

Professor Dr. Sudhir Gavhane: Man & Mission



Prof. Dr. Sudhir Gavhane

- Rich university level experience of four decades
- Founding & Former VC , MGM University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
- Former VC , Yashawantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU),Nashik
- Quality Assessor, NAAC , Bengaluru (20 years experience)
- Former Dean & Director, Liberal Arts, Science & Commerce , MIT-World Peace University , Pune
- Former Professor & Head, University Department of Mass Com & Journalism ,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University , Aurangabad, Maharashtra

In Honor of the Inspirational Leader and Man of Accomplishments

By; Adam Sawab

A Yemeni Ph.D. Scholar / Mass Comm & Journalism

During my first visit to Aurangabad city when I was seeking a Ph.D. admission in mass communication and Journalism at Dr.B.A.M University, I often heard and read about that department with its well-qualified staff led by the head. Soon enough, I paid a visit to the department and, instantly, I met a person who received me with a smile and hospitality which indicates his kindness and gentle character. And I found him a cooperative and well-qualified academician and, lately, I got accepted to the Ph.D. program under his guidance. That humble smiling person, fortunately, is my supervisor Professor Sudhir Gavhane, Head of the Dept of Mass Communication and Journalism, Director of Institute of Open and Distance learning, and also the Director of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research Chair at Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad Maharashtra, India.

We are in a race against time and we also want everything to be absolutely perfect independently. But sometimes, beside the hard-working endeavors, our destiny facilitates the way of success in front of us unconditionally. That is how my academic life seems to be changing through the inspirational personality of Prof Sudhir Gavhane who is considered a teacher and father as well. I still remember his condolence words as well as his motivational sentences when he talked to me a few months back when I was in Yemen, on the sad demise of my father, where he motivated me through his words. Thus, I found that besides his profession, he has the real sense of humanity and well-mannered professor.

It is, indeed, a privilege for me to have my Ph.D. research under the supervision of Prof Gavhane who is an expert leading in the field of mass communication and journalism in the Indian sub-continent.

Going through his CV, you would definitely find how great is this academician and how he contributed to the Indian media and other social sectors through his researches, projects management, and oth-

er contributions as well.

Not only in the academic setting, but Gavhane Sir distinction can be seen through his behavior. At a personal level, he is a responsible with a pleasant personality and always been very friendly and helpful, showing a great capacity for integration in his academic life. He is a thorough gentleman and kind even with the most unpopular students in the department. And the most striking aspects of his personality are his meticulous planning and enthusiasm towards whatever he does to broaden his horizons. That's why he is loved and adored by students, teachers, staff, and everyone knows him alike.

My association with Gavhane Sir has given me an ample scope to assay my capabilities closely in my research and future endeavors as well. He is really a source of inspiration and motivation. Proudly speaking, I feel lucky for being his student as he is a well-known iconic in the media and communication sector. The well of his knowledge is deep enough and it will, definitely, last for future generations to irrigate their educational thirst.

Finally, and on this occasion, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Gavhane Sir for such a memorable event. Thank you, Sir, for being supportive and for the extraordinary encouragement and assistance to all people whom you met in your life. Your retirement looks normal enough to prove that you have done a lot and you still contribute more and more, and superannuation may change your life for better.

Be Happy and Safe Sir, Wishing You a Happy Healthy Long Life.

A Teacher who loves ideas

By: Kumar Ketkar

In the early eighties there was no colour TV in India. Indeed at the time of Asiad Tournaments were to be held in Delhi. The government of India led by Indira Gandhi had tried to convince the opposition, from BJP to Socialists and communists that time to have colour TV has come and we must show our technological ability to other Asian countries by transmitting live in colour, the Asian games. Leaders of the Sanghparivar used to say that colour TV will bring the “cultural invasion of the West on great Indian traditions”. Socialist leaders like George Fernandes used to say the expensive and totally unaffordable colour TV was not a priority in a poor country like India. Communists used to campaign against colour TV saying that the imperialist countries will use the medium to subvert socialist ideology. Indira Gandhi asked her Information and Broadcasting minister Vasant Sathe to work out the financial and technological feasibility and explain to the opposition, how it was important to enter in the television age. Sathe campaigned vigorously and India entered colour TV age. There were only two companies manufacturing and marketing colour TV Serbs. India had Black and White TV since early mid- sixties, but on a very limited scale, mainly in Delhi. Even that was brought when Indira was the I&B minister in the Lal Bahadur Shastri government.

In the year 1982, the Asiad year, a Readers’ Literary Movement, Granthali had organised “Granth-Yatra” to propagate book reading culture. During the Yatra, there would be discussions and seminars on various subjects. The audience used to be quite large and curious. One of the topics in debate was “Will TV invade Print medium?” We had debated this issue even earlier in Granthali meetings. But I bring this reference here because during this Yatra, myself and Sudhir Gavane came closer. I had known Sudhir a few years before, as an activist youth, and we (Dinkar Gangal and me) had requested him to participate in the Yatra.

