

***My personal and professional association  
with Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan***

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I had come into close contact with Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan at the India International Centre (IIC) in her capacity as its Life Trustee, Vice-President and President. But it was after I superannuated from the Centre in the year 2000 that I started working directly for her, especially since 2003 when she took over as Chairperson of the IIC-Asia Project.

Working in IIC as Programme Officer and Secretary had made me come into touch with a large number of persons from diverse fields. This association had enlarged my own interest in and understanding of many an issue. This opportunity increased manifold with my working for Dr. Vatsyayan.

It was a great privilege working for her. It was also a pleasurable and educative experience for me. I often used to accompany her in connection with her engagements in other organizations, within Delhi and outside, and once outside India. On one such occasion she could not travel to Kolkata for addressing the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, and I had the privilege of reading out her speech to a good gathering, a first such experience for me. Dr. Vatsyayan had a good sense of humour. One could exchange jokes with her. A sure way to amuse her was to quote (or misquote) Shakespeare! (She had taught English literature in the Miranda House).

We get to know an interesting account of Dr. Vatsyayan's own life experiences from her biography, under the title 'Afloat a Lotus Leaf', authored and published by Jyoti Sabharwal. She commanded a lot of respect and admiration – some awe – from all those who came into contact with her.