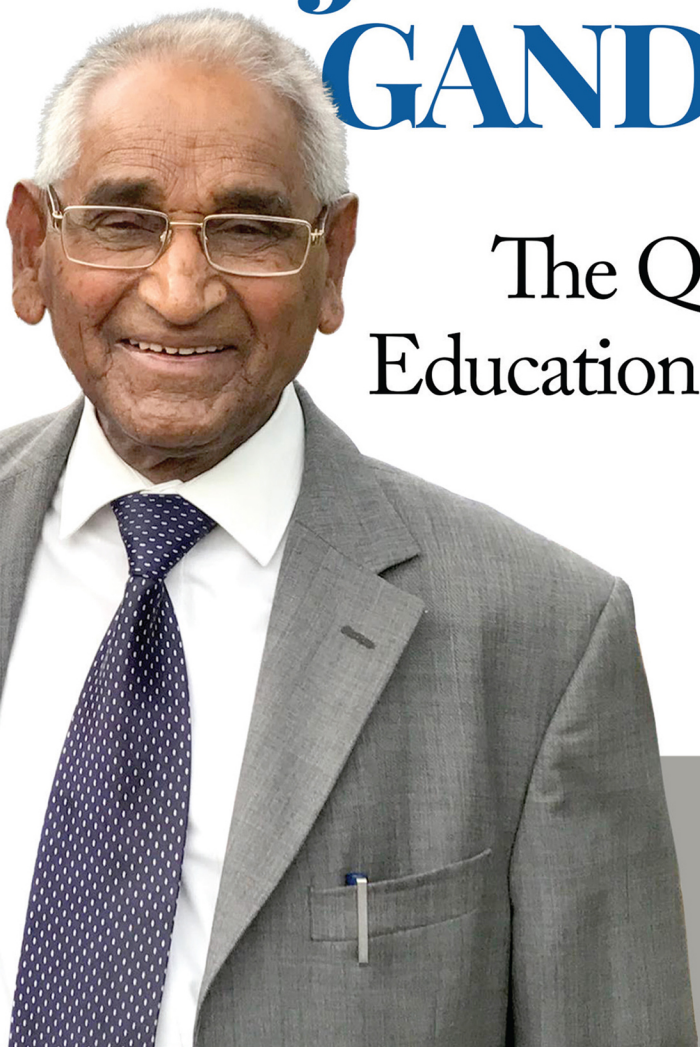


DR. JAGDISH GANDHI



The Quality
Education Icon!

DR. DHEERAJ MEHROTRA





Notion Press

Old No. 38, New No. 6
McNichols Road, Chetpet
Chennai - 600 031

First Published by Notion Press 2018
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ISBN 978-1-64429-054-5

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>		<i>v</i>
<i>Message to Readers by Dr. Jagdish Gandhi</i>		<i>vii</i>
Chapter 1	About Jagdish Gandhi	1
Chapter 2	The Belief	27
Chapter 3	The Work	32
Chapter 4	Some Quality Moments with the Author	40
Chapter 5	Teachings of Jagdish Gandhi	43
Chapter 6	Author's Narration about Jagdish Gandhi	52
Chapter 7	What Experts Speak about Dr. Jagdish Gandhi?	56

Contents

<i>References</i>	89
<i>Credits</i>	91
<i>About the Author</i>	93
<i>Books by the Same Author</i>	97

Chapter 1

About Jagdish Gandhi

A World Renowned Educationist, **Jagdish Gandhi** was born on 10th November, 1936, at Barsauli Village, Sikandra Rao, District Aligarh, in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. He was married to Dr. Bharti Gandhi, Ph.D., Child Psychologist, and Co-founder of City Montessori School, Lucknow.

They are blessed with four children. Daughter – **Dr. Sunita Gandhi** is a *Ph.D in Physics* from *Cambridge University, U.K.* She is the co-founder of the Council for Global Education.

