

## Professor Chitra Ghosh

Chitra Ghosh, born on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1930 to the illustrious family of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, is an academician and dedicated social worker. A professor in Political Science for 30 years in Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, she has several research papers on women related issues in national and international journals.



Founder Member and Past President Soroptimist International of Calcutta and National Association Soroptimist India, her contribution and involvement in both the organisations were invaluable and indispensable. She ardently navigated remarkable project initiated by Late Aroti Dutt, in rehabilitating non-criminal homeless women of Calcutta's Presidency Jail.

Chairman Emeritus Project 5-O now called Society 5-O, was started by 5 International organisations including Soroptimist International Calcutta. Together with Late Aroti Dutt, she initiated the pilot project of integrated programme of health, children's education, and training of income generating skills for women of 20 surrounding villages. Under her guidance, this project continues to be a successful centre for health, children's education, and women's skill development providing hands on learning opportunities.

President of Women's Voluntary Services started at the time of Indo – Chinese war, Chitra motivated less privileged women in knitting woolen items for the soldiers at war. She introduced training to make hand embroidered items for sale providing earning opportunities for women's self-reliance. 'Green Door', a fair price shop set up by her for selling clean and packed food grains, served the double purpose of equitable distribution of nutrition for women and their employability. A primary school for the underprivileged local children was started by her, preparing them for secondary schools. Under her leadership, the organisation is one of the prime social service institutions of the city.

As President of the International Federation of University Women, 1992 – 1995, Professor Ghosh initiated policies and recommendations to fight discrimination against women in the workforce, organised seminars and papers on women's role in politics and development. She presented a statement at the Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992 on 'the different aspects of environment affecting women'. Her initiative to include Lithuania, Latvia, Bosnia as IFUW members remains a landmark in the IFUW history. As President of both University Women's Association of Calcutta, and Indian Federation of University Women's Associations, she initiated training for women to master skills of self-employability. As President of IFUW, she personally gave scholarships to a few women graduates to study in London and Vienna.



At the IFUW Triennial Conference in Istanbul, 2013, as Past President of IFUW, Professor Ghosh initiated 'Best Project Award for Empowerment and Self Reliance of Women' for deserving IFUW member association. It includes a citation and a cash award of 1000USD for the project coordinator of the member country. The first country to receive this award was Turkey in 2013, South Africa in 2016, and India in 2019.

President of Institute of Social Work, her contribution towards promoting holistic education for tribal children and workers of unorganised sector, in Shantiniketan, is greatly valued.

In the world of social service, Professor Chitra Ghosh remains a shining star to reckon with.