

A. R. VASAVI (Ms)

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Qualifications

- Ph.D. (Social Anthropology) Michigan State University; 1993
- M.A. and M.Phil; Dept of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, 1982, 1985.
- B.A. Dept of Sociology, Stella Maris College, Chennai. 1977-80.

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.

Employment History:

2011 to current: Independent Scholar; Secretary, PUNARCHITH collective based in Karnataka.

1997-2011: Faculty, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

2007-2008: Dean, School of Social Sciences, NIAS, Bangalore

1999-2003: Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode
(coterminus with NIAS appointment)

1993-1995: Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

1992-1993: Visiting Assistant Professor, Tufts University, Massachusetts

1991-1992: Instructor, Dept of Social Anthropology, MSU, Michigan

1983-1984: Research Assistant, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

Fellowships

- UGC Junior Research Fellowship; 1984-85
- Thoman Fellowship; 1988
- American Institute of Indian Studies; 1990-91
- Visiting Faculty, University of Waikato, New Zealand, 1997

- Bellagio Study Centre; Italy, 2001
- Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, 2008, 2010.
- Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 2013-2014.

Visiting Scholarships/Fellowships:

- Visiting Scholar; University of Waikato, New Zealand, 1997
 - Visiting Scholar, IAS, Amsterdam, May 2004, May 2006
 - Visiting Scholar, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, June 2008, April-July 2010
 - Visiting Scholar, Kannada University, Hampi, Feb 2009
 - Visiting Professor, Yale University, Sept, 2009
 - Visiting Professor, Max Planck Institute for Ethnic and Religious Diversity, Gottingen, Germany, May to July, 2011
 - Visiting Professor; University of Pretoria, South Africa, September, 2014
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Courses Designed and Taught

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

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.
- **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. Developed a course called 'Integrated Learning' for rural youth. Third Cycle in progress (June 2015 to January 2016).

- **Research:** Agrarian Transformations (an overview of trends/changes in rural India); Educational inequalities; Global livelihoods and erosions.

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 Bangalore (with Carol Upadhyaya 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.

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 (probono)

Wrote a sociological overview 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, and 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.

Publications: Books

1. 1999. *Harbingers of Rain: Land and Life in South India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. 2008. (edited with Carol Upadhya) *In an Outpost of the Global Economy: Work and Workers in India's IT industry*, Routledge, New Delhi.
3. 2009. (edited) *The Inner Mirror: Translations of Kannada Writings on Society and Culture*. The Book Review Literary Trust. New Delhi. 2nd Edition.
4. 2011. *OlaGannadi*: [Kannada Version of The Inner Mirror]. Kannada University: Hampi, Karnataka.
5. 2012. *Shadow Space: Suicides and the Predicament of Rural India*. Three Essays Collective: Gurgaon. 2nd Edition.
6. *Samajika Akharareke* (Social Contours) [Collected Essays by A.R.Vasavi; translated by H.D. Prashanth, et al), Kannada University, Hampi. 2015.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS:

In Progress (Books):

1. Four Emblematic Figures and the Narratives of a 'New India'. [The Agriculturist, The Information Technology Professional, The Teacher, and The Child].
2. Eroded: Contemporary Cultural Worlds.
3. Compiled Volume of writings on education. To be submitted by end 2017 to Orient Longswan.

Essays:

1. 'School Differentiation': The Reproduction of hierarchies, inequities and disadvantages.
2. The Social Character of India's Agriculture.

3. 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].

Reports

- 2000 (with Kathyayini Chamaraj) : Community-School Interlinks: Report of a Socio-Cultural Study of Primary Education in Five Districts in Karnataka.
- 2002; Six Local Education Reports :Exclusion and Elementary Education among the Poor. (all translated into respective regional languages)
- 2005: (with Dilip Ahuja et al) Review of VTU-EduSat Pilot Project.
- 2006 (with Carol Upadhyya) : Work, Sociality and Transnationalism: A Sociological Study of the IT industry in Bangalore”.
- 2006: coordination of the Rajasthan Education Report. Submitted to the Government of Rajasthan.
- 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 Chamarajnagar.
- 2010: Agrarian and Rural Studies: Trends, Texts, Pedagogies, and Collaborations. (with Padmini Swaminathan)
- 2012: The Education Question Among Adivasis: Contexts, Policies, and Impact (co-author with three others), submitted to UNICEF, New Delhi).2012.