Just two years earlier, in 1980, the great Media philosopher Mar-

shall McLuhan had died. I had got introduced to the works and ideas of McLuhan in 1970-71 when I was working as a research institute in the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi. I used to discuss McLuhan's ideas in the discussions and debates. (I have this proud presumption that I introduced McLuhan to Maharashtra!) Sudhir Gavane, our young Granthali volunteer used to participate in every single event organised by the Yatra planners.

We used to discuss everything from the status of Marathi literature to Marathi newspapers, from P. L. Deshpande to Vijay Tendulkar and also English media and Hollywood movies. Though I don't remember in detail what I discussed with Sudhir and how much. He was younger to me by over ten years and I was already an established reporter in The Economic Times. The leading icon in Marathi literature was Arun Sadhu, whose novels Mumbai Dinank and Sinhasan were made into a movie. Sudhir hit hooked into our team which was led by Gangal.

It is more than 35 years ago, but our relationship grew. From young journalism student, he became journalism teacher and later Head of the Department and one of the most loved teachers. I found that his articulation was excellent, his reading habits versatile, his friends circle large and he was curious about everything that was new and interesting. There were no computers then, and personal computers were yet to make their full presence. There were no xerox-photocopy machines nor fax units. Mobile phones were nearly two decades in future. But the information-communication revolution was in offing.

Sudhir began to follow technology and even theories of communication. Naturally, my relationship grew into sort of media camaraderie. Every time I came to Aurangabad, I would make a point to meet him and keep in touch with his various activities. He was and is even today, an ardent social activist too. He used to observe the new literary trends, new writers and poets and would take keen interest in film society movement. Since I was related to all these activities in Mumbai, I enjoyed talking with him on all these.

Because of his cordiality and versatility, he had a huge circle of contacts, from various walks of life. From politics to social work and from academics to theatre. Journalism was of course the core. He

has a wonderful knack of connecting with people. That has helped him in enlargement of his mind and humility came easily to him.

I also feel, perhaps with false pride, that his initiative in naming one of the chambers in the department after Marshall McLuhan is because of my influence (!) on him. But it may not be. He is a good reader of media theory, good teacher and perhaps after reading McLuhan thought that there should be a dedicated hall in his name.

Be that as it may. It is his curiosity about the world, his liberal and secular views, his desire to learn are the qualities I admire most. I am happy that he is my friend.

The Effective Leadership of a Unique Mentor & an Inspirational Professor

“A great man is different from an eminent one in that he is ready to be the servant of the society.”

By: Lin Isa & Firas Sweid

Homesickness and missing your family and friends are the hardest things about living and studying abroad. As most foreign students fight a constant battle with homesickness, we decided after arrival in India to combat it. However, that decision triggered a very important question in our mind: “How can we overcome homesickness while we keep thinking that our home country has been at war for several years; that our families’ and friends’ lives are always in danger; that unpredictable future is our country’s?” Yes, it is Syria; the country where we came from.

It is really hard to be far away from your home country. However, it becomes harder and harder when you know that your home country is slowly dying due to war. The thing that increases your pain is the fact that your family and friends are aware that death is never far away from them but yet they are still staying there waiting for hope, i.e. peace. These major worries have been in alliance with homesickness against us. Nonetheless, we have not lost the battle yet, not because we have decided to stop thinking of our country and families, but because in the end we have actually found, here in India, a great alliance; his name is Prof. Sudhir Gavhane.

It gives us immense pleasure to write about Prof. Sudhir Gavhane; the head of Dr.

B. A. M. University’s Department of Mass Communication and Journalism; the director of Institute of Open and Distance Learning; and the director of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research Chair at Dr. B. A. M. University. He was also a vice chancellor of Maharashtra Open University and a director of Students Welfare Section at Dr. B. A. M. University.

We are indeed honoured to introduce a professor who has 26 years of university teaching experience, during which he successfully guided a very large number of Mass communication & Journalism MA/PhD students and published many books and papers in English and Marathi. In addition, he has organised many national and international events –conferences, workshops & seminars– in most states of India.

No words can begin to express our sincere gratitude for Prof. Gavhane's kindness and thoughtfulness during a very difficult time. We would like to say a big thank you to him for the warm and gentle care he provided the last months.

Some people do not tend to trust first impressions, but we actually do. When we first met Prof. Gavhane we got the impression that he was a unique professor. Just a few days after that meeting, our belief came to be proven as true. Much more interestingly, now we believe that he is the most unique and effective academic leader we have ever met.

We cannot forget the day when we first visited Dr. B. A. M. University's Department of Mass Communication & Journalism for the PhD programme registration. As soon as we reached there, we saw many students and some of the administrative staff. However, what attracted our attention was the view of many people gathering around one person with their number increasing every minute. Curiously, we approached that gathering to see who that person was. There we saw a man with a very smiley face. He was talking while others were eagerly listening to him. In fact, their eyes could express their love and respect to him. It was a really very pleasant scene. A few minutes later we were guided to the department head's office. Once we reached there, we were surprised to realise that the smiley-face man we had just seen outside was the head of the department, Prof. Sudhir Gavhane. We were very glad as we felt we were lucky to meet that lovely man. He welcomed us warmly and was very friendly. Every thing was excellent. Then he personally led us to see the media production studio which was provided by modern equip-

ment.

