Prof. Ravi Poovaiah has been a faculty member at IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay from 1980 to 2025. He has backgrounds in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Madras, Product Design from IIT Bombay and Graphic Design from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, USA.

Research Areas:
- His pedagogic as well as research and design interests are in fields related to Interaction Design, New Media Design, Visual Design and Product Design and his research interests are in areas related to Visual Language, Information Visualisation, Visual Narratives, Collaborative Social and Learning Environments and Designing for Children.

e-kalpa Open Design, Open Access project:
- He has also been co-ordinating a Ministry of Education sponsored project named 'e-kalpa' (dsource.in) to build design resources and tools for creating a learning environment for design in India.
- He is involved with building digital resources related to 'Design Archives', 'Design Learning Tools', 'Designing for Children', 'Design of Way-finding Systems', 'Open Design Tools', and 'Design in India' with free and open access to this information.

Jellow Labs:
- He is the co-director of Jellow Project (jellow.org) which is developing inclusive open design communication tools for children making use of 'Play and Learn' methodologies.

Design Professional Projects:
Professionally, he was involved with developing 'Collaborative Learning Environments' and 'Communications Environment on Television' for Microsoft Corporation and with designing the corporate vision and retail design for Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil Corporation. Notably, with R&D collaboration with BEL, he was able to co-design India's Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). Prof. Poovaiah's efforts to spread good design across the ecosystem also includes the countless project initiated independently or through guided projects that have brought in design-led advantages to organizations especially in the Non-Government sector.

Design and Innovation in Schools and Higher Education:
He is the chairman of the committee for developing the curriculum for introducing Design and Innovation in School Education in India which is now being implemented in over 2500 CBSE schools since 2023.
He is the Chairman for the all-India committee for Art, Craft and Design constituted by AICTE.

Conferences:
He also co-ordinates and chairs the following international conferences – Typoday, Design Education, Design for Sustainability, and Designing for children

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