He always emphasised the importance of education as the foundation for social development based on good human values and Fundamental Human Rights and the development of human capital for economic and social development at the national level. His message was always that education has to be the vehicle for transformation of society and the nation.

**Social & Spiritual Interests**

He was a very pious and spiritual person and this aspect was clearly reflected in his lifestyle and his devotion and commitment towards the down-trodden and marginalized sections of society. He believed that for the holistic development of these sections, education is a must and should be available to everyone without any hindrance.

A highlight of his initiatives is the establishment of Divine Life Foundation in Uchippuli, Ramnad district, Tamil Nadu in 2008 in the name of his spiritual Guru Sathguru Thavaththiru Chiitra Muthu Adikal. This foundation has established a centre for education focused on education bursaries for school girls, vocational education for all, hostel facilities for school boys and spiritual education for all. His vision was to empower and mobilize community participation in these types of projects to gradually bring the marginalised communities in rural areas into the mainstream of national economic and social development of the nation.

All of us remember Sh. Eswaran as a man who always held the people at the grassroots level close to his heart. He was a simple man, easy to approach and discuss issues of concern. His contributions to all engaged in the upliftment of the poor through education will always be cherished. Sh. Eswaran will be our role model to follow. Let us dedicate ourselves to his mission. **Let us continue his good work as a tribute to him.**

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**To live in the hearts of the Millions, He leaves behind is not to die**
His Life...

Sh. S. Eswaran was born on 5th May 1938 in a small town of Thiruppunavasal, in Tamil Nadu. At that time nobody perhaps realized that this ordinary man with the passage of time would become a great leader and a mentor for millions of teachers not only at home but globally. His wisdom and leadership were greatly valued by all who knew him. He started his career as primary teacher at Karaiur school, Rameshwaran. In 1962, he came in contact with Rammunny and began his journey as a unionist. He was best recognized for more than five decades for his devotion to unionism. He left for his heavenly abode on 20th October 2014 at Chennai, Tamilnadu after a brief illness. He was married to Smt. P. Saraswathi and had two daughters Vijaya, Jayanthi and a son, Sarvanan. Eswaran jji would always recount, with great admiration and respect, the support and cooperation of his family particularly his wife in each and every endeavour of his life.

Professional Life...

He assumed his first union post in 1962 as Block Secretary of Tamil Nadu Elementary School Teachers’ Federation (TESTF). He held this position for next 13 years before becoming the General Secretary of the TESTF, an affiliate of AIPTF since 1974. After that he never looked back, he served continuously for 22 years as the General Secretary of the TESTF. Later, he was also elected as Vice President and President and Secretary General of AIPTF. Under his leadership as AIPTF’s Secretary General since 1997, the union’s membership grew beyond 2.3 million primary school teachers across the country and the union achieved glory both nationally and internationally.

At the global level, Sh. Eswaran began his journey when he was elected to the Executive Board of Education International in 2001. With his move to Education International he left a mark of his dedication to the cause of teachers, quality education and child rights became evident to all who met him. He gained lot of insight about problems and prospects in the field of education in general and teacher education in particular. He made immense contribution in the areas of Education for All, Elementary Education, Curriculum Development and issues related to Education and improving the status of teachers at National and International levels. He was a great asset in implementing the educational programmes for teachers in India supported by the EI member organization in Australia, Canada, Denmark and Sweden.

Throughout his life as a dedicated educationist and unionist, he strived for quality education for all, empowerment of women, eradication of child labour and bringing about improvement in economic, professional and social status of members of teaching community particularly in the developing countries. He was a great crusader against privatization and commercialisation of education and fought against forces of privatization hidden under the garb of public private partnerships etc.

His leadership was based on simple philosophy of patience to listen to the problems of teachers, students and the rural population and constructive thinking, planning, implementation and evaluation of projects in the interest of the needs of the teaching fraternity. He was realistic in undertaking projects as he was always conscious that ‘Rome was not built in a day’. His relationship with grassroots leaders and members was exemplary, strong and meaningful as they always supported his initiatives especially for the students and teachers.