



APSPA Newsletter



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Expressing Sincere Gratitude

By Prof. Panch. Ramalingam

On Receiving the “Father of Indian School Psychology” Award Presented by the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)
Venue: APSPA Award Ceremony, Chennai on
7th June 2025

Respected dignitaries, esteemed colleagues,
fellow scholars, dear students, friends, and
well-wishers,



Asia Pacific School Psychology Association
International

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Prof. William “Bill” Pfohl, ISPA, USA
Tan Sri Prof. T. Marimuthu, Malaysia
Prof. Véronique Le Mézec, ISPA, France
Coosje Griffiths, ISPA, Western Australia
Dr. A. Baheerathan, AEDU, London
Prof. B. Mukhopadhyay, InSPA, India

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Prof. T. Santhanam,
SDS Academy, Chennai
Dr. Zahir Ahmed,
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T. Ganesan, Malaysia

I stand before you today with a heart full of gratitude and humility as I accept this most meaningful recognition—the **Father of Indian School Psychology Award**, conferred by the **Asia Pacific School Psychology Association**. It is an honour that not only acknowledges my personal journey but also reflects the collective efforts of hundreds of dedicated professionals, scholars, and educators who have walked this path alongside me over the past several decades.

First and foremost, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the leadership of the **Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)**, particularly **Mr. T. Ganesan** and the esteemed members of the **Governing Council**, for bestowing upon me this profound honour. I am deeply humbled by this recognition.

International Coordinators

Prof. Nilamegame, Reunion
Prof. Wael Mustafa Abuhassan, Arab American University, Palestine
Prof. Michiko Ishikawa
Tokyo University of Social Welfare, Japan
Dr. Bahman Kord Tamini
University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran
Dr. M.S. Sri Lakshmi, Singapore
Prof. Janet Fernandes, St. Xavier's College, Goa, India
Dr. Santhosh Mohanan, Assumption University of Thailand, Bangkok
MAM Sameem, South Eastern University, Sri Lanka
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Prof. Mahfuza Khanam, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
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Dr. Philip L. Fuentes, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Maran Nandan, Australia

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I also extend my sincere thanks to **Prof. M. V. R. Raju**, National President of the **Indian Academy of Applied Psychology** and Senior Professor at **Andhra University, Visakhapatnam**, for his continued support and encouragement. My special appreciation goes to **Prof. V. S. R. Vijayakumar**, **Dr. D. Rajendran**, Secretary, InSPA and APSPA, Chennai, **Prof. T. Santhanam**, Director, SDS Academy of Behavioural Sciences, Chennai and Jt Secretary, APSPA, **Dr. T. V. Venkatasubramanian**, Director, Manasika, Chennai, and **Prof. R. N. Anantharaman**—respected senior psychologists in Chennai—whose committed efforts and meticulous coordination made this award ceremony a memorable and dignified occasion.

I am deeply touched by the warmth with which this award has been conceived and presented. It is more than a recognition of an individual; it is a celebration of a movement—the rise of school psychology as a vital discipline in the Indian educational landscape.

My journey in psychology began over four decades ago, at a time when the term “**School Psychology**” was scarcely known across most parts of India. From the very beginning, I was deeply drawn to the intersection of psychology and education, firmly believing that the **wellbeing of children** must lie at the heart of our academic, developmental, and social efforts.

This conviction found fertile ground thanks to the mentorship and inspiration of **Prof. B. Mukhopadhyay**, former Professor and Head of the Department of Educational Management and Applied Psychology at the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai. It was he who first introduced me to the concept of *school psychology* and encouraged me to explore its international dimensions. He was also instrumental in motivating me to attend the **International School Psychology Association (ISPA)** conference—an experience that proved to be a turning point in my professional journey.

In July 2009, I had the opportunity to attend the **31st ISPA International Conference in Malta**, where I introduced myself as an Applied Psychologist from India and Editor of the *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology (JIAAP)*. Though I

was proud of the contributions I had made through my research and editorial work, my presence at the conference did not initially receive much recognition from the ISPA executive members. Undeterred, I assured them: “Give me six months, and I will initiate a movement for school psychology in India and join hands with your global efforts.” That moment of resolve was met with encouragement and support, which further strengthened my determination.

Upon returning to India, I met with Prof. Mukhopadhyay and convened a small group meeting at his residence in Chennai. From that discussion emerged the founding vision for what would become a national movement. Shortly thereafter, I registered the **Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA)** in Puducherry under the **Societies Registration Act of 1860**, with a seven-member executive committee, under the Presidentship of **Prof. G. P. Thakur**, New Delhi.