Daughter – **Prof. Geeta Gandhi Kingdon**, *BSc Hons (LSE), MSc, DPhil (Oxford)* is the *Chair of Education Economics and International Development* at the *London University* & also the *President and Chief Operating Officer of CMS.*

Daughter – **Dr. Nita Gandhi Forouhi**, *MBBS, MRCP, Ph.D.* is *Medical Epidemiologist and Public Health Physician at Addenbrookes Hospital, teaching Hospital of the University of Cambridge, UK.*

Son – **Mr. Vinay Gandhi** is a *Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.)* from *London University*. He is the founder of a school in Lucknow, India.

During early childhood, Jagdish Gandhi took inspiration for social service from his uncle, Prabhu Dayal, a veteran freedom fighter in India's independence struggle and a social worker. Dayal had gone to jail many times during India's struggle for freedom. Since his childhood, Jagdish Gandhi was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of truth and non-violence and he always dreamt of meeting him in person.

As per the records, Young Jagdish took a promise from his Uncle, Prabhu Dayal, to take him to Mahatma Gandhi so that he may seek his blessings. His uncle assured him that he would arrange his meeting with Mahatma Gandhi but in those days, Mahatma Gandhi was involved with the freedom struggle. Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, India attained independence on 15th August, 1947 and our country was unfortunately, divided into two countries i.e. India and Pakistan.

Dr. Gandhi was eleven years old and on hearing the sad news of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, he was distraught. At that moment he decided to firmly follow the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi throughout his life and decided to change his name from 'Jagdish Agrawal' to 'Jagdish Gandhi.' Thereafter, he persuaded his father to write to his school Principal to change his name from 'Jagdish Agrawal' to 'Jagdish Gandhi.' Since then, he is known by the name 'Jagdish Gandhi.' His whole family, that is, his wife, his

children and all grandchildren are using the surname of 'Gandhi.' He is a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and not a descendant of Mahatma Gandhi.

As per the quotes from Reference:

Source: <http://www.jagdishgandhi.org/intro.html>

The man who is greatly Influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba Bhave, ventured in 1959 to create a new mind set through education. With just five children on rolls, no personal wealth, and the equivalent of ten US dollars in borrowed capital, the motivated Dr. Gandhi began his own personal experiment in Lucknow, India, by the name of City Montessori School.

With a belief to explore as one of the most powerful vehicles to explore literacy to the masses, he initiated teaching kids and thought of preparing minds to prevent conflicts than working with negotiations and top-down policy efforts alone. He gave up his successful career in politics as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of India.

Today, at the age of 83, Dr. Gandhi has no regrets. He works with the same undiminished zeal towards multiplying his mission for peace through education. In the past 60 years, he has not taken a single day off. He has slept little and has worked through every weekend and holiday. Although the journey has by no means been easy, the citizens of Lucknow have greatly endorsed Dr. Gandhi's mission and values.

Their support has made CMS the world's largest school with now with over 55,000 students on its rolls this year (a Guinness World Record for the largest school in the world held by CMS since 1999). This recognition has meant that Dr. Gandhi has gained further momentum towards his goal. And, despite the fact that his institution is now the world's largest school, Dr. Gandhi lives simply in the same room in which he began his work for peace in 1959, and he has chosen to have no personal wealth of his own, spending instead all his created resources on his mission. Children are the world's future and Dr. Jagdish Gandhi believes the best way to mould the future is to nurture them.

Influenced by the UNESCO Constitution that **“wars begin in the minds of men and it is in the minds of men where the defenses of peace must be constructed,”** Dr. Gandhi felt it best to build the defenses of peace in the minds of children, in their young and impressionable age through education and by nurturing their young minds. From the time CMS was first established, Dr. Jagdish Gandhi has worked to promote a **broader definition of education** that frees it from its largely material emphasis to focus on a broader effort that encompasses all the three realities of a child: **material, human and spiritual**. A child is a material being. A child is a human being. A child is a divine being. Such a balanced education trains the mind to not only think within the confines of jobs and material gain but also in terms of leadership and contribution to society, to become conscious citizens of their country and the world.

