

Prof. G Ram Reddy

Founder Vice Chancellor IGNOU



A visionary

**Founder of Modern Open
Distance Learning In India**

*“Distance and Open
education system is the
only approach which can
meet the challenge of
educational problems in
the third world”*

Prof G Ram Reddy

PROFILE

Early Life

Gaddam Ram Reddy was born in a small village, called Mylaram in the district of Karimnagar, Telangana, on December 4, 1929. His father Krishna Reddy was a farmer and his mother Kanthamma was a traditional hindu wife and had little or no education.

Prof.G.Ram Reddy was sent to Karimnagar for schooling and he took his first school lessons in Telgu and Urdu, the court language of the state of

Hyderabad. In school, he was a quiet observant, but shy pupil. He was very interested in games like football and volleyball. At school level, his favourite subjects were Mathematics and English. Passing matriculation was a challenging task at the time, but he became the first person from his village to complete matriculation.

College Life

He came to Hyderabad In 1949 for joining the famous Nizam College in Osmania University. For someone who was

educated in Urdu medium school in rural culture, learning all the subjects through English and struggling to adjust in urban culture was a great challenge, but he cleared the hurdle by his positive approach and hard work. Even he took part in college union. Prof Reddy completed his intermediate in 1953 and BA in 1955 with Economics, Political Science and History. Matured, poised and firmly committed to serve the society through academic pursuits, he completed his Master's Degree in Political Science in 1957 and soon become a lecturer in a

newly established private college in the town Nalgonda. In 1957, at the age of 28, he broadened his horizons with a burning ambition to study abroad. Thus, he left for London to study at the famed London School of Economics and completed M.Sc. in Public Administration in two years. These years were the most remarkable period of his life. The marvellous intellectual environment honed his academic skills and sharpened the art of communication. He got exposed to tremendous scholarship of intellectual giants like Harold Laski, Lionel Robbins,

W A Robson and Peter Self etc. He was influenced by Fabian socialism and became active supporter and party card holder of Labour Party of England who played a major role for India's independence. Harold Laski's writings and Krishna Menon's speech inspired him a lot.

Family

Wife: Smt. G Pramila Ram Reddy

Sons: Two

Daughter: One

Education

Matriculation: Karimnagar (Urdu
Medium)

Intermediate (1953): Nizam college,
Osmania University

B.A (1955): Nizam college,
Osmania University
(Economics, Political
Science, History)

M.A (1957): Osmania University

(Political Science)

M.Sc (1959): London School of
Economics (Public
Administration)

Ph.D: Indian Institute of
Public Administration,
Guide Prof. Avasthi,
Topic: Panchayati Raj
(Field work in
Warrangal (AP) and
Satara (Maharashtra))

Fulbright fellow:
(1973-74) Chicago and
Wisconsin University

Academic Life

Lecturer (1957): Private college
Nalgonda)

Lecturer/Reader/Professor (1959-1977)
: Arts college

1st Chairman: (Osmania
University)
Social Science
Research
Council(1969-74)

Vice Chancellor (1977-82): (Osmania
University)

1st Vice Chancellor (1982-85): Andhra
Pradesh Open
University (Now B R
Ambedkar Open
University, Hyderabad)

1st Vice Chancellor (1985-90): IGNOU

Vice president COL(1989)
Chairman, UGC(1991)

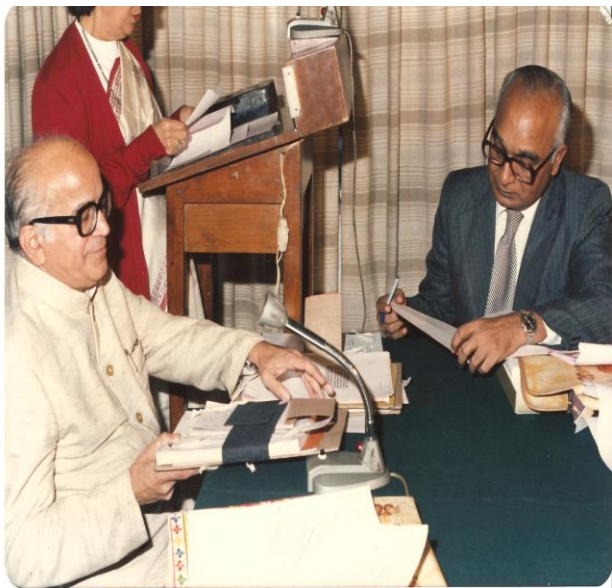
Founder & Pioneer

1. Setup first Open University in India (1982):-Andhra Pradesh Open University in Hyderabad.
2. Setup first National Open university in India (1985): IGNOU
3. Piloted the establishment of National Assessment and Accreditation Council to promote quality assurance in higher education in India.
4. Founder of Distance education in India.

