

16 May 2015



Sahitya Akademi

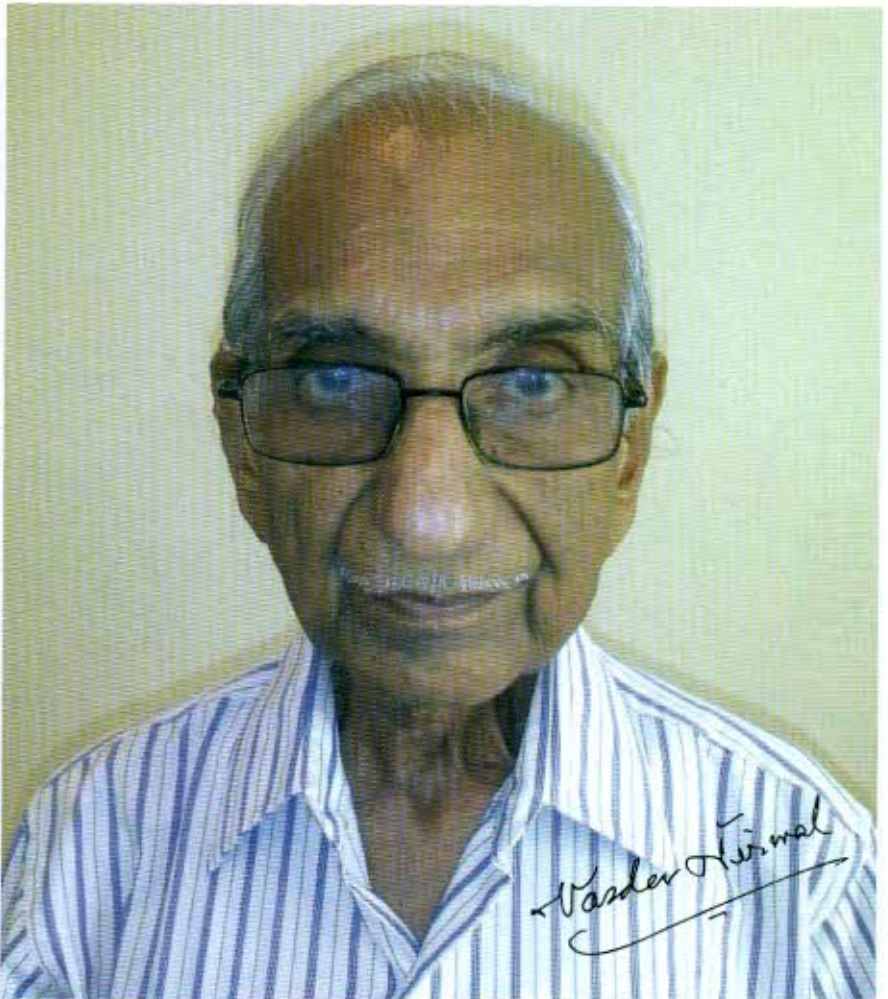


Ram Panjwani
Literary & Cultural Centre

invite you to

meet the author

Vasudev Nirmal





Vasudev Nirmal is a distinguished poet, playwright, critic, essayist, and writer of children's literature.

He has been creatively active consistently for over six decades. A very versatile poet, Nirmal embraced wide variety of forms such as Geet, Nazm, Free verse, Vaayee Rubaaee, Qata, Triolet, Doha (two line poem), Dedhak (one and half line poem), Tanha (one line poem), Gazal, etc., although his mastery over Gazal is remarkable.

Vasudev Nirmal was born at Karachi, Sindh (now in Pakistan). His full name is Vasudev Vensimal Madhav and his pen name is Vasudev Nirmal. He migrated to India in 1948 and settled in Vasai near Bombay. He got admission in Sindh Model High

School, Bombay in 1948. He used to travel from Vasai to Grant Road for the school. He wrote his first poem and first one-act-play in 1952 and his first poem was published in the school magazine, *JOT*.

Nirmal graduated in Civil Engineering from Pune University in 1959. Though by profession he is a Civil Engineer, he has been continuing to write poetry and plays and has laudable contribution to Sindhi poetry and plays. He has seven collections of poems and four collections of one-act-plays.

After graduating, Nirmal was recruited by Govt. of Bombay Province in the department of Design for Dams and Steel Gates. He was transferred to Gujrat State in 1961. But he left job and got recruited in Bombay Municipal Corporation on 2 January 1961, as Sub-Engineer. He served various departments of B.M.C. such as housing department, water department and sewerage department. He rose to the post of Deputy Chief Engineer (S.P.) (P&D) and retired as Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects) on 1 July 1994.