I, Lin Isa, will always remember how helpful and kind Dr. Gavhane was that day, especially when he asked one of the employees to help me with the registration process. He also introduced me to some students and research scholars who were very willing to help. I really admire the way Dr. Gavhane takes care of every detail. More importantly, as I started a new life in a culture that is very different from my own, with many new customs, habits and ideas, I used to feel stressed and homesick, but now because of Dr. Gavhane I feel as I am in my home country with my family. I proudly feel that he is a spiritual father to me. The continued support, guidance and comfort I have received from him have really helped to make a very difficult time much easier to bear. In fact, I can't say enough good things about Dr. Gavhane. He is a very wonderful, warm and caring leader. I am very grateful for his touch of sympathy and his heart-warming humanity that have given my heart a great relief and strength. He is not just a supervising professor who provides guidance in the execution of the research and instructs me in critical and

independent thinking in research and artistic activities. He is a great mentor who always helps me become the person that I want to be. It is thanks to his belief in me that I have got the great opportunity to be a member of the department's academic staff. I am so lucky to work with someone who inspires me every day.

As for me, Firas Sweid, I feel happy when I see my wife, Lin, happy and optimistic. I am so grateful to Dr. Gavhane for being a source of happiness to her and me as well. I still remember how glad Lin got when she met Dr. Gavhane and he accepted to be her research guide. Few are those who get lucky in life, and I am so happy that Lin is one of them. You may ask me "why is she lucky?" but I think there is no need to ask why someone is lucky when they get the honour of being under the guidance of Dr. Gavhane, the intellectual and thoughtful professor, advisor, boss, and leader. He is everything one could look for in a mentor. Not only has he been a fantastic mentor to others, but he has taught them how to mentor other people. He is

such a great model. I do salute him for his tenacity of purpose and outstanding leadership qualities. His encouraging words always motivate Lin and me while his shining eyes help us ease our feelings of homesickness.

Many believe that every person in this life is to be liked by some people while disliked by others. In fact, we used to be in total agreement with such belief, but now after having the great opportunity to meet and deal with Prof. Gavhane we no longer believe so. That rule has actually changed. Yes, when it comes to Prof. Gavhane's noble traits, all people's love and appreciation to him will be taken for granted. Indeed, he deserves to be awarded humanity's greatest honour because his life's purpose and motto truly is "changing the world". We learn something new from him every day. We cannot forget his act of utter kindness at the end of the conference which was in honour of Prof. Dole. At that time a large number of participants gathered to take a group photo with Prof. Dole and Prof. Gavhane. However, while all of us were posing for the photo, and just one second before the photo was taken, Prof. Gavhane had suddenly asked the photographer to delay taking the photo for one minute. In fact, he was the only one who could realise that one of the employees, named Sumit, had not joined us. He immediately asked Sumit to join the group and only then the photo was taken. Indeed, how kind and caring Prof. Gavhane is! He never neglects any body. He really deserves all the awards of dignity and reverence for his great attitudes and nobility.

So, Prof. Gavhane is an inspirational, unique mentor. In fact, he is a very resourceful professor who is filled with knowledge. In addition, he is a creative professor who maintains professionalism in all areas—from personal appearance to organisational skills and preparedness

for each day. His communication skills are exemplary, whether he is speaking with an administrator, one of his students or a colleague. The respect that he receives because of his professional manner is obvious to those around him. Moreover, Prof. Gavhane is an effective, skilled leader who focuses on shared decision-making and

teamwork, as well as on community building. He conveys this leadership to students by providing opportunities for each of them to assume leadership roles. He also sets high expectations for all students. In fact, he realises that the expectations he has for his students greatly affect their achievements. Furthermore, Prof. Gavhane respects students and all other people. Each person's ideas and opinions are valued. Students feel safe to express their feelings and learn to respect and listen to others. Thus he creates a welcoming learning environment for all students. Another important point to mention here is Prof. Gavhane's sense of humour and the way he spreads optimism and positive energy and makes the place where he is much brighter. For example, when he reaches his office in the department, the whole department turns into a beehive. His door is always open. His office gets crowded –students, researchers, and academic and administrative staff. So everyone can get guidance, support, aid or assistance whenever needed.

Dear Prof. Gavhane, You have been an exemplary and visionary mentor, a great leader who has dedicated his life to the service of humanity. We appreciate and treasure everything you have taught us. For the world you are one person, but for us, you are the world!

A human, leader, and academic

By: Mr. Abdalwahid Noman,
Republic of Yemen. Ph.D. researcher.

It is with both pleasure and sadness I write today special words on the honoring ceremony of Prof. Sudhir Gavhane, Head of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism. The event is held in recognition of his educational, academic and administrative efforts at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. I think I'm lucky to be given this opportunity to place on record my hearty congratulations to Prof. Sudhir Gavhane, in this unforgotten occasion. I'm sure I can't convey my real gratitude and great appreciation whatever I write of words, sentences, and pages. Prof. Sudhir Gavhane indeed is an ideal human, perfect leader and model academic. I don't forget the moment when I met him for the first time. It was exactly in the fourth semester when I was an M.A student in the Department of English, 2013. I do not exaggerate if I'd say that every person meets Prof. Sudhir is captured by his charisma, gentleness and humility.

