



## **COL. DR. JEPPIAAR**

Col. Dr. Jeppiaar, M.A. B.L., Ph.d., the Founder and Chairman of Jeppiaar Educational Trust and the Chancellor of Sathyabama University is a self-made man. He started his career as a Police man and by virtue of sheer hard work and ability rose to prominence, which a very few can match in the field of education. He is driven with a purpose which helps him to rise above his humble beginnings and to dedicate himself to the cause of technical education. He has always had a thirst for knowledge his determination has guided him in earning the B.L., Degree from Madras University, Master of Arts (M.A.) from Mysore University and a Doctorate from Anna University in Water Resource Management.

Early in his life he has been an active Politician, which explains his extraordinary success in spite of tremendous odds. The groundwork for his dynamic life was apparent in the time of Dr.M.G.Ramachandran's regime, wherein he acted as the Government chief whip of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council. In addition to having been the Secretary of the Chennai District in AIADMK party from 1972 to 1987, he was special envoy to the Chief Minister.

He stated in one of his famous quotes "Doing well is important, but your role in society as an Indian citizen is more important". A person of few words but incredible deeds his noteworthy accomplishments are his total involvement as the chairman of Madras Water supply and Sewage Board. He has been the chief driving force in organizing the timely implementation of water supply through tanker systems and pipe lines in and around Chennai during an unprecedented draught in Chennai. Besides having rendered his honest services as Elected Member of Legislative Council he also successfully held the post of Director of Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation.

His outstanding leadership and passion for education has resulted in Dr. Jeppiaar being the prestigious Vice President of the Indian Society for Technical Education, New Delhi, which consists of technical professionals in India and abroad as its members where he shared his diverse administrative experience in influencing the quality and system of education. Presently,

he holds his office as the President of Tamil Nadu Self-financing Engineering Colleges Association. Ever since he has taken over as the President, he has achieved in bringing together Industry-Institute Interaction at a greater level.

His involvement in the field of Technical Education found its manifestation in the form of establishing a full-fledged institution named Sathyabama Engineering College in the year 1988. This had shortly paved way for yet another Engineering college of its kind in the year 1994 namely St. Joseph's college of Engineering and also the St. Mary's School of Management Studies. He has also established in 1990 Panimalar Polytechnic and Panimalar Institute of Management Studies and Panimalar Engineering College in 2000. In the year 2001 he started Jeppiaar Engineering College and SRR Engineering College, Mamallan Institute of Technology, Sathyabama Dental College, Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Panimalar school of Management, Jet-in Park, Panimalar Polytechnic and Jeppiaar International School, with an aim of providing technical education to the genuinely interested. These institutes are dedicated in raising a disciplined student community who can be technical manpower to cater to the needs of the industry. Needless to say, Dr. Jeppiaar as an educationalist par excellence has made numerous academic publications and presentations in reputed National and International journals and conferences in various fields.

Besides being an accomplished educationist he is also a great writer. This is evident from his active involvement in the fields of literature and fine arts. He has edited a widely circulated daily and weekly in Tamil. It is also interesting to know that he has successfully produced seven Tamil Movies, directed one movie in Tamil and has eventually performed the role of the hero in one of the Tamil movies. Therefore, it is no wonder that the cultural and literary activities of Dr. Jeppiaar are flourishing in full bloom in this University under his inspiration, encouragement and guidance.

He is a simple man by nature, but is endowed with the great mind of a visionary in all his endeavors. His perseverance, doggedness and his skill to use his time has enabled him to be an entrepreneur par excellence. Apart from academic endeavors, he has also established Jeppiaar Ready Mix Concrete Plant Concrete, for the benefit of the Builders in and around Chennai, by providing high quality ready mix concrete, at very competitive rates. He has diversified his manufacturing to produce value-added products by adopting novel and innovative approaches in Jeppiaar Water Division, Jeppiaar Furnace Division, Jeppiaar Milk, Jeppiaar Steels, Jeppiaar Travels, Jeppiaar Cements, Jeppiaar Technologies, Jeppiaar Salt, etc., He is known to convert ideas into reality. One among which has been his success in establishing Jeppiaar Technologies and an industrial park for the benefit of students passing out of the Engineering colleges.

