

### **Short bio of Dr R Balasubramaniam**

Having embarked on his journey in the development sector by living and working for several years among remote forest based tribal communities in the southern Indian district of Mysuru, Dr. R. Balasubramaniam (Balu) is a widely respected development activist, leadership trainer, thinker and writer. He has uniquely been able to combine a vast development sector experience with studying and teaching at the world's leading school of policy and development including Harvard and Cornell Universities. He has also been a special investigator for Lokayukta Karnataka (Anti-Corruption Commission) in addition to holding membership and consulting positions in government bodies and commissions, academic boards and development agencies including the World Bank. He is currently serving as the Leadership Coach & Advisor to the Ministry of Petroleum, Govt of Egypt. He is a visiting professor at Cornell University, USA and IIT-Delhi, India. He has also served as the Professor and head of the Vivekananda Chair of the University of Mysore twice.

Dr. Balasubramaniam, the founder of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement embodies a rare blend of grassroots and macro perspectives on development and policy through his multi-faceted experience of more than three decades. His books, 'i, the citizen' and 'Voices from the Grassroots' present an alternate approach to human development with focus on engaging with communities and addressing 'Voice poverty'. He writes regular columns in both Kannada and English dailies and a popular blog at [rbalu.com](http://rbalu.com)