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Language: English
Type of Presentation: Key Note Address

About the Presenter:

V R Devika is the Founder and Managing Trustee of the 'ASEEMA' (Without Boundaries) Trust for linking traditional performing arts, education and Mahatma Gandhi. She is also the Cultural Coordinator of Prakriti Foundation (www.prakritifoundation.com), Past Director for Education and Culture wing of the Madras Craft Foundation (1985-96). She continues as a consultant to the MCF and member of its advisory council for its project Dakshinachitra Heritage Center. (www.dakshinachitra.net/). Over the years her work has revolved around integrating the three passions of her life: Traditional performing arts, Gandhi and Teaching. She analyses Gandhi's methods of communication and demonstrates how he used the techniques of the traditional Indian performing arts (angika, vachika, aaharya) to communicate with the masses.

Title of Paper: **The Seven Deadly Sins: Work as Gandhi saw it:**

Abstract:

Mahatma Gandhi symbolizes a way of life. His philosophy of education (Nai Taleem) states that knowledge and work are not separate. One of Gandhiji's fundamental contributions to education is enshrined in his statement, "For the all-round development of boys and girls all training should as far as possible be given through a profit-yielding vocation." This led to one of the earliest resolutions that influenced national educational policy. One of the key elements of this policy was that "...the process of education ... should centre around some form of manual and productive work..." Nai Taleem not only included work as an integral part of education, it aimed and instilling in the child, a work ethic guided by the principle of dignity of labor.

Devika's Key Note Presentation is as unusual as its title! The *Charka* (spinning wheel) symbolises the central element of Gandhiji's philosophy of work and indeed of life, namely, self-reliance and self-mediation. Devika's presentation will begin with the *charka* and then move on to demonstrating how



Gandhi's person-centered approach to work fits beautifully into the demands of the contemporary world of work, characterised as it by the vagaries of the labour market.

Her presentation includes rare and stunning video footage of Mahatma Gandhi and discusses the relevance of Gandhi statement "*...my life is my message,*" to the practice of person-centered counselling in today's world.