



# Dr. Kalyani Vallath

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## A Visionary Edupreneur

### Detailed Profile



Dr. Kalyani Vallath is a multi-faceted educational pioneer and a distinguished figure in the realm of English Studies. With a diverse portfolio that encompasses roles such as an educational entrepreneur, editor, and teacher, Vallath's impactful journey is characterised by innovation and dedication. Her passion for English education led her to establish Total English Solutions in Thiruvananthapuram, where her mission is to impart the nuances of the English language to individuals residing in remote Indian communities. This movement later evolved into Vallath Education, a hub for a spectrum of education and literature activities related to English, and reaching out to students across India.

Her commitment to bridging educational gaps has resulted in her notable accomplishment in compiling *A Contemporary Encyclopedia of British Literature* in three volumes, *A Contemporary Encyclopedia of Literature of the Americas* in two volumes and *A Contemporary Encyclopedia of Indian Literature* in two volumes, published by Vallath Books (formerly Bodhi Tree Books), tailored specifically for the Indian student audience. More in the series are being prepared and will be released soon.

Notably, Dr. Vallath's teaching philosophy revolves around alternative education, multi-literacies, and multi-

modality. Furthermore, she founded E-ProF, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary studies and professions related to English language and literature. Vallath's academic journey has seen her receive the prestigious Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Doctoral Fellowship, which facilitated her research at the University of British Columbia, Canada. In addition to her role as an educator, Dr. Vallath serves as the associate editor of *Litcrit*, a renowned literary journal.

Under her guidance, Vallath Education is today recognised as a platform for various streams of artistic and socially interventional measures to come together. Vallath Repertory has been launched to promote and support those with a passion for theatre to find their creative space. Vallath Education is a regular participant in socio-cultural events in the region like the annual PRIDE Rally held at Trivandrum. Dr. Vallath was a key presence at the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters 2024 (popularly known as Ka Festival), where she led discussions on topics related to new sensibilities in literature and education.

She has also shared her entrepreneurial insights at various international conferences. Her teaching style is an embodiment of eclecticism, incorporating mime, acting, humour, and even heartfelt emotion to make the exploration of literature a captivating journey for her students. Undoubtedly, Dr. Kalyani Vallath is a pioneer in educational innovation whose innovative methods, commitment to education accessibility, and dedication to social causes have left an indelible mark on the landscape of English literature education in Kerala and beyond.



#### Academic Qualifications



- ✦ Conducted research at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, from 2003 to 2004, supported by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Doctoral Research Fellowship, and awarded the Ph.D. degree in 2008 by the University of Kerala, Trivandrum. Topic: "Modes of Denial and Gratification in Children's Cinema".
- ✦ Successfully cleared the UGC NET with JRF in December 1999.
- ✦ Achieved a First Class (72% marks) in M.A. in English Language and Literature in 1998 from the Institute of English, University of Kerala.



- ✦ Selected to be one among the women honoured at SHEmpower Awards instituted by Kerala Kaumudi daily in 2024.
- ✦ One among the exceptional women honoured with SHE Awards: Honouring Women, Architects of Tomorrow, by WICCI, [www.wegrowforest.org](http://www.wegrowforest.org) and ALL, during Women's Day Celebrations in March 2024.
- ✦ Honoured as a Distinguished Women Entrepreneur by the Allama Iqbal Institute of Management, Peringammala, during the 'Entrepresario' event hosted at Vakkom Moulavi Foundation, Trivandrum in 2016.

#### Awards and Distinctions



- ✦ Received the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) Doctoral Research Fellowship for the academic year 2003-2004.
- ✦ Granted the Ministry for Human Resource Development Scholarship by the Government of India for Postgraduate Studies.



- ✦ Organized Bread Stories: A Cross Cultural Workshop on 20 October 2023, Bharath Mata College, Ernakulam
- ✦ Organized Bread Stories: A Cross Cultural Workshop on 18 October 2023, Mar Ivanios College, Trivandrum
- ✦ Organized Game Fest on 5 September 2023 at Vallath, Trivandrum
- ✦ Organized Cervantes's Don Quixote Lecture & Kathakali Performance on 23 May 2023, Karthika Thirunal Theatre, Trivandrum
- ✦ Founded Cultural Studies Research Forum, an open online platform for Students & Researchers in 2021
- ✦ Organized the 3-Day Women of Kerala Fest from March 6 to March 8, 2020, at Kalangan, Trivandrum.
- ✦ Served as a Member of the Board of Studies:
  - At Modern College, Pune, Maharashtra.
  - At Kaveri Autonomous College for Women, Trichy.
  - At St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, Kerala.