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 on the Information Technology Industry in Bangalore. NIAS, 2006.

Published Articles/Essays:

'Social Acquiescence: The economics and politics of mass consensus for demonetisation', forthcoming, CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY. 2017.
Forthcoming.

2017

1. "Salve for post-demonetisation: Agricultural budget, 2017" *Praja Vani*. February.
2. "When Crops Eat Fences", The HINDU online. March. 2017.
3. 'It has rained, is the drought over?' (with Mutturaju et al). *Praja Vani*, June .2017.
4. 'Societies in Motion', *India International Centre Quarterly*, July. 2017.

2016

1. 'On the Non-Science of Land Grabbing' on websites, Kafila, and Ecologic.
2. *Changes in the Countryside: A Symposium on Trends in Rural India*. Edited with Vijay Baskar, Special Volume, SEMINAR, June.

2015

1. From Retrogression to Rescue: Policy Gaps in Rural and Agricultural Development. In *Science, Technology, and Development in India*. Edited by Rajeswari Raina. Orient Blackswan: Hyderabad.
2. 'Life and Culture of Government Schools', *Economic and Political Weekly*, August.
3. Book Review, Contributions to Indian Sociology.
4. Book Review, SEMINAR
5. Magazine Essays in The HINDU, The MINT.
6. Short Articles in Economic Times.
7. Interlinked Inequalities in Education. Report to the UNDP, New Delhi.
8. Review Article on Claude Levi-Strauss, *The Book Review*, Special 40th Anniversary Issue.
9. 'The State of Agri-Cultures': Erosions and Assertions of Agrarian Citizenship', *The Many Faces of Sustainability*. Edited by Salvatore Veca. Laboratoria Expo. Milano. Italy.

2014

1. 'Towards a Human Economy: An Interview with Keith Hart', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XLIX, No 49.
2. 'Debt and its Social Entrapments', *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Vol 42. No 1 and 2.
3. Government Brahmin: Caste and Inequalities. Working Paper for the Max Weber Feshtung, German Historical Institute, London.

2013

* 'The Absent Agriculturist in International Affairs', *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Winter.

* 'Citizen Kisan', *Seminar, Annual Special*.

* 'Reflexive, Relational, Empathetic, Engaged: Ideas for Social Transformative Learning in India'. In *Rethinking Universities for Development: Intermediaries, Innovations and Inclusion*. IDRC and CRDI. New Delhi.

2012

* 'Suicides and the Making of India's Agrarian Distress', in *Exclusion, Social Capital and Citizenship: Contested Transitions in South Africa and India*. Eds. Tina Uys and Sujata Patel. Orient Blackswan: Hyderabad.

2011

* 'Pluralising the Sociology of India', *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, October.

* 'Erosions of the Local and Celebrations of the Global'. Agrarian Network, International, LEISA.

* 'Beyond Corruption': Mining and the Lokayukta Report, *Economic and Political Weekly*, August 13th.

* Questioning the New Cosmopolitanism: A Response to Keith Hart. Anthropology Collective. Online debate.

2010

- “What’s Love got to do with It?” *Seminar, special on Karnataka*. (reprinted in Popular Anthropology; online).
- “The Nation as Real Estate” online essay on the Centre for Advanced Studies of India website, University of Pennsylvania.
- (with Harish Narasappa) ‘Assessing the Functioning of a State Government: Karnataka (2008-2009)’. *Economic and Political Weekly*.
(Reproduced in Environmental Portal and Social Watch Report)

2009

- “Academics as Non-Intellectuals” in *Summerhill*, Shimla, October.
- “New Imperatives for Elementary Education”, *Journal of Human Development*, New Delhi. Dec. 2009.
- “Suicides and the Making of Agrarian Distress in India”, *South African Review of Sociology*, Vol 40 (1).
- “Neo-liberal Agriculture and the Web of Risks” (in French) in *Development et Commentaires*, May.

2008

- (with Rahul Mukhopadhyaya) “Learning Loss and the Education Bureaucracy”, *India Together* (www.indiatogether.org), September.
- “Caste, Capital and Captaincy in Karnataka’s Elections”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XLIII (24).
- “Serviced From India: The Making of India’s ITES workers” in Carol Upadhyaya and A.R. Vasavi (edited). *In an Outpost of the Global Economy: Work and Workers in India’s IT industry*, Routledge, New Delhi

2007

- “Political Darshan as Development in Karnataka”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XLII (30).

