

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Summary:** Mr. B. Venkatesh is a post graduate with a Diploma in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) from the University of London, and credits on Service Management at the University of Buckingham. He has worked for over 36 years in the field of disability and development. Besides successfully setting up Action on Disability and Development - India, he has pioneered organizational work in disability through existing NGOs, and developed and implemented training, planning and monitoring modules and systems for this work.

**Name:** BALAKRISHNA VENKATESH

**Date of Birth:** 10th May 1947

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**Languages:** Fluent in spoken and written English  
Fluent in spoken Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

### Education:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Year</b>
University of Buckingham	Service Management (Summer Term)	1996
Institute of Child Health University of London	Diploma in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)	1985 - 86
Madras Christian College	Master's Degree in English Literature	1972

### Career Highlights:

- \* Initiated an innovative approach to working with disabled people in poor rural communities in South India and later established a local NGO to manage it - 1987 - 1996
- \* Designed and conducted development training on disability for field workers and support staff - 1987 - to date.
- \* Trained development workers, and increased training capacity in Disability and Development outside India - 1994 - to date.
- \* Was responsible and accountable to the Board of Trustees of Association of Persons with disability, a medium sized NGO, for the entire operation of running a school, a technical training centre, a homebound program and a factory for about 400 disabled people - 1980 - 1985.
- \* Designed and conducted in - house courses on communications for nine companies in western, southern and North Eastern India - 1975 - 1978.
- \* Prepared reading material on production, Sales and Marketing management for middle level personnel

and on administrative manual for Ralli Wolfe Factory (India) - 1073 - 1975.

### **Career Achievements:**

- \* Influenced mainstream NGOs in rural development to see disability as a development and poverty issue, motivating them to undertake social mobilization of disabled people in villages as part of their own program including fund raising - 1987 - 1996 and at present.
- \* Designed systems for policy formulation, planning, monitoring and impact assessment including fund raising.
- \* Provide training, field support and networking support to mainstream NGOs. Consequently, more than mainstream NGOs are currently doing social mobilisation work in South India reaching out to about disabled people in 300 village level self-help groups of disabled people. Apart from addressing the needs of their own members viz a vie play, literacy, medical rehabilitation and income generation, these groups are taking up common village and slum issues such as drinking water, road, land and housing. Some have even successfully contested the local authority election. Some of these self - help groups have begun to federate with each other and with unions of other oppressed groups.
- \* Raised profile of ADD India, which is now a well known agency in the disability sector in Southern India, having program implementation, training and management capacity and the ability to raise 75% of its budget independently.

### **Skills:**

Strategic planning and policy formulation  
Program design for trainings and field operations.  
Conducting and organizing trainings.  
Group building skills and facilitation.

Campaigning, lobbying and networking.  
General management: programme, personnel,  
administration, finance and fund raising

### **Career Chronicle:**

Currently:	International Consultant, trainer and facilitator in disability and development and inclusive education.
April 1996-June 1997:	In-house consultant to Participatory Learning Networking (PLN), a joint initiative of ADD India and ADD-UK.
1989-1996:	Founder and Executive Director, ADD-India, Bangalore.
1987-1989:	Development worker in India, ADD-UK.
1980-1985:	General manager, The Association of Persons with Disability, Bangalore.
1978-1980:	Special Officer, Communication, Tata Iron & Steel Company, Jamshedpur, India.
1975 - 1978	Freelance Consultant in Communication, Bombay, India.
1973 - 1975	Retainer, Training Division, Ralli Wolfe Ltd. Bombay
1972 - 1973	Lecturer in English, Somaiyya College, Bombay, India.

June - Oct. 1972

Teacher in Divine Light Trust for the Blind, Bangalore, India.

**Special Assignments:**

Ombudsperson for a research project undertaken by the Ministry of Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India and the Department for International Development (DFID-UK) to develop models for urban community based rehabilitation.

**Honorary Posts:**

Steering Committee Member, enabling education Network, University of Manchester, UK.  
Board Member, Timbaktu collective

**Consultancy Projects:**

- \* Developed and enhanced capacity of 13 development workers in Bangladesh and four trainers in Cambodia resulting in ADD-India type of work being initiated in these two countries. successfully field tested guidelines to train persons with disability as trainers for the promotion of non - handicapping environment for UNESCAP resulting in social mobilization work of disabled people in urban slums.
- \* Increased the in-house capacity of Save the Children Fund-UK in Ethiopia to do social mobilisation work for disabled people, promoting inclusive education and disability awareness and action among non-disabled children in the country.
- \* Trained 18 people with disabilities from 7 countries in the Asia Pacific region in social mobilization in a UNESCAP project to promote non-handicapping environment.
- \* Facilitated first ever seminar on disability and conflict for handicap International - Cyprus
- \* Facilitated evaluation of SCF-UK's work on disability in Zanzibar and Tanzania
- \* Designed and conducted the first management training for middle level personnel for the disability sector in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and a Community Based Rehabilitation Course in South India.
- \* Facilitated Global review of Save the Children Fund - UK 's Community based rehabilitation work – Swaziland
- \* Currently increasing the in-house capacity of a World Bank Funded NGO in India to do organizational work of disabled people in two districts of Andhra Pradesh. And
- \* Increasing the in house capacity of intermediate technology development groups in Sri Lanka to promote the inclusion of disabled people in mainstream development initiatives.

**Contribution to Publications:**

1. Disability, Liberation and Development, Peter Coleridge, OXFAM, UK, 1993
2. New Internationalist, The Disabling World, UK, 1993
3. Disabled Children and Developing Countries, edited by Pamela Zinkin and Helen McConachie, 1995 -

MacKeith Press

4. Paper on "Rethinking Care" for WHO conference

**Disability:**

Blind from the age of 14 due to retinitis pigmentosa. Fluent in Braille, touch typewriting and can travel independently without escort.

**References:**

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