

Retired but active scientists can still be useful

One aspect of superannuated teachers is completely lost sight of by the society, university and the UGC. The very age, at which they retired is the golden period of their intellect, maturity and understanding. The old saying 'One loses one's discretion on turning sixty' is no more true. The only obvious advantage on retiring a person at sixty is the economics and that it helps in employment for younger generation. However, raising of the superannuating age is perhaps not possible under the present circumstances.

It is true that some institutions have raised the superannuation-age by 2–3 years. A few scientists of merit get an additional opportunity for research for five years as an emeritus scientist or as a

UGC fellow and a few in position get life-time assignments in projects or in advanced centres.

However, teaching and research are not the only faculties of a teacher for which he may be known. He is better equipped with the philosophy of science and experience of general nature about teaching and research at the end of his teaching/research career, in addition to consolidated knowledge in the subject or field of research.

There are a few scientists who even after the age of 70 collaborate with scientists of institutes or universities to pursue/guide research, publish papers/articles, and who regard work as worship. If such scientists are invited to address the stu-

dents and the faculty in universities, there is a lot to learn from the lectures, academically as well as spiritually. Their example is likely to inspire and motivate others to do sincere and devoted work and to live a better life.

It would be worthwhile if UGC has a scheme for the universities to invite such retired teachers who are involved with academic work even after the age of seventy, and who have something more than just academics, to give to the students and other teachers.

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NEWS

World Food Prize for Modadugu V. Gupta

The World Food Prize is a coveted international award given to a scientist for his contribution to increasing the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world. This year (2005) an Indian scientist, Modadugu V. Gupta has been named winner of the US\$ 250,000 World Food Prize for his work to enhance nutrition for over one million people, mostly poor women, through the expansion of aquaculture and fish farming in South and Southeast Asia and Africa.

Gupta was born on 17 August 1939 in a small village in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, India. After receiving his Ph D from the University of Calcutta, Gupta served in

various capacities in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and worked in Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Tuticorin. Gupta is presently Assistant Director General, International Relations and Partnerships, World Fish Center Research Coordinator, International Network on Genetics in Aquaculture (INGA).

Gupta is the sixth citizen of India to receive the World Food Prize since it was established in 1986. He has joined the elite group of scientists for bringing the 'blue revolution' to the forefront, after the green and white revolutions. A few

prominent personalities who have been earlier recipients of this award include M. S. Swaminathan, Verghese Kurien, Gurudev Khush, B. R. Barwale and Surinder K. Vasal.

The Prize was awarded to Gupta at the World Food Prize International Symposium; the theme of the symposium was global challenges of malnutrition, obesity and over-nutrition. This was for the first time that the award was given to a person involved in multidisciplinary work based on sustainable aquaculture and its applications and implications on environment.