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Professor Gail Omvedt joins IGNOU



Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Professor Gail Omvedt has joined Indira Gandhi National Open University as Prof. B. R. Ambedkar Chair on Social Change and Development

Born in Minneapolis, U.S., and with an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Omvedt has been living in India since 1978, settled in the village of Kasegaon in southern Maharashtra. She has been an India citizen since 1983 and works as a sociologist and writer.

Prof. Omvedt has worked actively with social movements in India, including the Dalit and anti-caste movements, environmental movements and farmers movements. She has been active in the Stri Mukti Sangarsh Chaval ("Women's Liberation Struggle Movement"), which works on issues of abandoned women in Sangli and Satara districts of southern Maharashtra, and the Shetkari Mahila Aghadi ("Alliance of Women Farmers"), which works on issues of women's land rights and political power.

She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (New Delhi) and the National Institute of Dalit Studies (Ahmedabad).

Before joining IGNOU, she was working as Visiting Professor and Coordinator, School of Social Justice, University of Pune.

The objectives of the B. R. Ambedkar Chair on Social Change and Development are to work towards dissemination of ideas and thoughts of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on issues of concern and areas of administration, constitutional studies, human rights, religion, philosophy including the studies in economic, history and political science.

The other objectives of the Chair include undertaking research and development programmes in these areas for the benefit of society, working on developing appropriate methodologies for paving the way for Dr. Ambedkar's idea as a policy instrument and to work towards development of exclusive courses.

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