To represent the spirit of InSPA, I designed the Association’s logo featuring **two olive branches enclosing the Greek letter “Ψ” (Psy)**—the universal symbol of psychology—with a rising sun at the top, symbolizing hope, growth, and enlightenment. The first 100 enrolled individuals were designated as **Founder Members**, signifying their pioneering role in laying the foundation of school psychology in India.

Today, I am humbled to share that **InSPA has grown to include 1,866 members**, representing a wide spectrum of educators, researchers, psychologists, and mental health professionals. We have organized **numerous training programmes, workshops, and over 20 international conferences** across various regions, touching the lives of **thousands of students, teachers, and families**. What began as a vision has now blossomed into a **vibrant and growing discipline** that is shaping educational and psychological practices throughout the country.

When we established the **Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA)** in 2009, the idea was simple but ambitious—to create a platform that could promote psychological services in schools, support professional development, and advocate for child-friendly educational environments. From humble beginnings, InSPA has grown into a national organization with over **2,000 members**, actively

involved in **research, training, counselling, and advocacy** across the country and beyond.

This growth would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of a dynamic team of educators, psychologists, and policy thinkers. I want to acknowledge the many colleagues who have inspired and supported me over the years—fellow academicians, researchers, school heads, and grassroots mental health workers who have taken this cause into their own hands and driven it forward with passion.

I also express my heartfelt appreciation to the **students and research scholars** who have accompanied me in this journey. Many of them are now shaping the future of school psychology in India through their teaching, counselling, and research. Their success is the most gratifying reward for any teacher.

I must particularly mention the **collaborations with international organizations**—including ISPA, and APSPA—that have opened doors for cross-cultural dialogue, training programs, and scholarly exchange. These international linkages have enriched the discourse of school psychology in India, enabling us to adopt global best practices while remaining rooted in local realities.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve in various academic and administrative roles, including as Director (i/c) of the **UGC – Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre at Pondicherry University**, where I continue to engage in teacher education, capacity-building, and curriculum development. My experience there has reaffirmed my belief that if we are to build resilient and inclusive education systems, **mental health support and psychological wellbeing** must become integral to every school and college.

As I receive this title today, I am also reminded of the **responsibility** it entails. Being called the *Father of Indian School Psychology* is not merely an honour—it is a call to **deepen our commitment, to mentor the next generation, and to ensure sustainability** of the discipline beyond individual careers.

As we look to the future, there are several priorities we must address as a community:

Mainstreaming school psychology within the national education framework, particularly through NEP 2020 and other progressive policy mechanisms.

Creating formal career paths for school psychologists, with standardized training, certification, and regulatory bodies.

Enhancing research in culturally relevant psychological practices that support learning, inclusion, and mental health.

Building resilience and wellbeing into school curricula to address the psychosocial needs of children in a rapidly changing world.

Fostering international partnerships for knowledge exchange, mutual learning, and joint initiatives in school psychology.

I also urge all young psychologists and educators in this room: Let this moment be a reminder that **every effort matters**—whether you are counselling one child, training a group of teachers, writing a research paper, or shaping public policy. The impact of your work ripples far beyond the classroom or clinic. **You are the torchbearers** of a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive—emotionally, socially, and intellectually.

Let me also thank my **family**, without whose unwavering support, love, and sacrifices I would not be standing here today. They have been my foundation and my strength.

As I close, I dedicate this award to all **unsung heroes of school psychology**—those who work in small towns and rural areas, in under-resourced schools, in multiple languages and across diverse cultures—making a difference where it is needed the most. It is in their silent service that the true spirit of school psychology resides.

Let this recognition not be a culmination, but a **milestone**. Let it inspire us all to dream bigger, work harder, and build stronger systems for the **psychological wellbeing of our children and youth** across Asia and the world.

Thank you once again for this immense honour. I accept it with gratitude, humility, and renewed commitment.

Jai Hind. Jai School Psychology.

My Vision to Promote Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), International with the Support of Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust, Puducherry

The field of School Psychology in the Asia Pacific region is growing steadily but still faces critical challenges, including lack of awareness, insufficient training infrastructure, and minimal policy integration in many countries. The Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), International envisions a cohesive and collaborative effort to empower the region's children through the promotion of school-based mental health, psychological well-being, and inclusive education.

With the establishment of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust in Puducherry, we now have a strong institutional and intellectual platform to drive this vision forward with purpose and sustainability.

Vision Statement

To establish and promote a culturally responsive, evidence-based, and sustainable School Psychology framework across the Asia Pacific region by building professional capacity, promoting research, and fostering international collaboration for the mental well-being of children and adolescents.

