to Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad – IIM, Ahmedabad, UNICEF and his stint after retirement into teaching. He briefly covered all the aspects of the book from red market-yoga-meditation-senior citizens- spirituality-environment etc.

Mrs. Geeta Athreya, Ex-UNICEF Colleague went down memory lane and recalled Manuji's career with UNICEF spanning over two decades. She expressed his sincerity and dedication towards the children of



India and the world, his restlessness towards protocol, paper work and wanting to make things progress. His practicality, sensitivity and vision, for “larger good for the largest in the lowest rung of the social ladder.”

His personality also encompassed a teacher and a student always walking hand in hand.

Shruti Raviraj his student (at the Sidganga Institute of Technology Department of Management Studies, Tumkur, Karnataka) and admirer spoke about her experiences learning under him. She stated that how along with learning MBA as a subject she also learnt about humanity, social sensitivity, responsibility and humility from Manuji. The thirst to seek knowledge and learning should never end.

Dr. Sheelu Srinivasan, founder President Dignity Foundation, Mumbai has also written the foreword for the book. She covered his personality as a writer who continued to stimulate minds with his thought provoking articles on Senior citizens who can contribute immensely to society with their experience and practical knowledge.

Professor K.C. Sivaramakrishnan, IAS (Retd.), Senior Fellow, ISS released the book and recounted the witty and humorous side of Manuji.

Dr. George Mathew, Chairman of the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) concluded the program on an emotional note reminiscing of the journey



Observing two minute silence

with a close friend and associate who always addressed him as “Brother George”.

The hall “Abdul Nazir Sab “...held a special place for the Institute and for him. It was where the programme “India Leaders For Tomorrow” (ILT) a brain child of Manuji was held. The programme with the sponsorship of ‘Sir Ratan Tata Trust” got together 27 outstanding people from the districts of Karnataka. These individuals had done tremendous work in the field of education, agriculture, microfinance, health and politics.

Mrs. Sadhana Kaikani, one of the ILT (President Boyancee) from Bangalore sent in her best wishes for the programme some excerpts of the mail: *From this distance I'd like to acknowledge the development in all of us from the India Leaders For Tomorrow team right then in 2003! It is indeed befitting that the Institute of Social Sciences is hosting this event in his honour! We owe them too a lot of gratitude for they too had a role to play in that bold experiment.*

Most of the 27 of us who were chosen from Karnataka for the ILT experience have moved on since then & are making a difference to our beloved country! Those days are forever etched in our memory as unforgettable! A bow to the concept and the brain behind it - our Manu Sir!

The gathering was well attended by friends, family and colleagues from UNICEF and ISS.



From left to right: Dr. S.S. Javali, Amogh Javali, Dr. Shweta Javali, Mr. Kirit Javali, Dr. George Mathew, Mr. Baligar, Mr.Sanjay Kulkarni. (Sitting from Left to Right) Mrs. Shalini Javali, Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Kulkarni, Mrs.Geeta Athreya, Dr. Sheilu Shreenivasan and Nachiket Javali