

Professor Poonam Agrawal, former Dean at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, presently the Senior Most Professor in NCERT, is a renowned scholar in Science. She possesses Master's degree in Foods & Nutrition from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar; Doctorate in Biochemistry from IARI, New Delhi; and Post Doctorate in Biotechnology (Genetic Engineering) from Germany working at Institute of Wool Research, Aachen and Institute for Microbiology, University of Düsseldorf, W. Germany.



She started her career as Assistant Professor in January 1983 in the Department of Foods and Nutrition, University of Udaipur and now possesses more than 38 years' experience on various responsible positions in Universities (in India and abroad), Ministry of Science and Technology, Research Institutes in India & Abroad and NCERT involving R&D, administration, policy planning and coordination, teaching, training, extension, guidance, monitoring and evaluation. Out of these, more than 26 years' experience is as Professor and 23 years' experience as Head. She has extensive experience of teaching and research on various aspects of Foods and Nutrition in universities and research institutions of high repute. Besides senior faculty positions, she has also served as Senior Scientific Officer (Grade 1) at Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology; Science Officer, at University of Düsseldorf, Germany; Dean, at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar and Joint Director, PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education (NCERT).

She has herself conducted as well as guided Master and Doctoral level research as major guide. Her research interests in Foods and Nutrition include clinical nutrition and nutrition education, some specific areas of her work include

- Research on Anti-Oxidants, Coronary Artery Disorders (CAD) and diabetes
- Management of anemia through natural foods
- Assessment of nutritional quality of cultivars, anti-nutritional factors
- Nutrition education
- Methods of improvement in nutrient bio-availability
- Innovative Product Preparation
- Management and control of diabetes using indigenous herbs

Her research in Biochemistry and Biotechnology includes

- Keratinous proteins
- Enzymes (Keratinase)
- Recombinant DNA technology

At NCERT, as selected Professor since 1995, she has headed various departments such as Department of Women's Studies (now Department of Gender Studies), International Relations Division, and the Department of Educational Research & Policy Perspectives, besides contributing towards Vocational Education as Professor and Head, and later as Joint Director at PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education. During her long tenure at NCERT, she has actively contributed to various policy formulations at national level, Five Year Plans, Central Advisory Board of Education, National Curriculum Frameworks etc. As Head, International Relations Division, she contributed to various Memorandum of Understandings of India with different countries; including MOU between Afghanistan and NCERT, India for

training Afghan students as teachers, and successfully coordinated implementation of 20 month Diploma course in English and English language teaching for Afghan students.

She has participated in five international level professional trainings on Leadership; Moderation and Facilitation of Meetings; e-learning practices; e-learning strategies; Effective Training Methodologies organized by InWent Capacity Building International, Germany (New Delhi office).

Her research contributions at NCERT have been in

- Vocational Education
- Policy Research
- Gender Issues.

Some of the Research work done at NCERT on different aspects of School Education:

- Policy Research on Education and Skill development from the Perspective of Gender Equality : A comparative study of India and Korea (funded by the Korea Foundation)
- Participation and Performance of Girls in National Talent Search Scheme (NTSS): A Spatial-Temporal Study from the Viewpoint of Gender Gap Analysis
- “Career aspirations for girls in urban and rural societies vis-à-vis vocational education with focus on gender equity
- Research on Problems of Women Teachers working in Rural Areas (guided, worked as co-researcher)
- Effect of Media on sexual Beliefs / Behaviour of Girls and Boys.
- Evaluation Study of Expansion/Extension Activities of Entire Network of National Bal Bhawan (sponsored by MHRD)
- Need Assessment for Promoting a Culture of Educational Research through Interaction with State and District level bodies – North Eastern States
- A Study of Ashram Schools of Chhattisgarh at Primary Stage from a Gender perspective (as team member)

She has published widely; presented keynote addresses/papers/invited lectures/contributed book chapters (more than 90) and chaired sessions at various national and international conferences of repute. She has also written books on Environmental Education for Upper Primary Level. She is Coordinator, MOOC on Food Nutrition for healthy Living. She has been member Board of Studies and has evaluated research work as an expert in the area of education, nutrition etc.

She has contributed to the reformulation of B.Ed., M.Ed., M. Phil. courses at NCERT and to formulation of framework of teacher education of NCTE. She also coordinated preparation of a book titled Basics in Education for revised B.Ed. program of RIEs, NCERT. She conceptualized, academically contributed and coordinated development of telecast quality video films on vocational education. She has been Academic Editor, Indian Education Review published by DERPP, NCERT and Editorial Board member of INVOTEC - Innovation of Vocational Technology, a journal on vocational education and technology published by the Faculty of Technology and Vocational Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI).

She is recipient of various awards and honors. Besides merit scholarships and honors during studies, she has been honored with Smt. Bhagwati Devi Rastogi Trust Award,

Vishakhapatnam, India for pioneering work on diabetes; National Millennium Award by International College of Nutrition for her work on Clinical Nutrition, merit/appreciation certificates by Nutrition Society of India for research presentations conducted/guided; etc. She is recipient of German Academic Exchange Service Fellowship for Post Doctoral Research in Biotechnology and is Fellow, Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists. On literary side, she has been awarded by the Hindi Academy, Delhi for her Hindi poetry manuscript 'इतिहास के पन्नों से परे' and has been awarded "सर्जना सम्मान" for creative writing by Citizen forum, Ghaziabad.

She is life member of various well recognized professional bodies, such as, Indian Association of Education Planning and Administration, Association of Food Scientist and Technologists (I), Nutrition Society of India, Society for Plant Biochemists and Biotechnologists, The Indian Society of Agriculture Biochemists, International Federation for Women in Agriculture.

She has visited 18 countries. She has successfully handled international projects. She has been a member of an international network at the University of Dortmund, Germany promoting Circles of Support for disabled (autistic) children. She has been a NAAC assessor at national and international level.

Her International Experience also includes

- Part of Indian delegation to Republic of Korea, twice, to develop collaboration
- Evaluated an institute in Nepal as Foreign Expert (team member)
- Participated in the 2nd UPI International Conference on TVET and delivered a keynote address
- Reviewed a book proposal for Springer by an author from University of Cologne, Germany.
- Reviewed Manuscript of a paper for UNESCO
- Evaluated research papers for African Educational Research Journal
- Participated in DEET, UNESCO, PROAP Project on Training in vocational Education and workplace literacy" in Thailand organized by the National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia.
- Participated in a Project on Vocational Education and Training Policies in the EU Competitor Countries and prepared 'Vocational Education and Training Policies - India Country Profile' Submitted to Dep. International VET Research. Institut Technik + Bildung, Universitaet Bremen.Germany.
- Participated in International Conference on TVET in Iloilo city, Philippines and contributed suggestions to make UNEVOC network stronger and more vibrant
- Participated in the International Conference on Circles of Support at the University of Applied Sciences , Department of Applied Social Studies, Dortmund, Germany and contributed as member, think tank.
- Participated in The World Bank/ILO Workshop on National Vocational Qualifications Framework in Indonesia
- Participated in the Indian delegation during the first sub-working group meeting for Indo-Australian collaboration at MHRD and made a presentation on ' Overview of India's skill development initiatives and its VET priorities for future'

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