

## PERSONAL PROFILE

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Erasmus Mundus Professor of the European Union, 2008.
- Visiting Professor, University of Aarhus, Denmark, 2004-2005.
- SASNET/Govt.of India Tagore Lecture Invitee to Denmark and Sweden, 2011.
- Director and Chief Executive Officer, Roopkala Kendro (Film and Social Communication Institute, Government of West Bengal), India, 2008-2009.
- Director, Professor and Head, Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, Jadavpur University, India, 1987-2001, 2001-2003, 2007-2008.
- Professor 2001-2010.
- Recipient of UNESCO-NLM award for outstanding contribution, 1999.
- Director, Bangladesh Institute of Life Long Learning, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- President, Reading Association of India, New Delhi.

1. Name in full : Prof. Asoke Kumar Bhattacharya
2. Date of Birth : 26/11/1950
3. Present Address : 25/2, Prince Golam Mohammed Shah Road,  
Kolkata-700 095, West Bengal, India
4. Post held previously : Professor and Head,  
Department of Adult, Continuing Education & Extension,  
Jadavpur University, Kolkata, INDIA
5. Other important Positions : Director and Chief Executive Officer,  
Roopkala Kendro,  
Film and Social Communication Institute,  
Government of West Bengal :  
(October 2008- September 2010)  
(On Lien from Jadavpur University).  
Chairman, International Forum for Studies in Society &  
Religion (IFSSR).  
Coordinator, Eastern Zone, Indian Reading Association (IRA).
6. Age : 70 years
7. Present Occupation : Member of the Core Committee for Research in Folk High Schools.
8. Award : (1) Erasmus Mundus Scholar of the European Union, 2008  
(2) UNESCO- NLM Award for outstanding contribution in  
the field of literacy, 1999; awarded to the director of  
Adult, Continuing Education and Extension Centre,  
Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
9. Special Honour : (1) Invited by the Government of India, Ministry of External  
Affairs (ICCR) to deliver a series of lectures on Tagore's  
Educational thoughts in Copenhagen, Lund, Stockholm  
and Uppsala during September 19-23, 2011.  
University of Copenhagen – 19 September, 2011.  
University of Lund – 21 September, 2011.  
University of Stockholm – 22 September, 2011.  
University of Uppsala – 23 September, 2011.  
(2) Entrusted by NLM, Govt. of India to write one of the  
chapters of the Compilation of Achievements of the  
National Literacy Mission – Role of Media in the  
Promotion of Literacy, 2012.  
(3) Invited to deliver the keynote address at the national  
annual conference of Indian Adult Education Association  
(IAEA), Udaipur, 2014.

- (4) Honorary Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata and Coordinator, Lifelong Learning Project.
- (5) Invited as a keynote speaker at an international conference entitled “Intergenerational and Comparative Perspective on Quality Inclusive Education” held at Stockholm University, Sweden, in 2018.
- (6) Invited as a keynote speaker at the International Folk High School Summit held in Denmark during September 23-28, 2019.

10. Teaching Experience : 35 years of teaching experience at the post - graduate level at various Universities across the globe including Jadavpur University, India, University of Aarhus and Danish Pedagogic University, Denmark etc.

11. Research Experience : 

1. Seven Years on the life and work of Paulo Freire (2004-2010).
2. Participated in Paulo Freire conference held in Porto, Portugal in 2005.
3. Concurrently researched on the educational thoughts of Grundtvig, Tagore and Gandhi (1997-2006).
4. Visited Grundtvig Library at Vartov, Copenhagen and University of Aarhus, Denmark during 2004-2005 to research on Grundtvig.
5. Ten years of research on three Existentialist thinkers- Kierkegaard, Heidegger and Sartre (1980-1990).
6. Visited Soeren Kierkegaard Institute, University of Copenhagen in 1987
7. Four years of research on the role of the Danish colony of Serampore in India for the fruition of Indian Resurgence known as “Bengal Renaissance”.
8. Wrote *Fredericksnagore: .The Story of the Birth of Indian Renaissance at the Danish Colony of Serampore. January, 2023.*

12. Outcome of Research : Following books were published :

1. Paulo Freire : Rousseau of the Twentieth Century, Sense Publishers, Rotterdam, Boston, Taipei, 2011 (324 pages).  
*Prof. Ove Korsgaard, doyen of Adult Education in Scandinavia, writing the preface of this book remarked, “A wealth of literature has been published about Paulo Freire, but nothing as comprehensive as this book. This book distinguished itself by a detailed account of the historical, economic and social context, and on this basis Professor Bhattacharya draws a fascinating and comprehensive picture of one of the most famous and influential educational philosophers from the last half of the twentieth century”*
2. Education for the People : Concepts of Grundtvig, Tagore, Gandhi and Freire, Sense Publishers, Rotterdam, Boston, Taipei, 2010 (159 pages)  
*Prof. Margaret Ledwith, Professor of Communication Development and Social Justice, University of Cumbria, Lancaster, U.K. said in her mail to the author, “I am enjoying your book immensely. One of the great strengths, I find, is the way that you contextualize the ideas emerging from these key thinkers – as well as moving to a synthesis of their ideas. It reminds me of the way that John Ruskin, the Victorian socialist who is more remembered for his art than his ideas, profoundly influenced Gandhi.*  
This book is a text at the University of British Columbia, Canada.  
This book is now translated into Italian by Giuseppe Carrierri. The title of the Italian translation is *Educare E Vivere : Idee Scholastiche di Grundtvig, Tagore, Gandhi e Freire.*
3. Education, Communication and Lifelong Learning : Thoughts of Grundtvig, Tagore, Gandhi, Freire and Azad. (294 pages), Sanket, Kolkata, 2014.  
The Foreword has been written by Prof. Margaret Ledwith, Emeritus Professor of the University of Cumbria, U.K.
4. Existentialism : Kierkegaard, Heidegger and Sartre, El Dorado, Kolkata, 1991 (440 pages).

