

Prof. Surya Dhananjay

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Senior Professor Surya Dhananjay is an eminent academician, writer, researcher and higher-education administrator, currently serving as the **Vice-Chancellor of Veeranari Chakali Iamma Women's University, Hyderabad**. With more than **27 years of experience in teaching, research and academic administration**, she has built a distinguished career in higher education. She served as Senior Professor of Telugu at Osmania University, Hyderabad, where she made significant contributions to teaching, research, literary scholarship and academic development, before taking charge as Vice-Chancellor of the University.

At Osmania University, Prof. Surya Dhananjay has held several significant academic and administrative positions, including Director, Centre for Women's Studies, and Head, Department of Telugu. In these capacities, she has contributed substantially to teaching, research, curriculum development, academic administration and institutional advancement. Beyond the University, she has actively contributed to academic governance and higher-education administration, serving various selection committees, academic bodies and expert panels at the State and national levels.

A prolific author, co-author, translator and editor, Prof. Surya Dhananjay has authored, edited and published **29 books** spanning Telugu literature, folklore and indigenous cultural traditions. Her academic and research contributions include RUSA- and UGC-sponsored research projects. Under her supervision, **25 scholars have been awarded Ph.D. degrees**, while four scholars have completed post-doctoral research. She has published more than 100 research papers and scholarly articles, presented her research at over 86 national and international seminars and academic forums, and organized and conducted more than 10 national and international seminars and webinars.

She is a Life Member of several distinguished academic and literary organizations, including the American Folklore Society, USA; Folklore Society of South Indian Languages; Telangana Saraswatha Parishat; and Telugu Janapada Sahitya Parishat. Her academic, literary, social and cultural contributions have been recognized with 36 national- and State-level awards and honors, including the Telangana State Award for Meritorious Teachers, Telangana State Women Achiever Award, Savitribai Phule National Award, Indira Priyadarshini National Award, Mother Teresa National Award, Mahila Shiromani Award, Woman of the Year 2025, and Molla Sahitya Puraskaram, besides several other prestigious awards for her contributions to literature, education, culture and social service.

The career of **Senior Professor Surya Dhananjay** reflects a distinctive blend of academic excellence, literary scholarship, research, cultural preservation, women's empowerment and institutional leadership. Through her sustained engagement with education, indigenous knowledge systems, Telugu literature and cultural traditions, she has made significant contributions to the advancement of higher education, cultural heritage and social development.