Amongst Dr. Jeppiaar's many achievements is the first privatized harbour in Tamil Nadu, the first of its kind in Tamil Nadu, and India. He takes interest in providing employment to the deserving in the coastal areas, by building harbor for the poor fishermen community, particularly Tsunami affected villages in Kanyakumari district. The fishing harbor is under construction

along with Government of Tamil Nadu under BOOT system. Moreover, the privatised harbour is developed and operated in Muttam, in the Kanniya-Kumari District, through the Jeppiaar Fishing Corporation. The unique modern harbour will have a docking facility for 600 mechanised boats with restaurants, cold storage facility, auction hall, net repair shed and rooms to accommodate workers. The harbour also encompasses most modern designs and infrastructure with processing facilities befitting international standards.

Dr. Jeppiaar has been conferred various awards and accolades were bestowed by eminent people and institutions as a token of respect to the visionary and philanthropic work carried out by him. In recognition of his services to improve the human resources he was commissioned as honorary Colonel. A few laurels are Leadership awards for “Valuable contribution to Engineering Education” by the Builders Association of India, Southern Region, Chennai; “Member” award by the Association of SAARC Universities; “For the sake of Honour Award” by the Rotary Club of Madras on 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2003, for the services rendered to the cause of fostering education by establishing Educational institutions.

A multi faceted personality with clear long term social service plans like a Multispecialty hospital for all groups of society, community college, woman care education and multiple social awareness programs. He is a simple man by nature, but is endowed with the great mind of a visionary in all his endeavors.

Having championed the cause of underprivileged and being a firm believer in their upliftment and development Dr. Jeppiaar has committed himself for their welfare. It is these which make him presently well known among academicians as a dedicated educationalist and philanthropist. He is one among those who compassionately contributes to the human welfare and social reform by donating Rs.300 per month for 1000 old aged women and widows, Rs.500 per month for 100 economically backward Tamil writers, Rs.1000 per month for 100 Tamil scholars, Rs.1000 per month for 126 war widows who have lost their brave men in kargil war, Rs.500 per month for 300 economically backward cinema actors, actress, T.V. Artists, PRO's Makeup men and Stunt masters. As well as, assisting 300 physically challenged people with Rs.500 per month plus a generous amount of Rs.10, 000 per month for Actors Association Charitable Trust.

In addition to that, he is helping 52 schools in Tamil Nadu by way of paying salaries to higher secondary class teachers, every month. Further, he has whole heartedly contributed to the Gujarat Earth Quake relief fund and many more. Benevolent by nature, he has taken on himself to care for the welfare of the above mentioned in the society throughout their life time by providing financial assistance.

Being a man of great determination, his mind's present occupation is to enhance the dynamic growth and upliftment of engineering education to its greatest possible heights. He has also started non-formal education free of cost, with all facilities, for the benefit of rural youth, for

imparting the vocational skills to them. Furthermore he began IAS and IPS coaching classes for deserving students, non-formal education with all facilities for the benefit of rural youth to impart vocational skills to them through sixteen Village Resource Centres (VRC) in Tamil Nadu.

Through all his institutions and establishments, Free Education has been provided to 300 students per year, irrespective of Caste, religion and community, particularly to the poor minority religious people. Among his significant contributions is serving to the Minority Institutions in Tamil Nadu for the development and welfare of their Institutions for the past 30 years. He has also been instrumental in helping the sports students excel at all major competitions at the state and National levels by encouraging them by way of allocating seats with tuition fee waiver. Apart from these, he had donated legal books and materials towards setting up a separate section named after him at Madras and Madurai High court libraries. He has also donated computers and books to schools, journalist's colony library and police department along with training by trained personnel that the books may be available to avid readers.

Presently his key interests are in the opportunities for simplifying and making tasks easier with the use of Nano-technology. For he considers it, as one of the industrial sectors, that can play a significant role in economic transformation and job creation. Besides he is particularly interested in finding the most effective ways to improve solar productivity and this has translated into research schemes to conserve solar energy by investing in solar dishes with an area of 1100 (The world's Largest solar energy centre at Sathyabama University) m<sup>2</sup> for tapping solar energy. He has also ventured into the outer space by funding for satellite with other institutions so as to contribute to the nation at large.

Dr.Jeppiaar is indeed a commendable and an exemplary leader. As an epitome of humility and dignity, his commitment to the betterment of his institutions is matchless. At the same time as a true administrator, he is proactive and committed to excellence while always maintaining high standard. Nevertheless, he is a great inspiration to all in achieving personal and professional success.