Anyone works with him can easily find the nature of humanity, the skills of leadership and the academic competence which are gathered with him. His works as Vice Chancellor, Head of Department Mass Communication and Journalism and as a director in different positions in the University have recorded hundred stories of success, achievement and creativity. He is above all a humane person, with whom all meanings of humanity are embodied. Poor students and needy people find him always happy to offer his help. In this regard, I would like to share my personal observations throughout the work with him in the Department. For me, three humanitarian attitude by Prof. Gavhane will be never forgotten. First, I observed his kind humanity once when I saw him very interesting and exciting to share school children who came to make a program in the Department. He was all the time sitting among them as a father for everyone in the yard. The second impression is when a program was held in the

Department, there was a totally disabled boy in a wheelchair who was carried by the others. The boy was given a chance to speak in that program. He was hardly speaking unclear words. Nobody could get what he was saying, but Prof. Sudhir was a very enthusiast, and interactively listening to the boy as if he was listening to a very important guest. He was attentive to the boy and interacted with his words which were barely

understood. The third one is when an old woman came to the Department where a program was conducting. That lady seemed to be a poor came from humble family. She was speaking and Prof. Gavhane was smiling, encouraging and admiring the spoken words.

In the field of administrative position, his entire life is full of administrative success. That is why Prof. Gavhane has held more than 13 positions for more than twenty-five years. He has left milestones in the history of education wherever he has worked; in the Department, University, or outside of the University. He has added a new dimension to the Department, creating entire programs that made the Department among the top ten of Mass Communication and Journalism Departments in India. Despite the short period we have spent together, however, it has been a great impact on me because of his humility and sincerity. I have enjoyed working with him for two years, and I really consider him not only a model academician in the Department but an extraordinary leader in the University, as well. Every day he comes to the Department with a truthful smile drawn on his face. He is the real maker of an environment of enthusiasm for learning and appreciation for growing creativity. For his valuable guidance, he has been kind enough to offer his help, in spite of his entire busy schedule.

His help is a special blessing and honor to all staff of the Department. He has been a source of strength to staff, students and employees through his inspiration, support, encouragement and friendship. He has also played a unique role to make his life meaningful and beautiful in the sight of leadership skills. The several achievements he has drawn due to his distinctive excellence and creativity. His wise,

vitality, and encouragement are motivations for everybody in the Department which always lead to the best. His morals will remain in the hearts of students, colleagues and employees. His fingerprints will remain in every corner in the Department and further in various Departments of the University.

In the field of academicism, Prof. Gavhane is a model academic whose contributions are beyond expectations. During his academic life, he has guided more than one hundred sixty-seven students and researchers in both Ph.D. and master programs. He has published ten books, more than 1000 articles and 50 research papers in various journals and edited books which are related to media and education. Moreover, he is an express expert and trainer who is consulted by different Radio and T.V stations.

Finally, I have to say that his students leave the Department and move onto the next chapters of their lives; carrying with them not only the information and

knowledge but also the life lessons they have learnt from him. While I am saddened to see him got retired, I am confident that he will continue in serving India in the best way; keeping the education of the University better than enough; contributing his knowledge, experience, and success all over India. I wish Prof. Gavhane the best in his future endeavors and ask the Almighty to guide him to the best path, grant him more successes and keep him safe, healthy and productive.

A Pleasing Personality

By: Suhas Kulkarni

The first thing you notice after meeting Prof. Dr. Sudhir Gavhane is his cheerful demeanor. His greeting style itself attracts you immediately. The first impression is “oh, what a charming personality”! Then you look forward for many more interactions with him, enjoying each one thoroughly.

Since, I am neither his student nor his colleague, I was not fortunate enough to spend more time with him. We met in 1990 when my partner Pradeep Shinde & I started a DTP unit Page Setters. Pradeep knew him earlier and you can say that Gavhane sir was instrumental for Pradeep’s entrepreneurship. Instantly I connected with sir. He was a senior professor in Journalism department at that time in BAMU. He was also contributing regularly to Lokmat at that time. In short his was a respected and reputed voice in academic and journalism circle.

Despite being a famous personality, his behavior was very much down to earth. You never felt intimidated by him. You can easily speak your mind with him. “Give respect, earn respect” is Sir’s motto. I have heard him address his students also with due respect.

Since ours is quality printing press, Gavhane sir used to visit us regularly for printing his publishing works & other prestigious publications. I cherish these interactions with him. It really is an enriching experience to interact with him on range of subjects. He has so many social contacts but he never flaunted his contacts. You just learn so much from him that sometimes I used to envy his students.

Gavhane sir has a phenomenal memory in respect of books and authors. During chitchat, he used to mention the author and suggest that we should read that particular book by that author. As he is a very busy man, I used to wonder how he manages to go through so many new books and refer them at will.

As we are all aware, technology is the key word in all fields. We must move with the latest technology. Normally the seniors are loath to go with changing technology. But Gavhane sir is of differ-

ent mould. Considering the prominence of electronics media vis a vis traditional print media, BAMU came up with modern studio in journalism department. The audio and video recording studio available in BAMU can be compared with the best in the country's universities. Clearly one can see Gavhane sir's contribution in this development.