When Dr. Gandhi started City Montessori School, CMS with just 5 children in 1959, the first words the

children wrote on their slates were: **“Jai Jagat!” (Hail the World)**. He also continued other social activities, for example, between 1959–64, he was President of the Uttar Pradesh Naujawan Sangh (UP Youth Movement) and between 1960–65 he was Editor of Utho Jawano (Rise Up Youth!). Between 1961–73, he was Founder and General Secretary of the All India Children and Youth Festival and between 1962–65, Assistant District Scout Commissioner. In 1964, he convened an All India Education Exhibition aimed at highlighting the importance of spiritual education. He is currently President of Children’s International Summer Villages (CISV), India. Additionally, he is President of International School-to-School Experience (ISSE), UP Chapter India. He introduced the **Quality Circle** concept in education and has been Chairman, **World Council for Total Quality and Excellence in Education (WCTQEE)**, since 1999, which works to improve education quality especially in school education. Since 2001, he has been convening the International Conferences of the Chief Justices of the World to raise awareness and mobilize the World Judiciary to create a world safe for the over 2.5 billion children of the world and generations yet-to-be-born. At these conferences during the past seventeen years, 1098 Chief Justices & Judges of Supreme Courts and High Courts from 126 countries of the world have participated and pledged their support to create a world fit for children.

Dr. Gandhi continues with unflinching zeal towards creating a world safe for children and creating students who are proactive agents of social transformation by giving them an education that is capable of saving humanity.

Jagdish Gandhi went to a village based school in Kanau, district Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, in India. He received his further education at G.S. College, Sikandara Rao, at Aligarh and further at Champa Agarwal College, Mathura. He graduated with Bachelor of Commerce from Lucknow University in the year 1959.

In addition to his formal education, Jagdish Gandhi was recognised globally for his great contribution towards Global Peace, Unity and Excellence In Academics. Many Universities came forward to recognised and honour him with doctorate.

Honorary Doctorate Degrees Awarded:

- **Honorary Doctorate Degree in Education** by Bashkir State Pedagogical University, Ufa, Russia in October 05, 2009 in recognition of his services for 51-long-years of service to society and humanity at large in the field of education and building a world fit for children and generations yet-to-be-born.
- **Honorary Doctorates in Law** by University of Entre Rios in **Argentina, on 21 August 2012** for his campaign for enactment of 'enforceable international law in order to protect the future of world's two billion children and generations yet-to-be-born.'
- **Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law** by University of La Mendoza in **Argentina in 23 August 2012** for his outstanding contribution to the cause of promoting international law by successfully organizing the International Conferences of Chief

Justices of the World year after year, to safeguard the future of 2 billion children of the world and generations yet to be born.

- **Honorary Doctorate Degree** by Inca Garcilaso University of Peru on 15 October 2014.
- **Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law** by the National University of Mongolia in June 2015.

Dr. Gandhi is a highly recognised personality globally and following awards has been bestowed on him, among the few to mention are:

- **‘Yash Bharti Award’** – the highest award to a civilian by the Government of Uttar Pradesh amounting to Rupees Eleven Lakhs Equivalent of about US dollars 19,000 (Declared in March 2014).
- **‘World’s Largest School’** by **Guinness World Records** (presently over 55,000 students on rolls) It was in 1999 that CMS entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the first time. The certificate signed by Keeper of the Records stated: ‘The largest school by pupils is the City Montessori School, Lucknow, India which had a world record enrolment of 22,612 pupils in 1999.’ Eight years later, in February 2008, CMS received an updated certificate from Guinness World Records that stated: ‘The largest school by pupils is the City Montessori School, Lucknow, India which had a record enrolment of 39,437 pupils on 9 August 2010, for the 2009–2010 academic year.’

- **‘A Distinctive School’** by The **2002 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education** in recognition of its efforts to promote universal values of education for peace and tolerance. The Director-General of UNESCO awarded the 2002 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education to Jagdish and Bharti Gandhi, founders of the City Montessori School (India) on behalf of the school at UNESCO Headquarters.
- **‘Untiring effort, working for people’s amelioration,’** by the 2011 Gusi Peace Prize in recognition of his outstanding efforts to find peaceful solution for people’s welfare and for his significant contribution to world peace through education.”
- **‘As a Light House of Society’** by Changemakers Innovation Award 2005 for being an exemplary and role model school in the world.
- **‘A True Visionary in the Field of Education’** by Mayor Everrete Varney while awarding the Key to the City of Georgetown (USA) on behalf of its citizens to Mr. Jagdish Gandhi, Founder-Manager of CMS. Mr. Jagdish Gandhi has been presented the Key to Georgetown, USA by the Mayor of Georgetown, Mr. Everette Varney, on 11th June 2002 as a symbolic honour in recognition of his pioneering role in introducing Quality Circles in education. The award was bestowed at a public function during the fifth ICSQCC held at Georgetown, Kentucky, USA.