Throughout his school and college days, he did not reduce his love for writing poetry full of thought provoking ideas. He has written poems on various forms of poetry, whether traditional or modern. His poems are replete with figures of speech, imagery. Many of his couplets and Tanhas (one line poems) have quotability par excellence. He has



Sindhi writers (left to right) - Jagdish Lachhani, Vasudev Nirmal, Ram Lalchandani, Thakur Chawla, Hiro Chawla, Mahtab Mehboob (writer from Pakistan), R. H. Advani, Paru Chawla and Shobha Lalchandani to felicitate Mahtab at Mumbai on 4.1.1989.



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize on Choond Marathi Kahaniyoon

written *Diwan-e-Nirmal*, which is the first Deewan in Sindhi after partition of India. Many of his poems have remarkable impressions on both sides of the border.

Between 1968 and 1990, Nirmal has written so many poems in free verse on sensitive and delicate subjects in lucid style, with freshness of thought and imagery. Some of the poems in free verse have been translated into several Indian languages. One poem in free verse entitled "Netradaan" (Donation of Eye) was translated in 23 Indian languages and broadcast in all those languages by All India Radio in 1971 in the National Symposium of Poets.

As a poet, Nirmal is not inspired by any poet of the past or present. In fact his poetry cannot be labelled under any ideology or ism.

Nirmal has written musical

features and plays for All India Radio as well as Doordarshan. He has written lyrics for Sindhi Ballets "Sindh Munhiji Ama" and "Roop Maya". Nirmal has written lyrics for Sindhi film "Pyaar Kare Dis" as well as screenplay and dialogues for Sindhi film "Paade Wari".

So far as the playwrighting is concerned, it is remarkable that Nirmal has been writing plays catering to the needs of Sindhi stage and the Sindhi directors of the plays. His plays mirrored social issues. Many of his one-act-plays prove his mastery over narrative technique. Moreover, he employs satirical tone to his plays. His female characters are vibrant and radical. He was instrumental in initiating adaptations from Marathi, Gujarati, English and Hindi plays into Sindhi. Nearly 20 famous full length



Receiving National Children's literature Award from N. C. E. R. & T. on the book Ama Tokhe Khabar Ahe at the hands of K. C. Pant



Receiving Lifetime Achievement Literary Award from Sunder Agnani, President, Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli ain Sahit Sabha at Nagpur.

plays adapted by him, have been staged successfully, thus enriching the Sindhi stage. These adapted plays have tuning of originality because his characters, situations, problems were around Sindhi life. Moreover Nirmal was associated with almost all Sindhi drama groups, which were staging Sindhi plays.

Apart adaptations of plays, Nirmal has been prolific translator. He has translated Kalidas's *Ritu Samhar* from Sanskrit into Sindhi poetry, which is a laudable work of translation. He has also translated 29 short stories from Marathi into Sindhi, which were published in the book entitled *Chooni Marathi Kahaniyoon* (Part I & II), by Sahitya Akademi. On the book Nirmal got the Translation Prize of Sahitya Akademi in 1991.

In December 1978, at Egmore, Madras, Nirmal evolved a new method of teaching Sindhi in 10 days to persons who know the Sindhi language but can not read or write Sindhi. During the last 35 years, Nirmal has been conducting Sindhi classes through Sindhi organisations in Mumbai as well as other cities in India. In 2005, he published the book *Self Sindhi Teacher* to promote the novel method mentioned above. The book is well-received in India as well as Dubai, Hong Kong and U.S.A.

In addition to the Translation Prize, Nirmal has received Sahitya Akademi Award on his book *Vijoon Vasan Aayoon* in 2008 and Bal Sahitya Puraskar from Sahitya Akademi on his book *Moon Khe Char Puchh Rel* in 2013.

In conclusion, it must be



Receiving N.C.P.S.L. Award on Sindhi drama LAADE LAADI ANDI, PAR... from M. M. Joshi at Jaipur

maintained, considering Nirmal's contribution for the last 60 years in the literary, cultural and social areas, as a poet, playwright, writer, editor, organiser of cultural programmes including full-length-plays, Nirmal has been awarded and felicitated not only by government but also by non-government organisations as well. Today he is the poet and playwright of the masses.



Nirmal with his wife Poornima.