I was fortunate enough to get a tour of this modern studio when I visited BAMU for some other work recently. Sir insisted that I should visit the studio and experience the facilities available first hand. It was really a mind-blowing experience for me. Gavhane sir's enthusiasm was obvious and it is infectious. The students are lucky to learn in this environment.

I feel that it was worth OF Vice Chancellorship of BAMUJ. With his vast experience, cheerful personality, helpful nature and social contacts he would have earned more laurels for the university. It is ultimately BAMU's loss.

Gavhane sir will start his new innings shortly. He will have no shortage of ideas. Also, he will have no shortage of goodwill from his former and present students. BAMU without Sudhir Gavhane sir is difficult to comprehend. BAMU will be poorer without his commanding presence.

I am sure great things are destined for him in future and I won't be surprised if he keeps himself busier after retirement. I pray to God for his long, healthy and constructive life ahead!

The special souvenir on your superannuation

By: Prof. C K Sardana

Role Model for All Those Aiming High

It is indeed fascinating to recall my association with Professor Sudhir Gavhane. That dates back to more than a decade. Very thought of him brings joy, inspiration and motivation -- A Role Model for me, also for those aiming high.

He is the one who is fully of energy, ideas, foresight and far sight. One day he is at BAMU, Aurangabad, next stop at Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and so on and on. Even so, his own Department and his own University, namely BAMU, is uppermost in his mind.

Starting as a Lecturer nearly 35 years ago, he rose to the position of Professor, Dean and even Vice Chancellor of the Open University at Nashik. He has left a mark at every place where he has taught or inspected. He has been a Member of NAAC Team for several years. This gave him an opportunity to see, learn and enrich himself with information and latest in the fields of Higher Education, in general, and in Journalism, Mass Communication and University Administration, in particular.

Professor Gavhane is a pioneer in the field of Journalism and Mass Education education. Keeping his eyes and ears open, initiating and sustaining contacts with knowledgeable person, he is the first person to launch UNESCO Model Curriculum for Developing Countries at BAMU. Under this, a number of students and scholars from developing countries have attended PG and Post-PG programs. They are from Egypt, Kenya, Yemen, Iran, Iraq and Sudan.

Sharing his experiences at University Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, BAMU, a scholar said 'Oh, my God. Sir (Prof. Gavhane) is just outstanding. He stands out and stands apart among the teachers. I and my friends from other countries owe him

a lot. We are hoping to practice all that we have learnt under his able and ever-willing guidance and motivation.'

Always well-dressed and articulate in his posture while in the class or in a national or international conference, Prof. Gavhane is nothing less than an encyclopedia of information and views on his first love, namely, teaching. In a National Seminar on New Trends in Corporate Communication & Public Relations at BAMU, in February 2017, his oratory was superb. Backed by a repository of latest information, he narrated the success stories of a number of persons from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. 'Just keep thinking, observing and interacting with the successful persons. If they could reach unimaginable heights, why can't you'., he thundered. Widest applause from a jam-packed auditorium of students, academicians, professionals, media persons and educational administrators.

Full of modesty and grace, Professor Gavhane says 'I have been a student and will continue to be a student all along because, then only, can I achieve results from the Japanese saying KAIZEN which means 'Continuous improvement'.

God bless my Role Model – Professor Sudhir Gavhane.

By: Abhinandan Thorat

Founding Prsident, Chitan Group, Pune

Journalism as a discipline is currently at the crossroads, facing the winds of rapid change brought about by technology, commercialization, politicisation and a „post-truth“ news scenario. These changes are counterbalanced by the revolutionary power of the Internet that has led to the rise of citizen journalists. In this time of flux, it is our universities that will lead us along the right path helmed by learned academicians such as Dr. Sudhir Gavhane who has served as the Head of Department at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University and acting Vice Chancellor of YCMOU. For journalism to remain credible and relevant it has to have a strong synergistic relationship with University Departments of Media and Journalism. That is why I strongly believe that any overview of journalism in Maharashtra is incomplete without applauding the contribution of professors such as Dr. Gavhane. He has not just moulded generations of competent and ethically sound journalists, but has been instrumental in establishing sustainable institutions in public universities that will continue to provide guidance to future aspiring journalists.

Gavhane was born in Barshi in 1955, as the eldest of four children. His father Wamanrao Gavhane worked in the agricultural department while his mother Rukminibai was a primary school teacher. He was born at social activist Dr. Veena Surana’s Hospital, the place perhaps an indication of the passion for social justice and equality that he would develop later in life.

Gavhane had a passion for writing since a young age. He started writing letters to Editors while in school itself. His journey began in a modest school in Bembele village in Solapur district that had a single teacher. Yet, the teacher was keen to imbibe an awareness of the environment, agriculture and development in the children. Thereafter Gavhane studied at Modnim, Sulage and eventually completed

his 11th from Pandharpur with a high score of 75% that assured him direct recruitment to a Central Government job with the Post and Telegraph Department. Inspired by Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil's idea of „earn and learn“, Gavhane worked as a telephone operator at night and attended the Mahatma Gandhi College at Ahmadpur, Latur during the day.

