

A. R. VASAVI (Ms)

Phone: +91-94483 60215

Email: arvasavi@gmail.com

G-327, Brigade Courtyard,
HMT Township
Bangalore - 560012. INDIA

PUNARCHITH
Nagavalli Village, B.R.Hills Road,
Chamarajanagar District - 571342
Karnataka, INDIA

Research Interests

- Sociology of India; Agrarian and Rural Societies; Sociology of Education
- Social and Cultural change; Pedagogies and Alternative Texts for social sciences
- Post-School Alternative Learning

Academic Qualification

1993	Ph.D. (Social Anthropology) Michigan State University, USA
1982	M.A. and M.Phil - Dept of Sociology Delhi School of Economics
1985	Delhi University, INDIA
1980	B.A. Dept of Sociology, Stella Maris College, Chennai, INDIA.

Employment

2011 - Present	Independent Scholar; Secretary PUNARCHITH COLLECTIVE, Karnataka, INDIA (www.punarchith.org)
1997-2011	Faculty National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, INDIA
2007-2008	Dean - School of Social Sciences National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, INDIA
1999-2003	Adjunct Faculty Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, INDIA (coterminous with NIAS appointment)
1993-1995	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad, INDIA
1992-1993	Visiting Assistant Professor Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA
1991-1992	Instructor Dept of Social Anthropology, MSU, Michigan, USA
1983-1984	Research Assistant Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, INDIA

AWARDS

- Infosys Award for Social Sciences (Sociology and Social Anthropology), 2013.
- Malcolm Adiseshiah Memorial Award for Development Studies, 2018.

Fellowships and Visiting Scholarships

September 2014	Visiting Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa
2013 - 2014	Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, India
May - July 2011	Visiting Professor, Max Planck Institute for Ethnic and Religious Diversity, Gottingen, Germany
September 2009	Visiting Professor, Yale University, USA
February 2009	Visiting Scholar, Kannada University, Hampi, India
June 2008, April - July 2010	Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, India
May 2004, 2006	Visiting Scholar, International Institute for Asian Studies, Amsterdam
2001	Bellagio Study Centre, Italy
1997	Visiting Scholar, University of Waikato, New Zealand
1990 - 1991	American Institute of Indian Studies, USA
1988	Thomas Fellowship
1984 - 1985	UGC Junior Research Fellowship

Professional Engagements

Current work and Responsibilities

- **Network for Rural and Agrarian Studies:** Initiated a nation-wide network for scholars to engage with emergent and pressing conditions in rural India. Plans are to forge collaborations between institutions and government agencies to enhance policy, evaluations, and research-advocacy-administration development for all rural programmes and trends. The network meets regularly and conducts seminars and student mentoring for young scholars. Details of meetings and reports are available at website: nras.org.
- **Education Policy:** A review of the history, gaps and contributions of education policy making in India. Focus on analyzing orientation, structures, implementation and impact of post-colonial education policies.
- **Texts, Pedagogies, and Practices:** An attempt to forge and develop an interlinked learning and reflexive module for adolescents, adult learners and teachers. Draws on translations of texts, identification of Indian language materials, evolving new (non-lecture mode) teaching-learning transactions for integrated disciplines such as agriculture-ecology; society-citizenship; art-architecture; nutrition-health/medicine and alternative education practices for rural youth.
- **Research:** Agrarian Transformations (an overview of trends/changes in rural India); Educational inequalities; Global livelihoods and erosions, the challenge of climate change (for Chamarajanagar district, in collaboration with several natural scientists, and volunteers from a wide-range of disciplines).
- **Alternative Learning:** Developing and implementing a course, 'Integrated Learning' for rural youth. Focus on sustainable agriculture, ecology, social issues, and citizenship. Course implemented since 2012. Details available at website: punarchith.org

Research Projects (completed)

- School-Community Interlinkages in Karnataka (Govt of Karnataka, 2000)
- Schooling among the Poor (A six-state study) (Spencer Foundation, Chicago 1999-2001)
- Development of Local Education Reports (Canadian International Development Agency, 2002)
- A Sociological Study of the IT Industry in (with Carol Upadhy 2003-2006, IDPAD)
- District Quality Education Project/Vidyankura (2002-2007)
- Development of a report on status of rural and agrarian studies (with Padmini Swaminathan) 2011.
- Review of Education among Adivasis (for UNICEF, 2011-12).
- Study of 'new lease agriculture' (RRA); 2013-14, through Punarchith Collective.
- Climate Change and Emergencies: On-going action research

