

Prof. (Dr.) Arun D. Sawant

M.Sc, PhD (Chem.), FICS

Director:

Waste to Energy Research & Technology Council
(WTERT-India)

Former: Vice Chancellor, University of Rajasthan,
Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai
Joint Director, Higher Education, Mumbai Region.

President:

Society for Clean Environment (SOCLEEN)
National Society of Friends of Trees (FOT)

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Prof. (Dr) A. D. Sawant

Graduated from University of Mumbai in 1972 in the Subject of Chemistry from Patkar-Varde College, Goregaon. M.Sc.in Inorganic Chemistry, followed by PhD in 1979 of Mumbai University from The Institute of Science in the Subject of Nuclear Analytical Chemistry, under the guidance of Late Prof. B.C. Haldar.

Joined Government of Maharashtra service as Lecturer in Chemistry in 1977, thereafter was selected as Reader in Chemistry by Public Service Commission and finally became Professor of Chemistry in 1998. Due to his distinguished research career and administrative skills he was chosen by Government of Maharashtra as Joint Director ,Higher Education ,Mumbai Region in the year 2000,wherein he could bring Academic and Administrative reforms, noted amongst them was a contribution to writing of Private University Act, Law University Act, adoption of Statutes of Autonomy for State universities in Maharashtra thereby opening the doors for autonomy to Institutions in Maharashtra.

In year 2004, he was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University and in 2010 he was appointed as Vice Chancellor University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He could bring landmark changes in universities he served. His work at University of Rajasthan earned reputation, resulting in his short listing as candidate for UGC Chairmanship .He was appointed Chairman of High Level Committee of State of Rajasthan to upgrade Grants and Standards of Higher Education in Rajasthan. During his tenure, the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur was adjudged the University of having Highest H Index in the country. Under his leadership University of Rajasthan was awarded Scheme of University with Potential of Excellence..

Dr. Sawant executed over 20 Research Projects including one from IAEA,Vienna. In 1991 he reveled the issue of Lead (Pb) poisoning cases in India which invited Global attention and made a compelling force for Government to opt for unleaded petrol in India. By scientific pursuit, he could expose the dreaded pollution issues of rivers of Mumbai and Pune as well as of Industrial zones.

He guided 26 students for PhD of Mumbai University and published over 170 papers in journals of International repute of which 95 in Foreign Journals of repute. The paper on Mine tailing received the Gold Medal as best paper for the year 2015 of the Journal of Society of

NGRI Hyderabad, a CSRI Institute. He has contributed paper to Encyclopedia of Analytical Chemistry published by Cambridge University (UK).

Currently he is engaged in transfer of technology for integrated Rural Development and issues of water management in, Municipal Solid Waste Management. He is adviser to many institutions and on governing Council of 2 universities.

He is: President, Society for Clean Environment (SOCLEEN).
Director, WTER, Waste to Energy Research and Technology Council (India)
President, National Society of Friends of Trees (FOT)
Chief Trustee, The Institute of Science (Govt. of Maharashtra) Golden Jubilee Trust Fund.
Member : Indian Chemical Society, Council of Chemists, Mumbai Rose Society, Indian Rose Federation, Indian Nuclear Society and World Water Council,
As Director WTER, he has taken many initiatives to organize Workshops, Seminars and National Conferences to spread awareness. Guide about technologies of waste management to undergraduate students, Teachers of the university as well as at provincial level.
Through WTER he took many initiatives to get best persons at International Conferences and knowledge sharing between various WTE plants.