Strategic Goals

A. Capacity Building & Training

-  Launch School Psychology diploma and certificate programs across institutions in the region.
-  Facilitate online and offline training workshops, webinars, and faculty development programs.
-  Establish training partnerships with universities and teacher training colleges.

B. Policy Advocacy and Government Engagement

-  Collaborate with ministries of education, mental health, and child welfare across the Asia Pacific countries to:
 -  Integrate School Psychology into public education policies.
 -  Promote the inclusion of school psychologists in every school.
 -  Advocate for child-friendly educational systems rooted in psychological principles.

C. Research and Publication

-  Promote region-specific research on student well-being, school mental health, and learning behaviours.

-  Publishing a peer-reviewed International Journal of Asia Pacific School Psychology under the Trust.

-  Create a repository of research studies, toolkits, and intervention manuals for use across institutions.

D. Regional Conferences and Collaboration

-  Organize Asia Pacific School Psychology Conferences annually.
-  Encourage collaborative projects among members of APSPA from different countries.

-  Facilitate faculty and student exchange programs across Asia Pacific institutions.

E. Cultural Adaptation of Psychological Practices

-  Develop culturally sensitive assessment tools and intervention strategies.
-  Promote inclusion, gender sensitivity, and indigenous knowledge in the psychological practices of the region.

Role of Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust, Puducherry

The Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust (APSPS Trust), Puducherry will act as:

a) Administrative and Research Hub

-  Host APSPA's headquarters and coordinate all documentation, outreach, membership services, and partnerships.

b) Resource and Publication Center

-  Publish newsletters, training manuals, journals, and reports.
-  Maintain an online digital library for students, researchers, and practitioners.

c) Training & Certification Authority

-  Organize accredited training programs and issue certifications in collaboration with academic institutions.
-  Act as a recognized regional certifying body for School Psychology credentials.

d) Collaboration Facilitator

Network with global organizations like ISPA (International School Psychology Association), WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, and others to support policy and practice.

Facilitate inter-country collaboration among APSPA member nations.

Expected Outcomes

- Development of a strong professional network of school psychologists across the Asia Pacific region.
- Increased awareness about student mental health among policymakers, educators, and parents.
- Establishment of School Psychology as a specialized, recognized profession in every Asia Pacific country.
- Improved learning environments and psycho-social support systems in schools.
- Creation of a collaborative knowledge-sharing platform for research and best practices.

Long-Term Vision (2025–2035)

- Achieve formal APSPA chapters in at least 25 Asia Pacific countries.
- Establish at least 100 certified training centres in the region.

Develop a centralized database of school mental health indicators.

Influence national education policies to incorporate school psychologists in all public schools.

With the institutional support of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust, Puducherry, this vision is both achievable and impactful. It is not just about professional development but about a commitment to the mental wellness and educational rights of children across Asia Pacific. Through this association and trust, we can unify voices, integrate research with practice, and work toward a more compassionate, mentally healthy educational landscape for all.

Prof. Panch. Ramalingam
International President, APSPA

“Father of Indian School Psychology” Conferred by APSPA on Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, Pondicherry University, Puducherry



(L-R: Dr. T.V. Venkatasubramanian, Balasundaram, Prof. T. Santhanam, Prof. MVR Raju, Prof. Panch. Ramalingam (recipient), T. Ganesan, Prof. VSR Vijayakumar, and Prof. T.N. Anantharaman)

Award Ceremony

The Award Ceremony was organised by the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) International at the Anna Centenary Library, Chennai, on 7th July 2025, in a dignified and

memorable manner. Mr. T. Ganesan, Treasurer of APSPA International, delivered the Welcome Address, setting the tone for the proceedings with his warm and thoughtful remarks. The Opening Speech was delivered by Dr. T.V. Venkatasubramanian, Director of Manasika,

Chennai, who highlighted the significance of school psychology and the importance of recognising contributions in this field. The Presidential Address was given by Prof. T.

Santhanam, National Coordinator of InSPA and Joint Secretary of APSPA International, who highlighted the significance of the awards and the progress of school psychology in the region.

A Special Address was delivered by Prof. M. V. R. Raju, Senior Professor of Psychology, Andhra University, and President of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology (IAAP), Chennai, who conferred the Father of Indian School Psychology Award to Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, and Life time Achievement Award to Prof. V.S.R. Vijayakumar, and offered insightful reflections on the awardees' contributions to psychology. The Felicitation Session included tributes and commendations from:

- Prof. T.N. Ananthakrishnan, IIT, Chennai
- Dr. P.J. Charumathi, Chennai
- Dr. Subasree, VIT University, Chennai
- Dr. Subhashini, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Chennai
- Dr. Kalyani Kenneth, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Chennai
- Dr. Ragitha Radhakrishnan, Dr. MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science, Chennai
- Ms. Ghayathri Swetha Kumari R. A., MOP Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai

Acknowledgements were offered by both Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, President, Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA), and Prof. V. S. R. Vijayakumar, Psychologist and Data Scientist, Chennai, and who humbly reflected on their professional journeys and the honour conferred upon them.