He then took admission for a Post Graduate degree in Economics at the same institute. Gavhane actively participated in debates, elocutions and continued his passion for writing by editing the college magazine. Gavhane's Economics professor Dr. B P Panpatte had a deep influence on him. A very knowledgeable and dedicated professor, he would explain many a concepts in detail to Gavhane on their walk back to town. One day, he read an article written by the then Union Planning Minister in the daily Marathwada regarding the pricing of agro-produce and remunerations to farmers. It was due to the strong conceptual clarity instilled in him by his professor that Gavhane found the confidence to write a counter article. That article was published in Marathwada and he got a call from Anand Bhalerao himself to come meet him in Aurangabad. Bhalerao was surprised to see that a young boy in his early 20s had written the article and suggested that Gavhane should make a career in journalism. For Gavhane, this encouragement along with the realization that he could apply his knowledge for critical analysis was a turning point that pushed him towards a career in journalism. He was the first graduate from his family and the incident made him appreciate the power of education.

Reinvigorated, he began to broaden his horizon and started writing for a number of newspapers – he wrote the column „Hawa College Chi“ for Maharashtra Times and also started writing for the popular youth weekly Manohar whose Editor Datta Saraf gave him numerous opportunities to go on field and report. He covered grassroot level social issues, literary conferences and so on. In 1979 his coverage of the Vishamta Nirmulan Parishad, a conference to fight against inequality, won him the Bhalakar Bhopatkar Award for Best Journalistic Writing at the young age of 24 when he was still

in college. It also gave him an identity as a journalist to be reckoned with at the state level.

Gavhane then decided to study journalism academically, and applied to the then Marathwada University for a Master's degree in Journalism. At the same time, his experience helped him get a job at All India Radio as a Sub Editor and script writer. He worked there for four years writing serials, chain radio dramas, talk shows, conducting Bal Vani and undertaking field reporting. It was here that he wrote his first play called "Dharmantar" based on an incident of conversion that had taken place in Meenakshipuram. The play, a sensitive and humanistic portrayal of the issue of religious

conversion of Dalits created a huge controversy at the competition where it was first performed and was eventually disqualified on technical grounds. This was reported in the media and the interest in the play grew. It was translated into Hindi and shows were held across the state including at the All India Dalit Theatre Festival. His experience with the radio brought out his hidden ability to write dialogues, stories and create characters. More importantly, he realized the power of the pen that he could use his position to sensitize others about the position of Dalit despite not belonging to the community. He was also associated with the daily Ajanta where he edited the Sunday magazine and eventually the Diwali issue which he wanted to base on Marathi literature. He was determined to interview PL Deshpande, Bhalchandra Nemade, Laxman Mane for the issue. But Ajanta was not a very well-known daily and this was an uphill task. But Gavhane would not take no for an answer. He approached Marathi author FM Shinde whom he knew due to AIR to help him get an interview with Pu La. He sent him a questionnaire on Gavhane's behalf and much to the latter's joy received a 22 page handwritten reply from Pu La, in his typical humorous style asking whether "Fa Mu was taking his exam". Renowned author Bhalchandra Nemade was a known recluse, even his picture was not available anywhere. However, he was a Professor at the University where Gavhane studied. With the help of one of his colleagues Prof Dilip Kulkarni, Gavhane convinced him to not only give an interview on

tape but also to pose for a photoshoot, one of the rare times this was done. That Diwali issue was very well appreciated. It was the spirit with which the work was done that was the key to its success irrespective of how popular the paper itself was.

Gavhane had made up his mind to join a newspaper after on completion of his Master's in Journalism. But it was Prof JM Waghmare, the Vice Chancellor of Nanded University who first suggested that he consider a career in academics instead. The thought had not even crossed Gavhane's mind till then. But being intrigued by the opportunity to use his oratory skills, conduct research, interact with youth, Gavhane joined Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University as a lecturer.

It was around the time that the Naamantar (Name change movement) was at its peak. Gavhane had first-hand experience of the movement as a student of journalism. Being associated with Ma Ta as a columnist, Gavhane also knew Dinkar Gangal, one of the founders of Granthali publishing house well. He

encouraged Gavhane to write a book on the social movement and the upheavals associated with it. For this purpose Gavhane travelled across the Marathwada region, visiting affected villages and meeting many students and activists. There is one incident that is particularly etched in his memory: walking through the scorching summer sun, Gavhane reached a Dalit settlement, where an old woman, looking at the sweat-drenched young boy said with eyes full of sadness and regret „I wish to give you water but my kitchen is destroyed.“ Gavhane was shocked at the inhumanity and brutality of the assaults that affected individuals far and wide who were not even remotely related to university education, their caste being the only reason for their victimization. The experience infused him with empathy and sensitivity to social issues and completely changed his perspective towards life as it was a form of experiential learning. Gavhane penned down his experiences in a book called “Naamantar ladha – Ek Shodhyatra” which was one of the earliest books to come out regarding the movement.

