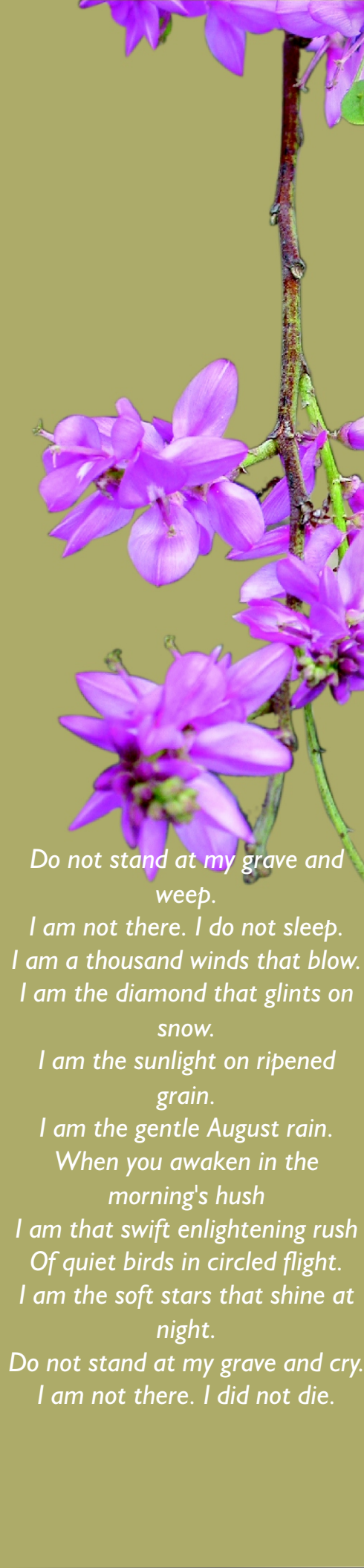


The Shrikant Joshi Endowment Fund





shrikant

was born and lived his early years in the town of Almora in Kumaon in Uttarakhand. After completing his high school, he came to Delhi University (Hansraj College) to pursue his B. Sc. (1976) and then M.Sc in Zoology (1978). His early exposure to life in the hills, and training in Zoology (entomology being a special interest), was to catapult him to a life of search, to do things, and help and inspire others to make human conditions better. That was to set him to a life of traveling and work, across different parts of India (Japan, Africa and UK too figured in these travels) not just different parts but deep into the lives of people in remote areas where governments would not tread, only NGOs reached out.

He chose to work in the areas of land and water management, mountain environments, tribal areas, forest issues, environmental education, mining, agriculture, vermiculture, eco-friendly livelihoods income generation and traditional health-care... an endless list. Trained as a professional, he believed that working with people required human values, not a professional tool-kit only; and thus he was to work on building capacities to document, to train, to research, to network and create linkages, to market and get people to make significant things happen, while being there somewhere in the background.



Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond that glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle August rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

*I am that swift enlightening rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.

I am not there. I did not die.

GLIMPSES OF HIM AS A PERSON



His vast experience and network in the Development field since 1970s has been a nursery ground for us to imbibe, learn and draw inspiration from. He was a rare resource person in this field, a great colleague for us and our staff, and a friend in many of our personal and professional journeys.

I recall his smile very knowing and mysterious. Full spirited as we know he always was a lovely person, simple in his ways and completely unpretentious to the world. Mostly quiet but forceful in debate when he felt strongly on something