#### Professional Experience



- ✦ Serving as Faculty for the Certificate Programme in Copy Editing and Proofreading since August 14, 2019, at Sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala.
- ✦ Organized and served as the chief resource person at one-day and three-day Orientation Workshops on Western Intellectual History conducted by TES at over 100 colleges throughout India from 2005 to the present.
- ✦ Directed the Young Communicators Club (YCC), Kerala Chapter, under the Public Relations Council of India from July 2016 to July 2018, focusing on nurturing communication and leadership skills in young individuals.
- ✦ Held the position of Vice President at the International Federation for Professional Trainers (IFPT), Kerala, from February 2017 to February 2018.
- ✦ Founded Ace of Clubs, a gaming club for English literature professionals, in 2016, exploring the applications of gaming and gamification in higher education.

- ✦ Established the NGO, E-ProF, in 2015, dedicated to providing training to graduates and postgraduates of English literature for various academic and non-academic professions.
- ✦ Acted as Guest Faculty for postgraduate classes at the Institute of Distance Education, University of Kerala, from 2004 to 2012.
- ✦ Edited publications for UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank, including "Heal Women, Heal India: Empowering Women with Traditional Wisdom" (2007).
- ✦ Serving as a member of the Editorial Board for Litterit: An Indian Response to Literature since 2006, an academic journal with international readership established in 1975.
- ✦ Assisted and collaborated with Dr. Ayyappa Panikker, a renowned Indian poet, critic, and academic for the following:
  - In 1998-2000 on an Indira Gandhi Fellowship Project on Indian Narratology.
  - Between 1998-2000 on the translation of The Complete Works of Shakespeare into Malayalam, published by DC Books.
  - The revision of the Encyclopaedia of Indian Literature, a Kendra Sahitya Akademi project, from 2000 until his death in 2006.

#### Professional Experience



- ✦ Established the Trivandrum Literary Supplement, a literary magazine for students and scholars, with the ISSN 2454-8227 and Registration No. KERENG/2015/60835.
- ✦ Served as Visiting Faculty for Communication and Life Skills Development and Corporate Training at various management institutes, companies, and corporations in India and abroad.
- ✦ Held the position of Guest Faculty at government institutions such as BSNL, Institute of Management in Government (IMG), Police Training College, Trivandrum, and IIT (Madras).
- ✦ Contributed 25 hours as Faculty for the NET Coaching Programme at St. Joseph's College, Devagiri, Calicut.
- ✦ Facilitated over 100 seminars and workshops across India.



✦ In collaboration with The Hindu Newspaper, held workshops on the theme “Creative Writing” in the following places:

- Victoria College, Palakadu, on November 14, 2023.
- MES College, Perunthalmanna, on November 8, 2023.
- CMS College, Kottayam, on November 2, 2023.
- Bharata Matha College, Ernakulam, on October 12, 2023.

#### Seminars and Workshops



- ✦ One Day National Workshop on Literature to Life: Gateway of NET/SET & JRF on 22 September 2023, St. Jude’s College, Thoothoor, Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Organised 2-day NET Orientation program at Amritha University, Kochi, on September 7 and 8, 2023.
- ✦ Two Day Workshop on Self Learning for NTA-NET/ MH-SET (English) on 16-17 February 2023, Abasaheb Garware College, Pune, Maharashtra
- ✦ Led a full-day session on ‘UGC-NET-JRF and Career Opportunities for PG English Students’ at St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry on 8 April 2025.
- ✦ Did a talk on ‘Digital Humanities’ at the Department of English, School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) on 11 April 2025.



- ✦ Presented a paper on “Shakespearean Characters in Flux: Unravelling Abled - Disabled Dichotomy in Performance”, at the 46th Comparative Drama Conference held at Orlando, Florida on April 5, 2024. The paper was based on the play ‘To Be or Not To Be: An Interactive Dialogue on Dis/Ability’ by Vallath Repertory.
- ✦ Special Talk on Guilty Pleasure and Exhaustion: An Overview of Contemporary American Literature on 24 October 2023, Cultural Studies Research Forum, Trivandrum

#### Academic Presentations



- ✦ Delivered a Lecture on Literary Theory and Cultural Studies on 6 October 2023, St. Mary’s College, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