In 1982, when Lokmat started in Aurangabad, Baba Dalvi was appointed its Editor. While conducting the primary survey for the launch, he came across the Diwali issue for Ajanta edited by Gavhane and approached him to look after the Sunday magazine of Lokmat. Gavhane obtained permission from the University and started working simultaneously to edit the Sunday magazine named “Sahitya Jatra”. Thus he started getting professional experience alongside his academics; the university-industry connect benefitted his students as much added breadth to his career by giving him the opportunity to develop his editorial skills. It was one of the most noticed Sunday magazines in Maharashtra at the time. Gavhane produced special issues on Bal Gandharva, Smita Patil, SM Joshi, Dilip Kumar. The magazine was especially popular amongst the intellectual, social and political literary class of the state. When Baba Dalvi was going to move on from the job, he invited Gavhane to join as Executive Editor at the paper.

Opportunities knock at your door when you work hard to go beyond the call of duty. Gavhane was at that point in time, where the decision was going to influence the future direction of not just his professional but personal life as well. His Vice Chancellor Shivajirao Bhonsale encouraged him to progress from a shikshak to a “lok shikshak”. The increased salary and perks of the job, along with the prestige it came with were also a big draw. Gavhane was only thirty years old when the offer came. He consulted his seniors in

academics who advised him to do what makes him happy. Gavhane was fully involved in his work, he had a good connect with the students, academics challenged his thinking and his analytical abilities were on the rise. Besides being a professor gave him the opportunity to keep reading, learning and improving. All these factors influenced him to continue in his position, true to the dictum „once a teacher, always a teacher“.

The teaching profession comes with its own avenues for growth and development and Gavhane was persuaded by Prof. Shivraj Ranade to become the University Director of Student Welfare - a politically influential key position. The position enabled Gavhane to be con-

nected with 350 colleges and meet many talented students. Gavhane rejuvenated the „earn and learn“ scheme and made a detailed plan for utilization of the grant given to University after name change. He organized a youth festival utilizing his interest in literature, theatre and music. He started the Shram Pratishthan, a centre where students manufactured stationary to earn an honorarium and ensured that it was open to all on an equal basis irrespective of caste or social background. He also opened its doors to girls. It also ensured entrepreneurship opportunities for students. The scheme was so popular that it tripled the income of Student Welfare department and the University“s prestige and brandname increased. Even the state government lauded it and the committee set up by the University Grants Commission put on record its appreciation for the innovative scheme which was also voiced by PC Alexander in his scpeech.

After completing two terms as Director, Gavhane wished to return to his deparment and politely declined a third term. One of the most memorable moments of his career was when more than 2000 students took out his huge procession on a bullock cart. Gavhane says student always give unconditional love and respect to reciprocate your genuineness. Within 18 days of joining as Departmen, Gavhane was promoted to the position of Head of Department. One of the first things he did was to make a plan for a digital laboratory and school. The year was 2000, Universities in India were yet to come under the influence of the digital revolution, yet Gavhane was a firm believer in the principle that educational institutions should be ahead of times of the professional demands.

He submitted to the plan to the then Vice Chancellor KP Sonwane and also got it sanctioned from the then CM Vilasrao Deshmukh who made it a part

of the Cabinet Decision regarding the Marathwada Development Program to ensure its permanence. The high tech media lab that has come up is one of the best in public universities across the country. It supports not just print but has high definition television and digital radio studios as well. An Apple Media Lab as been set up.

Though the Journalism and Mass Communication Department at BAMU was set up with the aim of rejuvenating Marathi journalism, Gavhane's idea behind the project was to implement the "glocal" concept of integrating the global with the local. He also thought that his contribution to the department should not end with his retirement but should be durable for which infrastructure development is the best means possible. Gavhane always endeavoured to bring world class education to his students. Thus in 2009, when UNESCO released the Model curriculum for journalism for developing countries, Gavhane was one of the first to implement it from the year it was announced.

It would be an injustice to capture Gavhane's legacy only in terms of tangible outcomes. His contribution to the field of journalism through his students cannot be measured. It is in the form of more than a hundred Editors across the country such as Yamaji Malkar, Vivek Girdhari, Ram Agarwal, in every medium from print to electronic and in key government positions handling public relations, corporate liasioning and as district information officers. They are entrepreneurs as well who have started their own newspapers and media firms.

Any teacher's contribution should be judged by his products. The most beautiful part of giving the gift of education to his students was that 80% of them did not come from privileged or journalistic backgrounds, but are now in high positions. This is enriching the journalistic field as people from all sections including the deprived sections where journalism is scarcely known can now put forth their points of view and be heard. It has empowered an entire generation. Spearheaded by Gavhane, the research and development is very active at the BAMU Journalism Department, in fact it is the biggest journalism department in Maharashtra in terms of MPhil, PhD and Post Doctorates as per UGC. Gavhane was made the department a knowledge partner of the United Nations and held international conferences on topics such as implementation of Millenium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals that were attended by teachers from eminent universities like Oxford.

After staying away from University Politics for two and half de-

cedes, Gavhane decided to contest the Senate Elections but as an independent candidate as he wanted to be active in bringing about change. He was elected in the face of much political opposition and competition and to his own surprise was elected the teacher's representative on the University Management Council by a big majority. No doubt that there was pressure to perform and a burden of expectations. In the very first meeting, Gavhane put forth a proposal to convert a 200 acre waste land owned by the university into a horticultural garden using techniques of Dryland Farming. Not only would there be a green oxygen hub, but it would also prevent encroachment and takeover of that land by unscrupulous elements. A Campus Development Committee was set up with him as the Chairman which he helmed for ten years.