- **‘Unique way for education and human Enrichment’** by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE Board) while presenting the first Derozio Award. When India’s premier Board for Public Education, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi, decided to commence a national award of Rs. 1,00,000/- (One lakh Rupees) in memory of the great Indian visionary, educationist and poet, Henry Vivian Derozio, Mr. Jagdish Gandhi was the unanimous choice of the Jury as the first recipient of the honour. The award was handed to Mr. Gandhi by Mr. Abdul Halim, Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, at a special function held at St Xavier’s College, Calcutta. The citation noted that the award was being given to Mr. Gandhi for his **“Outstanding Contribution to Education and Human Enrichment.”** Mr. Gandhi donated the cash part of the award, to the ICSE Council for use in the cause of education of poor children.
- **‘Pioneer on Quality Education’** by H.E. Cassam Uteem, President of Mauritius while awarding Quality Pioneer Award at Port Luis, Mauritius. H.E. Mr. Cassam Uteem, President of Mauritius honoured Mr. Jagdish Gandhi with the **Quality Pioneer Award** at Port Luis in Mauritius, in recognition of Mr. Gandhi’s pioneering contribution in introducing the concept and practice of Quality Circles (QC) in education.

Incidentally, the Ministry of Education has made SQC's compulsory in all government-aided schools in Mauritius.

- **'Global Friend of World's Children'** title by the World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child by Children's World, Sweden.
- **'Visionary New World Order Campaign'** as a special recognition while honoured with Nuclear-Free Future Award for its mission on behalf of world's children to make the future nuclear-free.
- **'Friend of Young Physicists'** by the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw for contributing and promoting interest in physics education among students of High School and Intermediate classes.
- **'UP Ratan Award'** by the All Indian Conference of Intellectuals (U.P. Chapter) personally handed by Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, former Chief Election Commissioner of India for 'excellent services in the field of Quality Education and in furtherance of the cause of Humanism, Nationalism and Peace.'
- **'Haji Waris Ali Shah Award'** by the Fankar Society. This prestigious award instituted by the Fankar Society was conferred on Mr. Gandhi by the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh, H.E. Shri Motilal Vora.

- **‘Excellence Award 2003’** by Council of Global Education USA, for Excellence in Academics.
- **‘Life Link Campaign Award’** by life link campaign for youth caring and sharing Peace Actions.
- **‘Bhartiya Awam Society UP Award’** by Bhartiya Awam Society UP for unique working and dedication towards world peace and universal brotherhood.
- **‘Excellence Award’** by Progressive Cultural Society for the excellence and valuable services rendered to society.

The UNO has also recognized the City Montessori School Society as an **official NGO**, thus making it the first and only school in India to have been granted this status.

Dr. Gandhi’s efforts for World Unity and World Peace have been recognized by the UNO by awarding it with the US Dollars 30,000 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 2002, thus making CMS the only school in the world ever to get this prize.

Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Jagdish Gandhi

Dr. Jagdish Gandhi was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Education World Magazine on 23rd September, 2017, at The Leela Hotel, Gurugram. At this function, India’s top 200 schools out of the country’s

total 14 lakh schools were honoured for giving quality education.

Dr. Gandhi as a Guardian of World's Two Billion Children

Dr. Gandhi, the founder of CMS, Guinness World record holder the largest city school in the world, feels it his moral responsibility to work for the rights and welfare of world's over 2.4 billion children and generations yet-to-be-born. Therefore, Dr. Gandhi has been striving relentlessly to persuade the world's political leaders and heads of national judiciaries to take up the children's cause and to ensure that their right to inherit a safe and healthy future is protected.