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Poetry

- Munhinja Sur Ain Tunhinja Geet* 1970
Haaee Haat 1987
Gaalhiyoon Dil Joon
(A collection of Gazals) 1992
Geet Avhanjaa 2000
Raste Jo Fanoos
(A collection of Free Verses) 2012
Khamoshi Aa Sonu
(A collection of one line poems,
1 ½ line poems & 2 line poems) 2013
Deewan-E-Nirmal
(A collection of Gazals) 2014

Short Story Collections

- Boda Achi Midiyaa*
(Three Editions) 1972
Bina Deti Leti Shadi
(Three Editions) 1978
Sas Ri Sas (Four Editions) 1980
Vijoon Vasan Aayoon 2005

Full Length Plays

- Laade Laadi Aandi, Par...* 1999
Ama Jo Pengho 2003
Dadal Shah Sadhu Vaswani 2008

Essay Collections

- Naqsh-E-Paa* 2002
Naqsh-E-Paa II 2009

Children's Books

- Ama Tokhe Khabar Aahe?*
(A collection of Monologues) 1986
Moon Khe Char Puch Re!
(A collection of Short Stories) 2011

Plays Adapted from other Languages

- Hi Pyaaso Man Munhinjo*

- (3 Act Play from Marathi)* 1968
Hik.....Ba.....Te
(3 Act Play from English) 1968
Palau Pali
(3 Act Play from English) 1972
Aurat Ain Botal 1974
Miss Reeta
(2 Act Play from English) 1975

Translations

- Paataal*
Maxim Gorky's play Lower Depth 1971
Choond Marathi Kahaniyoon
(Part I) 1982
Choond Marathi Kahaniyoon
(Part II) 1984
Quazi Nazrul Islaam
(Gopal Halidar's Manograph) 2007

Book in English

- Self Sindhi Teacher* 2005
(Two Editions)

Editorial Works

- Sindhu Dhara - A sindhi weekly co-edited along with A.J.Uttam and Kirat Babani 1961-1970*

- Annual Magazine of Bombay Municipal Sindhi Circle, edited from 1977*

- Munihinjee Bahatreen Kahani - Compilination of 25 Short Stories of Sindhi writers.*

- Gazal - Compilation of Gazals of 15 Sindhi Poets, along with Lachhman Komal, Satram Kalyani.*

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1936 was born at Karachi, Sindh (Now in Pakistan)
- 1946 Admission to N. J. V. High School, Karachi, Sindh.
- 1948 Migrated to India and Settled at Vasai (Village) near Bombay.
- 1948 Admission to Sindh Model High School, Bombay.
- 1952 First Poem and First one-act-play. The first poem published in School Magazine *JOT*
- 1954 Admission to K. C. College, Bombay, in Science Section.
- 1956 Admission to Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli, F.E. (Civil)
- 1957 First Poem in Marathi written and published in annual college magazine.
- 1958 First one-act-play in Hindi written and directed and staged in annual college function.
- 1959 Graduated B.E. (Civil) from Pune University. Recruited by Govt. of Bombay Presidency in design department.
- 1961 Joined Bombay Municipal Corporation, as Sub-Engineer
- 1966 Marries Poornima on 14th May 1966, at Mumbai
First Full length play adapted from Marathi *Tuze Ahe Tujapashi* and staged in Mumbai by Sindhu Kala Mandir, Mumbai
- 1968 The same play staged by Sindhu Kala Sangam, Delhi.
- 1972 Soviet Land Nehru Award on *Pataal*, a Full length Play
- 1978 Novel method of teaching Sindhi in 10 days started in Sindhi Hindu Mandal, Egmore, Madras
- 1989 Award of Rs. 2,500/- for Best poetry book in Sindhi for 1989 from Central Hindi Directorate, on *Haaee Haat* (A collection of Sindhi Poems)
- 1990 National Award of Rs. 5,000/- for Children's Literature from NCER & T (Govt. of India) on the book *Amma Tokhe Khabar Aahe*
- 1991 Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize on *Choond Marathi Kahaniyoon* Part I & II
- 1999 Lifetime Achievement Literary Award of Rs. 25,000/- from Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli Ain Sahit Sabha
- 2000 Prize of Rs. 15,000/- for the best Sindhi Drama *Laade Laadee Andi, Par...* in 2000 from National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language.
- 2004 Award of Rs. 15,000/- for promotion of Sindhi Culture from Sindhi Academy, Delhi, received on 18 Jan. 2004.
- 2006 Priyadarshini Academy Award of Rs. 25,000/- for Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006
- 2008 Sahitya Akademi Award on Sindhi Book *Vijoon Vasani Aayoon* (A collection of One Act Plays)
- 2013 Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar on Sindhi Book *Moonkhe Char Puchh Re!*