

In Memory of Dr. Poornima Vyasulu



Please join us

For

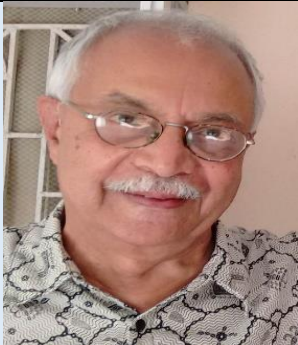

**A Conversation with Prof. Vijay Padaki on
*Educational Ideals Through the Theatre***

Dr. Jyotsna Jha will be hosting the conversation

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Greetings from Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore!

Every year Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore organises a memorial lecture for one of our founding members, Dr. Poornima Vyasulu. This year due to the pandemic, it will be a webinar wherein, Dr. Jyotsna Jha will be in conversation with Prof. Vijay Padaki based on his work on Theatre in Education. This will be held on 30 September 2020 at 11.30 a.m. via zoom and will also be livestreamed on the [CBPS YouTube page](#).

<i>Prof. Vijay Padaki</i>	<i>Dr. Jyotsna Jha</i>
	



Date: 30 September 2020



Time: 11.30 a.m.

Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5nRFVz2YSJy8cJqnxTifvg

Title: Educational Ideals Through the Theatre

About the Speaker

Prof. Vijay Padaki wears two caps with equal facility. He has been active in the theatre for over fifty-five years. He has been a management professional for over forty-five years. His academic and professional journey began in biology and went on through social psychology to clinical psychology to a long-applied research career in organizational psychology, ending with a tenured professorship at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. His areas of special interest are Organization and Institutional Development. A good part of his work has been in taking high quality management development to the social and development sectors. In the theatre, he has been a Founder-Trustee at Bangalore Little Theatre Foundation, popularly known as BLT. It is the city's oldest and most widely respected theatre society, created in 1960, and entering its Diamond Jubilee year in 2020. Unlike conventional performing groups, BLT has a high investment in education and outreach programmes. Prof. Padaki has been responsible for developing most of the long-term programmes at BLT. He is best known as a playwright, with over 50 plays in his collection, and as an authority in training methodology, respected in many theatre centres all over India and abroad.

About Dr. Poornima Vyasulu

Dr. Poornima Vyasulu was instrumental in setting up Centre for Budget and Policy Studies. She did not just contribute to its development intellectually, but also nourished a working culture of care and camaraderie. She finished her PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, but her interests were not just academic. She was heavily into theatre and music and her legacy reflects these interests. Poornima Vyasulu joined Bangalore Little Theatre while she was a student of Prof. Padaki at IIM Bangalore. She was active in some of his theatre productions on stage and backstage. This is what made us host Prof. Padaki. CBPS is also engaging with a number of issues in education and hence it is an area close to our heart as researchers and policy analysts.

About Dr. Jyotsna Jha

Trained as an economist, Dr. Jyotsna Jha currently heads Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), located in Bangalore, India. She has led a number of research initiatives and has written a few co-authored books and contributed chapters on issues related with equity in education, gender, women's empowerment and finance. She has engaged with the issue of education in various capacities, and has also developed educational materials and trained teachers on social learning.

Abstract

Theatre techniques have been applied over more than half a century in many spheres. For instance – in therapy, in community development, in work organizations, in management and leadership development, in communication effectiveness and in post-trauma rehabilitation. One of the earliest areas of application has been education. Theatre-in-Education (TIE) is the use of theatre/drama techniques to aid the learning process. Its function is pedagogic, drawing on cognitive science. TIE is aligned to the philosophy of education that upholds *child-centered learning*. The emphasis on *doing* makes it heavily experiential in nature. TIE aims to incorporate theatre and drama activities in the curriculum subjects that the students are examining in their classes.

Contrary to popular perception TIE is not limited to just “enactment” or performance of plays. Neither does it refer to one-off events. It is in reality a co-ordinated and carefully structured programme of work usually devised and researched around chosen topics of relevance to the school curriculum. It involves the students directly in an experience of the situation and the issues the topic throws up. It generally combines the elements of theatre by active participation of the students in improvised drama activities in which ideas are explored at their own level and stimulation.

Bangalore Little Theatre has pioneered methodology in TIE for environment-sustainability education in schools. An extended applied research project culminated in a Handbook for Teacher Training. The talk is aimed at demystifying Theatre-in-Education with several illustrations of TIE in practice.