Gandhi as an ICON of Quality Education

Against prevalent norms that focus on narrow nationalism, his school adopted the clarion call of '**Jai Jagat**' – '**Hail the World**,' not '**Jai Hind**' – '**Hail India**,' the prevalent greeting. He vowed to create through education world citizens endowed with a global mindset who cannot imagine conflict and war, and who become, in addition, proactive agents of unity in the world. Using a multi-pronged approach and inspired by the vision to make school a lighthouse of society, he began to educate not only the children but also parents and society at large. As a result, all began to witness the remarkable benefits of such a comprehensive approach on their children's mindset. Parents and the population at large began to buy into his ideas on education for unity, as he firmly believes peace is a by-product of unity. Initially, parents would object to such programmes as the All Religions Prayer in which **children**

recite prayers on the same platform from all scriptures, along with messages of unity of religions. Gradually, parents began to see these as important in today's conflict-ridden world. Lucknow itself has seen many conflicts based on religion, for example, between Shia and Sunni Muslims and between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims.

Gandhi – The Bridge of PEACE and Unity

Against this backdrop, the training provided by CMS to its children has served as the perfect antidote to the crises, the impact of which is clear over time. For example, in December 1992, when the Babri Masjid (mosque) was demolished by Hindu fundamentalists in Ayodhya, a city close to Lucknow, there were killings throughout India, and especially in the State of Uttar Pradesh of which Lucknow is the Capital. Even with skeletal presence of police force in Lucknow – majority of which was diverted to Ayodhya – the city of Lucknow escaped violence. As many eyewitnesses have documented, the relative peace and calm in Lucknow **has been credited to the enduring impact of CMS education on the city of Lucknow** and to their proactive role in conflict prevention and containment.

For instance, thousands of students of CMS and their parents braved the tense atmosphere in the city and went in convoys and processions singing songs of unity and carrying banners with slogans such as: “We Should Live in Unity,” “The Name of God is Both Muslim and Hindu,” “God Is One, Mankind is One,” etc., which melted the hearts of many extremists. (European Centre for Conflict Prevention, 1999 and 2005, and Oxford Research Group, 2001).

Spiritual Leader

A visionary and a far-sighted person, **Jagdish Gandhi** has been building bridges of peace across the globe for nearly 51 years. **Jagdish Gandhi** believes in the innate goodness of every living being. He is an educationist like no other. His approach to problems which seem insurmountable is simple but effective. His every action is guided by a very strong sense of divinity and spirituality and hence his every effort is arrived at improving the self and realizing the presence of the Almighty. Dr. Jagdish Gandhi, through his noble deeds and conduct, has always demonstrated the trust he has placed in people, displaying that human generosity that opens up the mind and heart and so often leads to the accomplishments of major achievements at the very frontiers of what is possible.

Creating a Wider Set of Circumstances for Peace and Conflict Prevention at the Local, National, Regional and International Levels

At the macro level, leveraging the fact that CMS is the world's largest single school, Dr. Jagdish Gandhi has crafted meaningful initiatives to create a wider set of circumstances for peace and conflict prevention at the local, national, regional and international levels. These include, among others:

- A bold **Indo-Pak children's friendship initiative** which has created better trust between children and teenagers even when tensions have been high between the two neighbouring countries.

Thousands of children and teenagers on both sides of the border have been brought together by one-to-one contact through pen-friendship and further by facilitating visits between children of the two countries for sports and other activities organized by CMS.

- 30 international events organized annually for the past three decades that have brought together children and teenagers from all corners of India and the globe, to assemble on one platform and experience through cross-cultural interaction, discourse, living together and experience, even as the children compete with each other in mathematics, computers, robotics, astronomy, music, the arts and more.
- An extensive media campaign through radio and cable television with a daily telecast of unity in diversity and coexistence messages conveyed in an effective format using children as the common denominator;
- The initiation and continuation of nine unique and unprecedented International Conferences of the Chief Justices of the World, influenced by which the chief justices in many countries have become more proactive on these very issues.

Spiritual Leader

A visionary and a far-sighted person, **Jagdish Gandhi** has been building bridges of peace across the globe for nearly

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