District Quality Education Project

(Supported by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, 2002 - 2007)

From 2002 to 2007, co co-ordinated a large project (22 members full-time members, 8 consultants, budget Rs 3.2 crores) that focused on conceptualizing, developing and implementing innovative elementary education programmes for one district (tribal) in Karnataka. The project involved intense field-work and work with thirty six schools, several block and district officials, the state department of education, and a large number of education consultants and specialists. Several new programmes such as an innovative Kannada learning programme (Kannada Kalika Kosha), Arts in Education, and community mobilization have been developed and implemented. Two students (as team members) completed their Ph.ds by drawing on data from the project. Details of the project and several documents, reports, assessment tools, and a final project report are available on the website (www.iisc.ernet.in/nias.site/vidya.htm). Several academic outputs, including an edited volume, are forthcoming. A documentary film, *Vidyankura*, on the project, sponsored by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai (2007) has been made.

Consultancies and Advisory Roles (*probono*)

Wrote a sociological testimony on the impact and significance of debt among the working classes for a class-action legal suit in the USA, involving Indian semi-skilled workers, related to illegal regimes of recruitment and payment violations. Case supported by the Southern Poverty Centre, Texas, and Skanden, attorneys at law, New York. First round of case won in Texas, currently second set of cases being argued in New York as an independent (non-class action) case.

Courses designed and taught

- Social Transformations in India (Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, 1999-2003).
- Understanding Contemporary India (National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, 2000).
- Sociology of Education; Agrarian Studies, Anthropological Perspectives on Development, Sociology of India (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru).
- Ethnography (Centre for Budget and Policy Analyses, Bengaluru).

Invited Guest Lectures

INDIA

- Universities of Mysore, Hyderabad, Delhi, Nagarjuna, , JNU
- Centre of the study of Social Science (Kolkata)
- Kannada University, Hampi, Hospet and Rangayana, Mysuru
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipa
- Indian Institute of Management (and Kozhikode)
- National Institute of Design (Ahmedabad)
- Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad
- MacMillan Publishers, Noida
- Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai
- Karnatak University
- Central University, Hyderabad
- Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (Bangalore), ISEC 2019
- Azim Premji University 2019.

OUTSIDE INDIA

- University of Waikato and Massey University, New Zealand
- Cornell University, USA
- University of Wageningen, The Netherlands
- Bellagio Study Center, Italy
- Humboldt University, Germany
- Series of lectures at Yale, University of Massachusetts (Amherst), Brandeis, and at the Brecht Forum at New York between the months of Sept-October 2009.
- Max Planck Institute of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Gottingen, Germany, 2011.
- Dept of Anthropology and the Human Economy Program at University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2014.
- Massey University, North Palmerston, New Zealand, 2016
- Cornell and University of Michigan (September 2017)
- German Historical Institute, London (October 2017).

Publications

Books

2020 *State of Rural and Agrarian India Report 2020: Co-author with Richa Kumar, Nikhit Agarwal, and P.S.Vijayshankar*

2015 *Samajika Akharareke* (Social Contours) In Kannada. [Collected Essays by A. R. Vasavi; translated by H. D. Prashanth et.al), Kannada University, Hampi.

2012 *Shadow Space: Suicides and the Predicament of Rural India*. Three Essays Collective: Gurgaon. 2nd Edition.

2011 *Ola Gannadi: [Kannada Version of The Inner Mirror]*. Kannada University: Hampi.

2009	(Edited) <i>The Inner Mirror: Translations of Kannada Writings on Society and Culture</i> . The Book Review Literary Trust. New Delhi. 2 nd Edition.
2008	(Edited with Carol Upadhyaya) <i>In an Outpost of the Global Economy: Work and Workers in India's IT industry</i> ", Routledge: New Delhi.
1999	<i>Harbingers of Rain: Land and Life in South India</i> . New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
Forthcoming Books	
2021	Differentiation and Disjunction: Collected Essays on Education. Orient Blackswan.
	Four Emblematic Figures and the Narratives of a 'New India'. [The Agriculturist, The Information Technology Professional, The Teacher, and The Child].