*Professor Peter McLaren of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), wrote in a communication to the author "It is a formidable work".*

- 13. Some other Books and Monographs written by the author :**
- (1) **Empowering the Neo-Literates -Relevance of Danish Folk High School and Co-operative Movement for Adult Education in India, Raktakarabee, Kolkata, 1994 (150 pages).**
  - (2) **First Encounters with Pre-Columbian Civilization and Culture of Latin America-An Outline, Centro Cultural Cervantes, Kolkata, 1993 (34 Pages)**
  - (3) **Banalata Sen  
Transcreation in English of Jibanananda Das' classic book of poems in Bengali. Sanket, Kolkata, 2011 (71 pages)**
  - (4) **Translation into Bengali from original Spanish of Federico Garcia Lorca's plays *Bodas de Sangre* (Blood Wedding) and *Yerma*, Sanket, Kolkata, 2013.**
- 14. Work in progress :**
1. **Social and Educational Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda.**
  2. **Leaves of Grass  
Transcreation in Bengali of Walt Whitman's classic book of poems.**
  3. **Passport  
Transcreation in English of Sukanta Bhattacharya's classic book of poems 'Chharpatra'**
- 15. Milestone Achievements during professional career :**
- (1) **As Director of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension Centre of Jadavpur University during 1987-2001, and later as the Head of the Department and Professor, 2001 onwards, made it an outstanding Centre of study and research in the field of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension.  
The Centre was adjudged by the U.G.C. as One of the top TEN centres of India ,receiving the highest phase (Phase III), and was the Nodal Agency for the universities of West Bengal and the North Eastern States.  
It received the First UNESCO-NLM award for outstanding contribution in the field of literacy in 1999, the very first year that the award was instituted.**
  - (2) **Founded Grundtvig International Centre for Study and Research in Adult and Continuing Education.**
  - (3) **Organised three Grundtvig International Conferences in 1999, 2003 and 2007 where scholars from all over the world converged to discuss issues relating to Education and Development.  
Reports of these conferences are available in Grundtvig Studier, a refereed journal published from the Centre for Grundtvig Studies, University of Aarhus.**
  - (4) **Organised Indo-Hispanic Conference in Calcutta in 1997 where scholars from various parts of India and abroad, including countries in Latin America participated and deliberated on *India-Latin America relationship in culture, economy etc.***
  - (5) **Collaborated with McGill University, Canada (1990-1991) for research in the field of adult education and development .  
Developed one of the most effective rural extension centres in the South 24 Parganas under this programme.**
  - (6) **Conducted in the Department of ACEE more than 40 courses per year enrolling around 10,000 students over the period of ten years.**
  - (7) **B.Ed course in Special Education was introduced at Jadavpur Univesity, a feat in the direction of service to the physically challenged.**
  - (8) **Introduced Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Mass Communication in 1991 which now has evolved into one of the most coveted courses in the field , drawing students from all over India.**
  - (9) **As Director and C.E.O. of Roopkala Kendro, (October, 2008 –**

September, 2010)

- Streamlined the academic administration of the Institute.
- Thoroughly revised and updated the syllabus of all the six streams, namely, Development Communication, Animation Creation and Direction, Cinematography, Editing, Sound Design and Direction.
- Successfully organised two International Social Communication Cinema Conferences, 2009 and 2010.

- (10) Organised on behalf of the Department of Lifelong Learning an International conference at the Kalyani University of West Bengal, India in 2017.
- (11) Organised an International Conference on Lifelong Learning at Dhaka on behalf of Bangladesh Institute of Lifelong Learning in February, 2019.
- (12) Organised on behalf of Bangladesh Institute of Lifelong Learning an International Workshop on Special Education in collaboration with the Department of Special Education, Stockholm University at Dhaka in July, 2019.

- 16. Languages Known** : Bengali, English, Hindi, Spanish.,Danish.
- 17. Academic Qualifications** : Bachelor of Electrical Engineering,  
Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.  
Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism for Developing Countries, Indian  
Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, India.  
M-Phil in Environmental Science,  
Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.
- 18. References** : Prof. Peter McLaren, Formerly Professor, University of California, U.S.A.  
Prof. J. H. Schjoerring, Former Director, Centre for Grundtvig Studies,  
University of Aarhus, Denmark.  
Prof. Sid Bradley, Professor Emeritus, University of York, U.K.  
Prof. Margaret Ledwith, Emeritus Professor, University of Cumbria, U.K.