Member: Indian Chemical Society and Council of Chemists.
Mumbai Rose Society and Indian Rose Federation.
Indian Nuclear Society and World Water Council
Academic Arbitration Committee of ICT, Matunga Mumbai
Governing Council Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur
Academic Council Laxminarayan Innovation Technological University
Global Waste Council having HQ-Columbia University, New York

Administrative Responsibility Handled:

- 1) As a Joint Director of Higher Education Mumbai Region (2002-2004) many committees, like selections, teaching, non-teaching staff of many colleges and Universities.
- 2) Chairman of Formulation of Staffing Pattern of Non-teaching Staff in the Universities of Maharashtra. Committee appointed by Government of Maharashtra.
- 3) Secretary to Shikshan Shulka Samiti and Admission Regulatory Authority Government of Maharashtra under the direction of Honorable High Court.
- 4) Member, BED Admission Committee.
- 5) Member of various Award Committees of Government and Universities
- 6) Member Secretary, Law University Act, Government of Maharashtra
- 7) Chairman of several inquiry Committees of Mumbai University Subject Matters.
- 8) Member of Drafting Maharashtra Private University Act.
- 9) One man Committee appointed by Governor of Rajasthan for inquiry of irregular appointment of teachers.
- 10) Member of Committee to inquire irregular appointments of teachers in the Environmental Science Department of Devi Ahilyabai University, Solapur.
- 11) One man Committee to inquire into GPF fraud at The Institute of Science, Mumbai

- 12) One man Committee of University of Mumbai to inquire irregular purchase of papers of examination Department.
- 13) Chairman of the Committee appointed by Government of Rajasthan to upgrade the standard of Higher Education in the State of Rajasthan (4 IAS Officers and 4 Vice-Chancellors were the other members)

Dr. Sawant's landmark contribution in Environmental Science

- 1) Took up the issue of pollution of Vaitarna River at Wada Dist. Palgar due to Acid and Fertilizer Plants and convinced the State and Central Government to take necessary measures. Yr. 1985-1987.
- 2) Investigated the acid spill at Kalyan by Nylon factory killing 11 people from nearby hutments due to poisoning by sulfurous acid. Yr. 1987-1988
- 3) Brought to the notice Lead (Pb) pollution due to Pb-alloy manufacturing industry at Dadara-Nagar Haweli killing about 400 cattle heads and poisoning over 300 villagers. The factory was closed. Yr. 1991-1993
- 4) **Investigated Lead (Pb) poisoning in traffic police of Mumbai due to Leaded Petrol fumes inhaled during manning of traffic junction. This helped India leading to introduction of Unleaded Petrol. Yr. 1998-2000.**
- 5) Investigated Lead and Cadmium pollution in benthic fish species of Mumbai Coast. The issue was raised in Parliament by The Hon'ble Sushil Kumar Shinde. Yr. 1998.
- 6) Monitored heavy metal pollution of the Mumbai Coast, Vaitarna, Ulhas and Kalu Rivers. Yr. 1987-2005
- 7) Developed the model of Phytoremediation at industrially spoiled land at Dombivali MIDC area. This successful project was sponsored by MMRDA. Yr. 1997-2000
- 8) Headed the successful protest of cutting the trees on Cadle Road, Dadar. Yr. 1997-1998.
- 9) Certified by NEERI as Environmental Expert.
- 10) Implemented many studies for assessment and impact of Municipal Solid Waste.
- 11) Member of Global Waste to Energy Council and World Water Council.

Awards and Honors:

- 1) Received an Award, an **ISAS Honorary Fellowship Feb. 2024** of Indian Society of Analytical Scientist for valuable and commendable contributions to Science and Technology.
- 2) Recipient of **Lifetime Achievement Award 2023** of Indian Chemical Society, Kolkata. Awarded on 20th December 2023, at IIT New Delhi at the hands of Padma Vibhushan Prof. M .M. Sharma. Followed by felicitation at The Institute of Science by Padma Vibhushan Dr. R. Chidambaram Former Chairman DAE & Scientific Advisor to The Prime Minister.
- 3) **Idol of Maharashtra** by Sakal Media Pvt. Ltd. 2022.
- 4) **Paryavaran Vibhushan Award**, 2020 of Environment and Social Development Association, New Delhi India.
- 5) Award Paper in Encyclopedia of Analytical Science, Cambridge University (1996)

- 6) **Gold Medal of Indian Society of Applied Geochemists** (CSIR), Hyderabad for the best paper of Year (2012)
- 7) **Environmental Excellence** Award of NEERI (CSIR) (1993)
- 8) **Lifetime Achievement Award** of Thane District Industrial Association (2001)