Articles/Essays

2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'The Tiger and the Tube-Well', <i>Critical Asian Studies</i>. 2. 'Beyond Mass Higher Education: Towards Integrated Community Learning', UNESCO. 3. Series of Articles on Covid; six in various networks and newspapers.
2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'School Differentiation': The Reproduction of hierarchies, inequities and disadvantages. <i>The India Forum</i>, May. 2. The Displaced Threshing Yard: Involutions of the Rural', <i>Review of Development And Change</i>, June. 3. Review of the new National Education Policy, <i>The Wire</i>, October.
2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Populist Development and 'Humanist Hinduism: Siddaramaiah consolidates his Political Mantle', <i>The Wire</i>, January 12th. 2. 'Runaways', <i>Southword</i>, March. 3. 'Competitive Populism and Invisibilised Issues: Karnataka's Assembly Elections, <i>New Indian Express</i>, May. 4. Capitalist-Populist-Casteist. Karnataka's Second 2018 Budget. <i>Praja Vani</i>. July. 5. 'Democracy in the Time of Trolls': Book Review, <i>The Book Review</i>, June. 6. 'Youth and Democracy', Foreword to Thippeswamy, K.T's book, '<i>Nelarambe: Gramapanchayatyedegge Yuvajanaru</i>'. 7. 'Endword' to Suresh K.P's book, '<i>Agedi</i>'. 8. 'Government Brahman: Caste, Educated Unemployed and the Reproduction of Inequalities', In Helen Ullrich Edited, <i>Education in South Asia</i>. Palmgrave.
2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Salve for post-demonetisation?: Agricultural budget, 2017. <i>Praja Vani</i>. February. 2. "When Fences Eat Crops", <i>The HINDU</i> online. March. 2017. 3. 'It has rained, is the drought over?' (with Mutturaju et al). <i>Praja Vani</i>, June. 4. 'Societies in Motion', <i>India International Centre Quarterly</i>, July. 2017. 5. Re-thinking Anthropologies of the Contemporary: Eroded Life-worlds and Emergent Assemblages. [Radhakamal Mukerjee Memorial Lecture, delivered at the Indian Sociological Society Conference, Dec 29th, 2016]. <i>Sociological Bulletin</i>. 6. 'Social Acquiescence: The economics and politics of mass consensus for demonetisation', <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>. September.

2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'On the Non-Science of Land Grabbing' on websites of <i>Kafila</i>, and <i>Ecologic</i>. 2. Changes in the Countryside: A Symposium on Trends in Rural India. Edited with M. Vijayabaskar, Special Volume, <i>Seminar</i>, June.
2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From Retrogression to Rescue: Policy Gaps in Rural and Agricultural Development. In <i>Science, Technology, and Development in India</i>. Edited by Rajeswari Raina. <i>Orient Blackswan</i>: Hyderabad. 2. 'Life and Culture of Government Schools', <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, August. 3. Book Review, <i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i>. 4. Book Review, <i>Seminar</i> 5. Magazine Essays in <i>The Hindu</i>, <i>The Mint</i>. 6. Short Articles in <i>Economic Times</i>. 7. Interlinked Inequalities in Education. <i>Report to the UNDP</i>, New Delhi. 8. Review Article on Claude Levi-Strauss, <i>The Book Review</i>, Special 40th Anniversary Issue. 9. 'The State of Agri-Cultures': Erosions and Assertions of Agrarian Citizenship', <i>The Many Faces of Sustainability</i>. Edited by Salvatore Veca. Laboratoria Expo. Milano. Italy.
2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Towards a Human Economy: An Interview with Keith Hart', <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, Vol XLIX, No 49. 2. "Debt and its Social Entrapments", <i>Women's Studies Quarterly</i>, Vol 42. No 1&2. 3. Government Brahmin: Caste and Inequalities. Working Paper for the <i>Max Weber Feshtung</i>, German Historical Institute, London.
2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'The Absent Agriculturist in International Affairs', <i>Georgetown Journal of International Affairs</i>, Winter. 2. 'Citizen Kisan', <i>Seminar</i>, Annual Special. 3. 'Reflexive, Relational, Empathetic, Engaged: Ideas for Social Transformative Learning in India'. In <i>Rethinking Universities for Development: Intermediaries, Innovations and Inclusion</i>. IDRC and CRDI. New Delhi.
2012	<p>'Suicides and the Making of India's Agrarian Distress', in <i>Exclusion, Social Capital and Citizenship: Contested Transitions in South Africa and India</i>. Eds. Tina Uys and Sujata Patel. <i>Orient Blackswan</i>: Hyderabad.</p>
2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Pluralising the Sociology of India', <i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i>, October. 2. 'Erosions of the Local and Celebrations of the Global'. Agrarian Network, International, <i>LEISA</i>. 3. Beyond Corruption': Mining and the Lokayukta Report, <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, August 13th. 4. Questioning the New Cosmopolitanism: A Response to Keith Hart. <i>Anthropology Collective</i>. Online debate.
2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "What's Love got to do with It?" <i>Seminar</i>, special on Karnataka. (reprinted in Popular Anthropology; online). 2. "The Nation as Real Estate" online essay on the <i>Centre for Advanced Studies of India website</i>, University of Pennsylvania. 3. (With Harish Narasappa) 'Assessing the Functioning of a State Government: Karnataka (2008-2009)'. <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>. (Reproduced in Environmental Portal and Social Watch Report)
2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Academics as Non-Intellectuals" in <i>Summerhill</i>, Shimla, October. 2. "New Imperatives for Elementary Education", <i>Journal of Human Development</i>, New Delhi. Dec. 2009.