2006 and Earlier:

- * “Caste Indignities and Subjected Personhoods” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Sept 2..
- --- Translated into Malayam as “ *Jati Nindhayum, Vidaya Vyaktitvam*’ , Centre for Excellence, Occasional Paper Series-I.**2007**

- --- Reprinted as "Caste Indignities and Subjected Personhoods" in *In Search of Inclusive Policy*. Eds. S. Thorat and Narender Kumar. Rawat: New Delhi.
- "Re-Imagining Education" *Seminar*, Sept. Vol 345.
- "An Emerging New Rurality: Some Reflections from Schools" in *Contested Transformations: Changing Economies and Identities in contemporary India*, eds Mary John et al, New Delhi: Tulika..
- **2004**. "In the Labyrinth of the Education Bureaucracy". *Seminar* **536**:
- **2003**. "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.
- (with Catherine Kingfisher). "Poor women as economic agents: the neo-liberal state and gender in India and the US". *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* **10(1)**.
- "Schooling for a new society? The social and political bases of education deprivation in India". *IDS Bulletin* **34(1)**.
- ---Hindi Translation: 2006 " *Naye Samaj ke liye School Vyavastha: Bharat mein Shiksha vanchit ke samajik aur rajnithi aadhar*" in Dishabodh, July-August.
- ---Kannada Translation: 2008: *Shale mathu hosa samaja*, in *Shikshana Roopanthara*. NavKarnataka: Bangalore.
- **2002**. Education deprivation and the republic. In: Developmental reforms for resurgent India. Bangalore: Books for Change.
- "Narratives in the Reconstitution of Communities In: Communities & identity: Contemporary discourses on culture and politics in India" (Surinder Jodhka et al, ed.), New Delhi: Sage publication.
- "Loss of the Local and Spectres of the global", *Leisa Magazine*, Netherlands. July
---(translated into Spanish in the Spanish version of *Leisa*).
- "The 'Community Gap' in primary education". *Seminar* (493).
- "Agrarian distress in Bidar: State, market and suicides". *Economic and Political Weekly* 34(32).
- **1998**. "Rural provisioning transactions and the reproduction of agrarian social orders" *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 32(1).
- **1997**. Blueprint for rural primary education: How viable? *Economic and Political Weekly* 32(50).
- "The millet drought: narratives from a scarcity period". *South Indian Studies* 2. July-December.
- "Changing symbols of nationalism: from the Chakra to the Trishul". *Voices* 4(3).
- **1996**. "Co-opting culture: Managerialism in the age of consumer capitalism". *Economic and Political Weekly* 31(21).
- "India as Market and the Market Culture of India". *New Quest* 112. July-Aug.
- "Bureaucratisation of Drought Conditions: A Critique of Drought Policies", *Lokayan Bulletin* 12(3), Nov-Dec.

- “Hybrid Times, Hybrid People: Culture and Agriculture in South India”. *Man: Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society* 29(2).

Popular / Press Writing

In the HINDU, DECCAN HERALD, and EDUCATION WORLD, TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (London).

Interviews in Media

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).

Book Reviews:

In academic journals such as *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, *The Book Review*, *Times Higher Education Supplement* (London), *Journal of Education Planning and Administration*, *Biblio*, *Seminar* etc.

Other Activities:

- Advisor, Support Programme for Reserved Category Students (with Centre for Research and Training for Social Transformation (ongoing)).
- 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).

Invited Guest Lectures at:

- Universities of Mysore, Hyderabad, Delhi, Nagarjuna, Bangalore, JNU,
- Centre of the study of Social Science (Kolkata),

- Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal
- Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore and Kozhikode)
- National Institute of Design (Ahmedabad)
- Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai
- University of Waikato and Massey University (New Zealand)
- Cornell University, (USA)
- Univ of Wageningen (Netherlands)
- Bellagio Study Center (Italy)
- Humboldt University (Germany)
- Series of lectures at Yale, Univ 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.

Advisor/Board Member of Institutions:

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

Editorial Contributions:

- Member, International Advisory Board, Journal of Peasant Studies (new)
- Member, Advisory Board, Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (IIAS, Shimla).