Funds for the project were an issue, and Gavhane approached everyone from the Divisional Commissioner to then Union Agricultural Minister Sharad Pawar, all of whom were very cooperative. Pawar even ensured that the rules which did not permit educational institutions to receive funds for agro horticultural development were amended. Now educational institutions all over India can set up such projects. The gardens today are like the lungs of Aurangabad and Gavhane sees it as the repayment of his debt to the city for all that it has given him. Gavhane is a firm believer in being loyal to one's principles and walking the talk of ethical behaviour. In his ten years as a Management Council member, he along with his colleague Satish Chavan did not submit a single bill to the University for any of the expenses they undertook, knowing all too well the misuse of the TA DA provisions by others. He has attempted to set a high benchmark of value based conduct.

Gavhane gauges his progress not through material advancement but in terms of knowledge enrichment. He received the honour of being appointed a member of the UGC's National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) that evaluates higher education institutions in India. It gave him the opportunity to visit more than 75 institutions in towns and cities in every part of the country, it enabled him to experience the diversity, study the best practices and build a network of contacts with top academicians from multiple

disciplines throughout the country. The experience expanded his academic horizons and gave him a vision that he decided to put into practice in his next assignment.

He was appointed the acting Vice Chancellor of Yashwantrao Chavan Open University, Nashik in 2009. He joined at a time when the environment at the university was aggravated with hostility against the system. He brought about a sea change by building friendships with the staff from bottoms up starting with the Class 4 employees, he had meetings with the regional centres, understood their problems. The University was facing financial challenges, where he brought about an overhaul of the system through multiple steps such as increased fees, smart investments in safe bonds and by requesting the banks to not charge a commission on the University's deposits and to donate it to them instead. He also brought about a qualitative improvement by redesigning the curriculum. Sustainability and financial soundness are essential prerequisites for the proper functioning of any educational institution.

There was another unique initiative he is proud of. YCMOU has centres at jails in the state. He conducted a targeted program there and at the felicitation program, he decided to put into practice his motto that people in authority should be doers, not just guides. Rather than telling society to do something, they should be the ones taking initiative. Gavhane made an extempore announcement that any woman inmate who has passed with a first class and has a record of good conduct will be appointed as a Group C employee (clerk) in YCMOU using the powers vested in the VC. There was indeed a woman, Sandhya Pardeshi, who fulfilled this criteria and she was subsequently given the letter of appointment. This inspiring story was picked up by NDTV and run by the Bhaskar group in all its 60 editions. Other universities also came forward to take such an initiative. He also used this power to appoint a released inmate as a teacher in a YCMOU centre in a jail. The humanistic approach being to remove the label of „criminal“ that is attached to them that hinders them from leading a fulfilling life even if they are competent and are first time offenders who have just committed a

mistake. Gavhane was influenced perhaps by his wife Shubhangi Gavhane who is a professor of Sociology at Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) and a researcher in criminology. His daughter Marmabandha has picked up his knack of writing and is a screenplay writer.

Prof. Gavhane retired from BAMU in 2017, and is currently associated with MIT World Peace University in Pune where he is experimenting with several novel initiatives along with the team of dedicated professors such as Bharat to India rural immersion programme, SDG Voluntary Club, Writer's Web and editing journals and magazines.

Individuals whose work he appreciates in the field of journalism are Pranroy Roy, Rajdeep Sardesai and Rohini Singh. Maltese journalist and anti-corruption activist Daphne Caruana Galizia who was recently assassinated was someone he looked up to. Among politicians, Yashwantrao Chavan, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Nehru, Vajpayee, Narsimha Rao are individuals who have a commendable legacy according to him. Gavhane appreciates entrepreneurs such as Hanmantrao Gaikwad, Amol Yadav, Kalpana Saroj because they will truly ensure a bright future for our country as will authors such as Rashmi Bansal. In the field of education, SB Majumdar sir is a true role model for him.

Looking back at his educational journey, if there's one thing he would like to change in the field of education it is the politics and the factions along caste, religion and ideological lines. Academic culture and freedom to perform is missing and it is the responsibility of the leadership to change it. Universities should be an open house. They should focus on innovation, knowledge creation and spearheading change. There should also be greater involvement of the industry. Rather than universities going to corporates to design their curriculum, the industry should come to the universities to utilize their cutting edge knowledge. Universities should be trendsetters.

Ruing the limited attraction of the academic field for youngsters,

Gavhane states that if they want to grow individually like Ashoka tree, they should go to private and corporate, but if they want to grow like a banyan they should become teachers. He cites the example of many students who have forged successful careers and says that he is proud of the fact that they have more salary than him.

Journalism and mass communication education should keep up with the changes brought about by technology and the new paradigm of a „networked“ society and governance. It should teach entrepreneurship rather than employability and technologies such as Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence. The students should be taught to “Think Global and Act Local”.