	<p>3. "Suicides and the Making of Agrarian Distress in India", <i>South African Review of Sociology</i>, Vol 40 (1).</p> <p>4. "Neo-liberal Agriculture and the Web of Risks" (in French) in <i>Development et Commentaries</i>, May.</p>
2008	<p>1. (With Rahul Mukhopadhyaya) "Learning Loss and the Education Bureaucracy", <i>India Together</i> (www.indiatogether.org), September.</p> <p>2. "Caste, Capital and Captaincy in Karnataka's Elections", <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, Vol XLIII (24).</p> <p>3. "Serviced From India: The Making of India's ITES workers" in Carol Upadhyaya and A.R. Vasavi (edited). <i>In an Outpost of the Global Economy: Work and Workers in India's IT industry</i>", Routledge, New Delhi</p>
2007	"Political Darshan as Development in Karnataka", <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> , Vol XLII (30).
2006	<p>1. "Caste Indignities and Subjected Personhoods" <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>, Sept 2.</p> <p>--- Translated into Malayam as " <i>Jati Nindhayum, Vidaya Vyaktitvam</i> ' (2007), Centre for Excellence, Occasional Paper Series-I.</p> <p>--- Reprinted as "Caste Indignities and Subjected Personhoods" in <i>In Search of Inclusive Policy</i>. Eds. S. Thorat and Narender Kumar. Rawat: New Delhi.</p> <p>2. "Re-Imagining Education" <i>Seminar</i>, September. Vol 345.</p> <p>3. "An Emerging New Rurality: Some Reflections from Schools" in <i>Contested Transformations: Changing Economies and Identities in contemporary India</i>, eds Mary John et al, New Delhi: Tulika.</p>
2004	"In the Labyrinth of the Education Bureaucracy". <i>Seminar</i> 536
2003	<p>1. "Violence and the repertoires of reconstituted cultures In: Eskalationen: Dic Gewalt van Kultur, Recht and Politik (ed by Klaus Scherpe and Thomas Weitin). Basel: A Franke Verlag.</p> <p>2. (With Catherine Kingfisher). "Poor women as economic agents: the neo-liberal state and gender in India and the US". <i>Indian Journal of Gender Studies</i> 10(1).</p> <p>3. "Schooling for a new society? The social and political bases of education deprivation in India". <i>IDS Bulletin</i> 34(1).</p> <p>---Hindi Translation: "Naye Samaj ke liye School Vyavastha: Bharat mein Shiksha vanchit ke samajik aur rajnithi aadhar" (2006) in <i>Dishabodh</i>, July-August.</p> <p>---Kannada Translation: Shale mathu hosa samaja (2008), in <i>Shikshana Roopanthara</i>. Navkarnataka: .</p>
2002	<p>1. Education deprivation and the republic. In: Developmental reforms for resurgent India. : <i>Books for Change</i>.</p> <p>2. "Narratives in the Reconstitution of Communities In: Communities & identity: Contemporary discourses on culture and politics in India" (Surinder Jodhka et al, ed.), New Delhi: <i>Sage publication</i>.</p> <p>3. "Loss of the Local and Spectres of the global", <i>Leisa Magazine</i>, Netherlands. July</p> <p>--- (translated into Spanish in the Spanish version of <i>Leisa</i>).</p> <p>4. "The 'Community Gap' in primary education". <i>Seminar</i> (493).</p> <p>5. "Agrarian distress in Bidar: State, market and suicides". <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 34(32).</p>
1998	"Rural provisioning transactions and the reproduction of agrarian social orders"

	<i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i> 32(1).
1997	1. Blueprint for rural primary education: How viable? <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 32(50). 2. "The millet drought: narratives from a scarcity period". <i>South Indian Studies</i> 2. July-December. 3. "Changing symbols of nationalism: from the Chakra to the Trishul". <i>Voices</i> 4(3).
1996	1. "Co-opting culture: Managerialism in the age of consumer capitalism". <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 31(21). 2. "India as Market and the Market Culture of India". <i>New Quest</i> 112. July-Aug. 3. "Bureaucratisation of Drought Conditions: A Critique of Drought Policies", <i>Lokayan Bulletin</i> 12(3), Nov-Dec. 4. "Hybrid Times, Hybrid People: Culture and Agriculture in South India". <i>Man: Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society</i> 29(2).

