

Bio-sketch of Dr. R Balasubramaniam

Dr. R Balasubramaniam (Balu) is a development activist who is a physician by qualification. After his MBBS, he earned his MPhil in Hospital Administration & Health Systems Management from BITS, Pilani. He has a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. His living habits were greatly influenced by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and at the age of 19, he founded the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (www.svym.org) based on the principles of Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (Truth), Seva (Service) and Tyaga (Sacrifice). He has spent the last 30 years of his life in the service of the rural and tribal poor in the forests of India. He has built this non-profit organization into India's leading development NGO and has successfully laid down all formal office and passed on the mantle to the next generation of leadership. Today the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) runs the Vivekananda Memorial Hospitals at Saragur and Kenchanahalli; the Viveka Tribal Center for Learning – a tribal residential school at Hosahalli; the Viveka School of Excellence – a rural school at Saragur; the Vivekananda Teacher Training & Research Center at Hosahalli; the Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, the Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies and the Grassroots Research & Advocacy Movement at Mysore. SVYM also runs more than 50 projects across the state of Karnataka and also has centers in the USA and UK.

Dr R Balasubramaniam is also the recipient of numerous other State and National Awards. Many International, National, and State Committees have counted upon his immense experience in planning and executing rural development programs. He is also an Advisory member of various organizations working in the fields of health and education in the country. Apart from lecturing & teaching regularly at Harvard and IIM-B on Leadership, he is also the distinguished Frank Rhodes Professor at Cornell University, USA. As the Vigilance Director, he has assisted the Lok Ayukta (the anti-corruption agency), Karnataka in investigating into issues of mal-administration and Corruption in the health sector and in the Public Distribution System. He is the Head and Visiting professor of the Vivekananda Chair of the University of Mysore. He has been a consultant to various National and International Agencies including the World Bank in the Health, Education, Social, and the Development sectors. He has traveled widely within and outside the country promoting the concept of participatory sustainable development, which is contextually relevant and culturally appropriate. He is a Tata Scholar, a Mason Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School and a Fellow at the Hauser Center for Non-profits, Harvard University.

He writes extensively about Swami Vivekananda and on Development Issues in local Kannada and English newspapers and in his blog at rbalu.wordpress.com, and in The Vedanta Kesari and other publications. He has also authored more than 5 books. He runs Leadership workshops for Corporates, NGOs and the Government both within India and Abroad and he is currently researching into the leadership lessons that ancient Indian books and philosophy contain.