One of us…

Ashok Dyal Chand



Look at the picture! You won't be blamed if you guessed it as a self-portrait by Ashok! The truth is, it is a patchwork by none other than our Lalitha Wairagar.

We know him as a great artist, not knowing how he found time for such masterpieces. Always fun loving and great talker, orator and the first in ducking visitors to men's hostel! His work adorns all over CMC – the pediatric ward, the ingenious but simple design of the cross in the Auditorium for chapel services, of course his breathtaking painting in the hospital chapel which has become a talk of our batch recently.

Not only for the CMC but he and I used to earn some pocket money during Christmas selling cards painted by him. I was the sales man! I can't forget his designing wedding invitation card for our wedding on17th December 1971.

He had his own ups and downs as anyone else during his earlier carrier eventually settling down in public health and going on to win The World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child in 2019 for his work in Pachod in preventing child marriages by empowering adolescent girls[1].

"Children's Nobel Prize" goes to advocate against child marriage

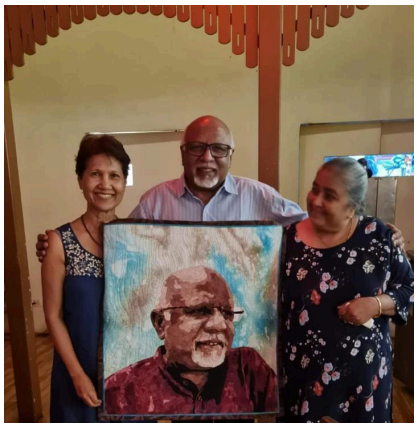
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All three candidates were honoured as Child Rights. Heroes at a ceremony today at Gripsholm Castle in Mariefred, Sweden. Children from 13 countries got to help Sweden's Princess Sofia present the awards. The prize money, SEK 700,000, is shared between the recipient of the World's Children's Prize (SEK 350,000) and the two recipients of the Honorary Award (SEK 175,000 each), and is to be used in their work for children.

Read the story behind Ashok's Portrait: (Lalitha's own words)

[1] Published Online in The Lancet, May 10, 2014 Institute of Health Management Pachod, Maharashtra, India (A Dyalchand MPH) Correspondence to: Dr Ashok Dyalchand, Institute of Health Management, Pachod (IHMP), 32/2/2, Kharadi Road, Chandannagar, Pune 411014, Maharashtra, India dyalchand@gmail.com



Did you know that Gahu and I worked for a year (till the project fund was available) in his NGO the IHMP (Institute of Health Management, Pachod). I truly came to know the greatness of this fun-loving guy that I had known in college. His clear vision, absolute dedication to his work and long-term planning as well as ability to translate the need of girls and young adults of economically disadvantaged group into fundraising was phenomenal.

After we left the organization and after he was awarded, I felt compelled to make something with my own hands.

I spent over 3 months creating this portrait quilt with more than 200 pieces of fabric! The piecing was done by me and the quilting (you can see the patterns highlighting the features when you zoom in was done by my quilter friend who has appropriate read as expensive quilting machine. Rohini and I invited him for dinner and I presented that to him. He became very emotional on seeing it.

I had said at that time though this is done by me, it's on behalf of class girls. (since the boys had not formed any group by then).

So that's the story behind this portraits quilt. Raj, Ashok's sister had smuggled the pic for me without him knowing!

Lalitha Wairagar