Lectures And Monographs

2018	The Displaced Threshing Yard: Involutions of the Rural. (September 2018). As part of the Malcolm Adiseshaih Award.
-------------	--

Reports

2014	New Lease Agriculture: Its Economic and Ecological Impact' (Submitted to RRA, Hyderabad)
2012	The Education Question Among Adivasis: Contexts, Policies, and Impact (co-author with three others), submitted to UNICEF, New Delhi).
2010	Agrarian and Rural Studies: Trends, Texts, Pedagogies, and Collaborations. (with Padmini Swaminathan)
2008	As part of the District Quality Education Project a. The Functioning of Select Elementary Schools in Chamrajanagar District. b. Community, Culture and Mobilisation for Education: Report of an Action Research Project in Chamarajnarag.
2006	Coordination of the Rajasthan Education Report. Submitted to the Government of Rajasthan.
2006	(With Carol Upadhya): Work, Sociality and Transnationalism: A Sociological Study of the IT industry in ".
2005	(With Dilip Ahuja et al) Review of VTU-EduSat Pilot Project.
2002	Six Local Education Reports: Exclusion and Elementary Education among the Poor. (all translated into respective regional languages)
2000	(With Kathyayini Chamaraj) : Community-School Interlinks: Report of a Socio-Cultural Study of Primary Education in Five Districts in Karnataka.

RESEARCH AND WRITING (IN-PROGRESS)

1. Economics of Neglect: Marginalised Majority and the Reproduction of Disadvantage

2. Erosion: A comparative study of social and cultural erosion among disadvantaged populations (plans are to do a short field-based study in Ghana in 2019).
3. The Challenge of Climate Change: Study of impact of climate change in Chamarajanagar district (part of work with the Punarchith Collective).

Video Documentation and Archives

- Initiated video documentation of observations related to the District Quality Education Project. Archives set up at NIAS open to the public. Two short films, *“Which Language, Whose Language”* captures problems of learning among the Soliga Tribals in the district. The second, *“Mary Teacher”*, captures the views of a Dalit teacher and her life as a teacher and her family life.
 - **Executive Producer: Coding Culture:** A set of three documentary films (Directed by Gautam Sonti and Carol Upadhya) on the Information Technology Industry in . National Institute of Advanced Studies, 2006.
 - **Four Swamis:** Land and Reflections of four organic Farmers (in progress).
-

Popular / Press writing

The Hindu, Deccan Herald, Education World, Times Higher Education (London), Indian Express, The Wire, Praja Vani, Ruthumana.

Book Reviews

Academic journals: Contributions to Indian Sociology, The Book Review, Times Higher Education Supplement (London), Journal of Education Planning and Administration, Biblio, Seminar, etc.

Media Interviews

- National Public Radio (on child labour)
 - BBC Radio (interviewed by Bill Sykes on Global India)
 - Interviewed for articles in The Hindu, Deccan Herald, Praja Vani, Telegraph, New York Times (Somini Sengupta), Guardian (Ian Jack), Boston Globe, BBC (India), Scroll.
-

Advisor/Board member of Institutions

- Centre for Research and Training in Social Transformation (Kozhikode, Kerala).
- Deenabhandu Children’s Home (Chamarajanagar, Karnataka).
- Executive Council, Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation, (GOI), New Delhi.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Member of the Karnataka State Committee to revise social science textbooks Jan-June 2004; revised, edited and coordinated work on social science textbooks for Classes V to VII.
- Co-ordinator (Rajasthan Education Mission 2006 under Dr. K. Kasturirangan) (Jan-July 2006), oversaw committee meetings, public hearings and finalisation of report.
- Appointed as Member, Committee for Academic Audit of Goa University, Governor of Goa (October 2010 to March 2011).

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Member, International Advisory Board, Journal of Peasant Studies (new)
- Member, Advisory Board, The India Forum (a journal-magazine)