- ✦ Conducted a 1-day seminar on 'Why Read Cultural Studies?' at Fatima Mata National College, Kollam, on September 15, 2023.
- ✦ Delivered a lecture on 'The Future is Androgynous: Beyond Binaries in Education' on 15 March 2023, WIN 2023, Pre-conference Webinar, National Institute of Technology, Warangal, Telangana
- ✦ Conducted a 3-hour lecture on 'Diverse Career Options after BA English Literature' on January 30, 2020, at the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod.
- ✦ Participated in a plenary session on 'Teacher as Leader: Towards a Fluid Classroom' on November 22, 2019, at the University of Kerala International Conference on Teaching English in the Post-method Era.
- ✦ Delivered a key-note presentation on 'There was Once a Future: Reimagining the Everyday Post-human' on November 21, 2019, at the International Seminar on Literature and Post-humanism organized by the Department of English, University College, Trivandrum.
- ✦ Discussed 'Women's Leadership in Education: An Action Research Project' on November 19, 2019, at Dau Dayal Mahila PG College, Firozabad, UP.
- ✦ Delivered a lecture on 'Feminisms' during a Literary Theory Seminar held by the School of Distance Education, University of Kerala, on October 26, 2019.
- ✦ Presented a lecture on 'Diverse Career Options for Students of English Literature' on October 10, 2019, at VTM NSS College, Dhanuvachapuram, Trivandrum.
- ✦ Delivered an instructional session on Academic Writing at a Three-day National Workshop on April 11, 2019, organized by the Research & Development Cell, Sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala.
- ✦ Led a plenary session on Experiential Learning at the Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights on March 18, 2019, at St. Cyril's College, Adoor.
- ✦ Contributed to a plenary session on 'Futuristic Practices in Teaching English Literature' at The MESMAC International Conferences on People First? Man, Machine & Milieu on January 16, 2019, at MES Mampad College, Malappuram.

#### Academic Presentations



- ✦ Participated in The Young Intellectuals 'Lecture Series on October 4, 2018, at The International Colloquium on Literature, Theory, and the History of Ideas, MSM College, Kayamkulam.
- ✦ Delivered a paper on 'Social Empowerment through EDUpreneurship: An Action Research Project' on August 1, 2018, at the Oxford Women's Leadership Symposium, Somerville College, Oxford, UK.
- ✦ Presented a paper on 'Women as Social Entrepreneurs: Opportunities, Challenges' at The 4th World Conference on Women's Studies 2018, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on May 4, 2018.
- ✦ Presented a paper on 'Woman as Social EDUpreneur: Opportunities, Challenges' on March 22, 2018, at the Oxford Women's Leadership Symposium, Merton College, Oxford, UK.
- ✦ Delivered a lecture on 'Formalism and New Criticism' at the Workshop on Literary Theory on February 13, 2018, at LAD College, Nagpur.
- ✦ Provided a lecture on 'Entrepreneurship' on February 6, 2018, at the Department of Commerce, Assam Central University, Diphu Campus.
- ✦ Contributed to 20 paper presentations and keynote addresses in national and international seminars/conferences in India and Canada.



- ✦ Contributed a section of the Ph.D. Thesis to CIFEJ Info, a periodical publication of CIFEJ (Centre International du Film pour l'Enfance et la jeunesse or International Centre of Films for Children and Young People), published in 2011.
- ✦ Published two research articles on English Language Teaching: "Pradesika English: Oru Bhasha Keezhadangunnu" and "English enna Avasya Vasthu," on August 31, 2007, and September 7, 2007, respectively, in Janayugam Daily.
- ✦ Translated Kovilan's "Mother and Son" published in *Malayalam Literary Survey*, Sahitya Akademi, Thrissur, 2006.

#### Academic Presentations



#### Publications



- ✦ Published a paper titled "Hollywood versus Children's Films of La Fete: Issues of Reality, Fantasy, and National Identity" in the journal *Canadian Children* 30.1, Spring 2005, published from Ontario, Canada.
- ✦ Paper "Towards Defining Children's Cinema" in *English Activities Update*, July 2005.
- ✦ Article "Children's Films of La Fete and Hollywood: Issues of Reality, Fantasy and National Identity" published in *Canadian Children*, Journal of the Canadian Association for Young Children, Ontario, Canada, Vol. 30 No. 1, Spring Issue, 2005, pp. 9-15.

#### Publications



- ✦ Translated from Malayalam to English Rajalakshmy's "Atmahatya" and E.V. Krishna Pillai's "Kukkuda Yuvathi," both published in *Twentieth Century Malayalam Literature*, Ed. Ayyappa Paniker, Trivandrum: NERC, 2000.
- ✦ Poems published: "The Spider" and "Insufficient" in *Samakalina kavita: A Journal of Poetry and Poetics* 7 (Jan 1996): p. 449, and "Ganga" in *A New Book of Indian Poems in English*, ed. G.K. Kottoor. A Writers Workshop Redbird Book. Kolkata: Writers Workshop, 2000.
- ✦ Numerous Book Reviews published in various academic journals including *Littcrit*.
- ✦ Authored approximately 10 books, a mix of informative and creative genres, specifically designed for children, and published by various publishers.



#### Professional Partnerships



- ✦ Partnered with Garden City University, a State Private University established as per the Karnataka State Act No. 47 of 2013, with a goal of restricting the syllabus and enhancing the curriculum as well as designing projects/courses to make students of English language and literature more employable. She is spearheading the process of inculcating entrepreneurial skills among students of English.
- ✦ Member of the Board of Studies of the English Department at Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat