**Name :** Mr. P. K. Visvesvaran (aka) P. K. V

**Birth :** September 27, 1943

**Death :** September 11, 2017

**About:**

Professor PKV was an alumnus of the Madras School of Social Work himself. He graduated from the institute, and immediately joined as a professor, became the principal, retired and was still associated with MSSW long after. MSSW was his one and only full-time workplace. He factually breathed and lived at MSSW. So much so, to his family members he is synonymous with this institution.

He belongs to the 1963-65 batch of MSSW. After which he joined the institute and officially worked until 2004. He was associated with many other reputed institutes like Stella Maris, Loyola, DG Vaishnav, ICMRIndian Council of Medical Research, to name a few. He was a regular contributor in the Indian Journal of Social Work, released by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Some of his independent publications in the Indian Journal of Social Work which could still be available online are as follows:

• Admission criteria and internal assessment in a school of social work: An analysis- P.K. Visvesvaran-April 2000

• How a minority tribal group in Nepal has reacted to oppression - A book review essay-P.K.

Visvesvaran-April 2001

• Exploitation of the poor, communal squabbles, and the emergence of organised labour in

British India- P.K. Visvesvaran -October 2002

**Other Work:**

Professor PKV was associated with many NGOs mostly unofficially and informally-There are too many to name. However, he was consistently associated with Bala Vihar in Kilpauk, where he trained the teachers of special children with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis etc. He used to go there week on week with an abundance of passion – and he literally lived his non-MSSW hours there aside from his own home. He also regularly contributed to the Journal of School Social Work during his retirement and post retirement days.

**PKV and the MSSW Library:**

Professor PKV, as some of his students would say, literally knew each bookshelf and each book in the MSSW library. Many have quoted examples of how he would know exactly where a particular book or research work lay and would pick and give it precisely when it was needed. He also had his own paper cuttings on many topics related to his work at MSSW and many interesting topics in general(he was an avid collector of information – at home he would always be found cutting out important social work articles from newspapers and magazines-much to the chagrin of his family, who would never get an opportunity to read a complete newspaper ) This was long before google was born-so he was literally the equivalent of google for MSSW- it is interesting coincidence that both Google and Professor PKV share birthdays! (September 27th)

**PKV and the MSSW Principal’s Office:**

PKV was the principal- in- charge and later the principal of MSSW for almost a decade. So he had to move out from his professors room on the top floors to the Principal’s desk on the ground floor. Legend has it that he asked to remove the Air Conditioner from his room. His room was always messy- as was his space at home-Always strewn with books, paper cuttings-This became part of his overall personality. Nevertheless, his room at work and home was always a welcoming space, where he would cheerfully welcome his students and sometimes go out of the way to help them with information or guidance/training or even plain counselling.

**PKV and his Students:**

To Professor PKV, his students were his world. He was always patient and approachable-and everloving with his students. The students would never believe that Professor PKV was known for his temper at home- since he was an epitome of kindness to his students. Students were his lifeline, his “raison-d-etre”- and that kept him going through all odds. Even if the going was rough or he was sick, he would prepare and wake up the next day with full anticipation of meeting and teaching his students. As life would have it, he was surrounded mostly by his students from MSSW, through his last journey in the hospital and even upon his death. The student community of MSSW remains his first family!

**Personally..**

Professor PKV was a wordsmith. He had a keen passion to learn languages- He had learnt French and German in the very early stages of his life and was continuing to learn English all along his life. He was always reading, even on his deathbed, and he passed on the legacy and interest of reading and writing to everyone who knew him well. In the locality where he lived Professor PKV was popularly known as “Radio Mama '' since was always carrying a transistor listening particularly to Voice of America. This channel required some special tuning and he would keenly do it from his terrace- Those were the days long before International news channels came to our fingertips and radio was the only source of information. The habit continued all along his life. He lived a very simple life, hardly concerned about outward expressions of wealth or knowledge-For him- every work was internal.

**Gratitude:**

The family of Professor PK Visvesvaran is indebted to all his students from MSSW- for supporting him/ them during their darkest hours of his passing. The students right from the early batches lined up like Godsent warriors helping the family in every way-and until today continue to remain in touch with the family with so much affection and concern. On behalf of Professor PKV, the family remains in deepest gratitude to the MSSW community.