

## **Prof. (Dr.) Zakkariya K.A.**

### **(A Brief Profile-2025 August)**

Dr. Zakkariya K.A. is Professor at the School of Management Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kerala with 27 years of experience in teaching, training and research. A widely known academic and institution builder, he has been at the forefront of several landmark initiatives in higher education. He was instrumental in establishing three major centres at CUSAT: the DDU KAUSHAL Kendra (DDUKK) for vocational education, the Centre for Employee Empowerment and Skill Acquisition (CEESA), and the Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE) under the European Union's Erasmus+ project.

Currently, Dr. Zakkariya serves as Southern Regional Vice President of the Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD), New Delhi, emerging as a national leader in learning and development. He has also been nominated thrice to the Syndicate of CUSAT by the Government of Kerala, becoming the youngest ever Syndicate member of CUSAT in 2003. Remarkably, he is the only university teacher in Kerala—and perhaps in India—elected six times consecutively to a University Senate.

Beyond Kerala, Dr. Zakkariya has worked to bring global perspectives into Indian education. He played a central role in making CUSAT a partner institution in the EU's Capacity Building in Higher Education project, trained under the Erasmus+ scheme, and served as Guest Researcher at Dresden University of Technology, Germany.

His leadership journey includes several key positions: Director of Aligarh Muslim University Centre at Malappuram, Executive Council Member of AMU, Governing Council Member of Kerala State Higher Education Council, Director of the School of Management Studies at CUSAT, General Council Member of Kerala Agricultural University, Director of Students' Welfare at CUSAT, Chairman of ISTD Kochi Chapter, and President of the Cochin University Teachers' Organisation. He has also chaired three Boards of Studies at CUSAT simultaneously.

Academically, Dr. Zakkariya holds master's degrees in Psychology (University of Calicut, second rank), MBA (Calicut University), and MHRM (University of Kerala). He earned his PhD from CUSAT for pioneering research in Emotional Intelligence. A prolific researcher, he has published over 100 research papers and co-authored six books. He has successfully guided 17 PhD scholars. His work has been widely cited, with over 1,750 Google Scholar citations, an H-index of 23, and i10 index of 38. As a teacher and trainer, Dr. Zakkariya has touched over a million learners, from students to corporate executives and defense personnel, through engaging lectures and training programmes. He has taken up consulting assignments with institutions including Indian Oil Corporation, Samagra Shiksha Kerala, Indian Navy, etc.

His contributions have been recognised with several honours, including the Best Member Award and Fellowship from ISTD, New Delhi. He has served on expert committees of UGC and AICTE, chaired NAAC peer teams, and continues to play advisory roles in educational governance. As Secretary and Correspondent of MES College Marampally, he steered its transformation from a NAAC 'B' grade institution to an 'A+' accredited college.

Dr. Zakkariya is admired as much for his warmth and inspiring teaching as for his vision and leadership. His career reflects a rare blend of scholarship, institution building, and global engagement—qualities that continue to shape young minds and strengthen higher education in India.