Setting up the National Open University in India (IGNOU)-1985

- Appointed Chief Consultant/Officer on Special Duty for preparing blueprint for setting up National open university in March 1985.

- Submitted report in Jul-Sep 1985 to Sh. K.C.Pant, the minister for Human Resources.
- Bill passed by Rajya Sabha for IGNOU:- 20 Aug 1985 .
- IGNOU established:- Sep 1985, Prof G Ram Reddy appointed founder VC. (1985-90)
- On 19th November 1985, the foundation stone for IGNOU was laid by Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi



IGNOU Beginnings

Honours and Awards

- Doctor of Literature (Honoris causa) by Andhra Pradesh Open University on 29 March 1987.
- Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) by Osmania University (1993)
- Doctor of Social Science (Honoris Causa) by Roorkee University (1993).
- Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) for his distinguished contribution to the advancement of learning and the promotion of human values by Nagarjuna University, A.P (Dec 1993).
- Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) by IGNOU (04 May 1993)
- Honorary Fellow of Commonwealth of Learning (04 Mar 1999)

- Swami Pranavananda Award of the UGC for eminence in Political Science and Education (1987).
- National Citizen Award (1988).
- Distinguished Educationist of the Decade (1988).
- Kalasarasvathi Andhra Pradesh Award (1988).
- Shromani Award (1991) by Ministry of HRD for his contribution to National Development, Integration, Enrichment of life and for outstanding achievements in his chosen field of activity. (25 May 1992)
- Father of Distance Education in India (at International Center for Distance Education conference in Birmingham, England)
- ICDE Award of Excellence for his contribution to distance education.

- [Sri Raja-Lakshmi Foundation](#) Award for his stupendous work in education in 1994



Receiving Doctorate Degree from APOU



Receiving Award from 10th Vice President of India, Krishan Kant

Books

- Socio-economic development: Problems in South and South East Asia (1978) edited by G Ram Reddy, S Manzoor Alam.
- Regionalism in India: Asutdy of Telangana (1979) by G Ram Reddy, BAV Sharma.
- State government and politics: Andhra Pradesh (1979) edited by R Ram Reddy, BAV Sharma
- Government and Public Enterprise: Essays in Honour of Professor V.V. Ramanadham (1983) by G Ram Reddy.
- Restructuring degree courses (1985) edited by Prof. G Ram Reddy, T.V Narayana and R Krishna Rao.

- Public Policy and the rural poor in India: A study of SFDA in Andhra Pradesh (1985) by G Ram Reddy, G Haragopal.
- Higher education in India: Conformity, crisis and innovation(1995) by G Ram Reddy.
- Open Universities: The ivory towers thrown open (1988) edited by G Ram Reddy.
- Higher Education in India: Conformity, Crisis and Innovation (1996) by G Ram Reddy
- Panchayati Raj and rural development in Andhra Pradesh by G Ram Reddy.
- Open and flexible learning: Issues and challenges 1st edition (2006) by G Ram Reddy.

- Empowerment: State governance and beyond (2013) authored by V Ravindra Sastry and G Ram Reddy.



With Mother Teresa

**Prof.G Ram Reddy Memorial
Library and Documentation Division, IGNOU**

A Memorial has been setup in honour of Prof. G. Ram Reddy in the Library and Documentation Division, IGNOU Headquarters, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Smt. G.Pramila Ram Reddy, wife of late Prof. G Ram Reddy on 02nd July 2008



Collection of the memorial

More than 2000 items have been preserved , which include:

- Audio and video cassettes, CDs on events and achievements of Prof. G Ram Reddy.
- Newspaper clippings.
- Books edited and written by Prof. G.Ram Reddy.
- Awards and testimonials received by Prof. G. Ram Reddy.
- Photographs
- Prof. G. Ram Reddy Memorial lectures.

Intended Beneficiaries

Collection of memorial is intended for educationists, researchers, planners, policy makers for in depth study of Prof G. Ram Reddy's insights and innovative ideas for implementing in the domain of distance education.

Timings

Memorial is open for consultation and reference purpose on all working days from 10 AM to 05.30 PM (Closed Sunday and Gazetted holidays)

References

- Amazon
http://www.amazon.in/Books-G-Ram-Reddy/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3AG.%20Ram%20Reddy (accessed on 01 Jun 15)
- Brochure, Prof. G Ram Reddy Memorial, L&DD, IGNOU
- Flipkart
<http://www.flipkart.com/author/g-ram-reddy> (accessed on 01 Jun15)

- Gandhe, S., Datt, R., & Mitra, S. (1996). Open learning system in India (1st ed.). New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Open University.
- India who's who 1987 (p. 241a). (1987). New Delhi: INFA publications.
- Prof. Ram Reddy Memorial, certificates available at L&DD, IGNOU
- Wikipedia
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G. Ram Reddy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G._Ram_Reddy) (Accessed on 01 Jun 2015)

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