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Introducing Telugu poets to English readers

Gollapudi Srinivasa Rao

K. Damodar Rao translated scores of poems and short stories into English

The associate professor in English specialises in African fiction



K. Damodar Rao

WARANGAL: Some people convert their vocation into avocation and become good Samaritans. They not only live for themselves but live contended by extending a helping hand to others, enriching the society, sometimes at their own expense. Here is an academic who belongs to this class.

Over the years, associate professor of English K. Damodar Rao endeared himself as friend, philosopher and guide to rural poor students. They believe his association helps them 'fight the fear of English' confidently.

Committed to teaching and writing, he established himself as a well-known critic and translator. He translated scores of Telugu poems and short stories into English thus introducing Telugu poets to readers.

He brought name to the university and the State by winning a prize in the

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Literary Translation Contest organised by the Central Sahitya Akademi on the occasion of the golden jubilee (1957-2007) of its bi-monthly, Indian Literature for his translations of N. Gopi's Telugu poems.

He produced commendable work on African literature and authored a book on Ghanaian writer, *The Novels of Ayi Kwei Armah*, which is considered as pioneering critical work. He also edited anthology of essays on postcolonial theory and literature, published in 2003. He has to his credit about 25 research articles, five translated books and hundreds of Telugu poems translated into English.

Born in 1959 in Munagala village in Nalgonda district, he began his career as junior lecturer and joined Kakatiya University in 1991. He spends most of his time reading and writing, mostly dedicated to bringing to limelight the popular and unsung Telugu poets through his translations.

His translated works were featured in prestigious literary magazines - New Quest, Pratibha India, Indian Literature, Revaluations, Haritham, Kavya Bharathi, and Kakatiya Journal of English Studies. Mr. Damodar specialises in African fiction in English, Indian fiction in English, regional literatures in translation, translation studies and postcolonial literature.

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