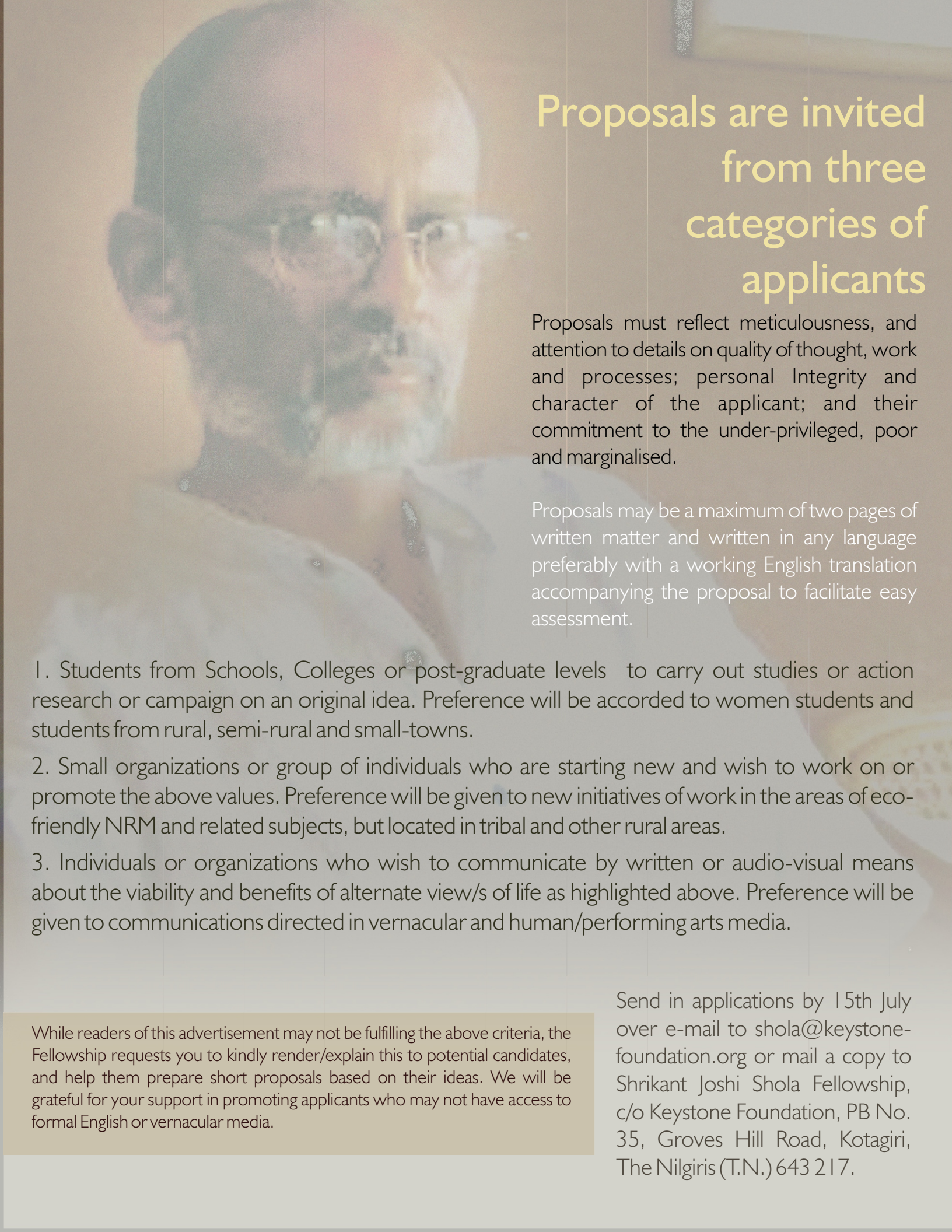
His association with TARU saw him serve as director in the NRM and Community Development area since 1996 until 2005. He helped develop and assess water and sanitation, forestry and watershed and livelihoods programs in Gangtok, Madhya Pradesh, HP, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal, while providing crucial back-up in human management, training and organizational development support. At Keystone Foundation, he was almost an honorary founder member and a source of continuing support - a frequent visitor (shifted base once there too for a few months), while helping nurturing flowers, fruits and worms; crafting water and land management strategies; rolling up sleeves to do projects, training and building staff capacity, and being ... There.

A rare meshwork that his life was; woven by the finest of tastes, humblest of virtues, deepest of human concerns, and tallest of principles inspires to imbue our work and life endeavours with his humane and people-centric spirit. A life so pristine that some fondly called him Shola-ji after the pristine natural mixed forests of South India, no less after the Shola Fellowship (a network group) of which he was one of the pillars.

He Stood for

- Primacy of human values and relationships
- Deep humility, search for knowledge and awareness of others and their sensitivities
- Organic, natural and ecological basis for life
- Making small actions count





Proposals are invited from three categories of applicants

Proposals must reflect meticulousness, and attention to details on quality of thought, work and processes; personal Integrity and character of the applicant; and their commitment to the under-privileged, poor and marginalised.

Proposals may be a maximum of two pages of written matter and written in any language preferably with a working English translation accompanying the proposal to facilitate easy assessment.

1. Students from Schools, Colleges or post-graduate levels to carry out studies or action research or campaign on an original idea. Preference will be accorded to women students and students from rural, semi-rural and small-towns.
2. Small organizations or group of individuals who are starting new and wish to work on or promote the above values. Preference will be given to new initiatives of work in the areas of eco-friendly NRM and related subjects, but located in tribal and other rural areas.
3. Individuals or organizations who wish to communicate by written or audio-visual means about the viability and benefits of alternate view/s of life as highlighted above. Preference will be given to communications directed in vernacular and human/performing arts media.

While readers of this advertisement may not be fulfilling the above criteria, the Fellowship requests you to kindly render/explain this to potential candidates, and help them prepare short proposals based on their ideas. We will be grateful for your support in promoting applicants who may not have access to formal English or vernacular media.

Send in applications by 15th July over e-mail to shola@keystone-foundation.org or mail a copy to Shrikant Joshi Shola Fellowship, c/o Keystone Foundation, PB No. 35, Groves Hill Road, Kotagiri, The Nilgiris (T.N.) 643 217.