

Prin. R. K. Kanbarkar – Profile

Prin. R. K. Kanbarkar (June, 1921-April, 2015) has a long life and rising career as an academician and educational administrator. As a renowned poet said he was 'faultless to a fault'. After completing his primary education in Belgaum, he moved to Kolhapur and completed his higher education in the Rajaram College. During this period, he was an inmate of prince Shivaji Maratha Boarding House and a part of the 'earn and learn scheme'.

He started his academic career as a lecturer in Lingraj College, Belgaum and subsequently in 1947 became Head of the Department of English in Shivaji College, Satara run by Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. Within a short period, he became founder Principal of S.G.M. College, Karad. It is a rare achievement that he repeated this pioneering work four times as a founding Principal for colleges at Osmanabad and Kolhapur. All these four colleges, today, occupy positions of eminence in the field of higher education in Maharashtra and are assessed and accredited at highest grade by NAAC. It is only because of the great vision and ideas of model institution building practiced by him.

He had a distinguished career as a teacher of English for more than four decades and taught English to the undergraduate and post graduate classes. During this period, apart from writing text books in English, he contributed widely to the development of study material for most of the universities in Maharashtra. He also published collections of own articles, prefaced many books and edited monographs.

To honor his excellence as teacher, he was selected for the award of "Best Teacher" both at State and National levels. More importantly, to harness his capacities as an educational entrepreneur, he was appointed as Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. During his tenure as a Vice-Chancellor, he put in exemplary work and has established new post graduate departments and centers of specialized studies.

After retirement, for more than three decades, he enriched social life by putting in versatile social service in south Maharashtra. He played a major role in Establishing Bagal Vidyapeeth for social engineering. As a founder trustee of "Rajeshree Shahu Smarak Trust" he initiated a variety of socio-cultural activities in the traditions of Rajarshi's social, economical and political thinking. He also worked as President of Tararani Vidyapeeth, founder trustee of the Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha which runs more than 125 education Institutions. He was instrumental in bringing out a TV serial on Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur.

'Prin. R. K. Kanbarkar Award' is given annually on 13th April to a person for his outstanding achievements in the fields of Literature, Science and Technology, Social Service, Performing Arts, Social Sciences and Social Work. The award carries cash prize of Rs. 1,51,000/- citation and memento. Awarded Bharat Ratna Dr. C. N. R. Rao (2016), The Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara (2017), Dr. Jabbar Patel (2018), Prof. N. D. Patil (2019) and Dr. D. Y. Patil (2022) have been awarded with this prestigious award. The award for the year 2020 and 2021 has been cancelled due to Covid -19 pandemic.

Prin. R. K. Kanbarkar Award has been created through an endowment of Rs. 25 Lakhs given by his family members.