The ceremony concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Veena Pillai, InSPA State Convenor for Tamil Nadu, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, organizers, and participants for their valuable presence and support.

Prof. MVR Raju for his gracious presence and inspiring leadership in inaugurating these landmark initiatives that will shape the future of mental health services and school psychology across India and the Asia-Pacific region. The award ceremony, Releasing of the brochure for 8th APSPA International Conference and Launching of InSPA Centres held at Anna Centenary Library Conference Hall, Chennai on 7th June 2025.

Presidential Address on 7th June 2025 by Dr. T. Santhanam, Joint Secretary, APSPA (International), Director, SDS Academy of Behavioural Sciences

Respected dignitaries on the dais, honourable guests, esteemed awardees, distinguished colleagues, dear students, ladies and gentlemen,

It was with immense pride, deep admiration, and a profound sense of personal privilege that I presided over this momentous and inspiring occasion—a day marked by celebration, recognition, and heartfelt reflection. We came together to honour a towering figure in the field of education and psychology—**Prof. Panch. Ramalingam**, President of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (International), President of the Indian School Psychology Association, former Director of the UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (UGC-MMTTC), Pondicherry University, and Emeritus Professor at Rashtriya Raksha University, Ahmedabad.

In the landscape of Indian higher education and behavioural sciences, few names resonated as profoundly as Prof. Ramalingam's—not merely for academic brilliance but for his transformative influence on institutions, policy, pedagogy, and above all, people.

A Pioneer, Visionary, and Builder of Institutions

As Former Director of the UGC-MMTTC at Pondicherry University, Prof. Ramalingam shaped not only course structure and academic programs but also the very thought architecture of thousands of teachers and scholars. His commitment to integrating psychological principles with educational reform, particularly through the lens of school psychology, laid a foundation upon which future generations would continue to build.

He did not merely observe the evolution of school psychology in India—he actively engineered its growth. Through his visionary leadership, he brought

global perspectives to local contexts, bridged gaps between theory and practice, and ensured that school psychology was recognized as an essential pillar of our education system.

Prof. Ramalingam served as Director of the UGC–Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre at Pondicherry University, and with 28 years of experience in teaching, research, and faculty development, contributed significantly to professional development in higher education. He coordinated a wide array of training programs for university and college faculty, including Faculty Induction Programs, Orientation and Refresher Courses, and Short-Term Courses.

He held postgraduate degrees in Psychology, Education, and Political Science, along with an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Educational Counselling Psychology from Annamalai University. His academic foundation was further strengthened by a B.Sc. in Mathematics and a Diploma in Pharmacy. His research spanned educational counselling, school psychology, occupational preferences, decision-making, mental health, yoga, and cross-cultural psychology.

A prolific scholar, he published over 60 research papers, contributed 30 book chapters, and authored and edited more than 110 books—including *School Psychology in the Indian Context* (translated into 16 Indian languages and Nepali), *School Psychology: Enhancing Competencies*, and *Educational Psychology*. His works earned multiple accolades, including the Tamil Nadu Government’s Best Book Award and the prestigious Kalaimamani Award by the Government of Puducherry in 2019.

Prof. Ramalingam was recognized internationally for his academic contributions. He served as guest faculty at Klagenfurt University, Austria, and as degree committee chair at Antioch University, USA. His international engagements took him to universities in Malta, Ireland, Switzerland, Malaysia, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Japan, Thailand, and beyond. He organized and conducted over 55 national and international conferences.

He held editorial roles for the *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology* (2005 to till date), *InSPA Journal of Applied and School Psychology* (started by him in 2019), and *International Journal*

of Asia Pacific School Psychology (started by him in 2020 in Thailand), and served on editorial boards of international journals in India, Iran and Bangladesh.

As Founder President of both APSPA and InSPA, he actively promoted school psychology in India and abroad. His leadership extended to cultural and literary domains through organizations like the Pondicherry Psychology Association in 2000, Puducherry Co-operative Book Society in 1996 and Tamil Puduval in 1995.

His doctoral research on occupational preferences, self-esteem, and mental health among students reflected his lifelong commitment to youth psychological well-being. Through InSPA and APSPA, he championed mental health for children across the Asia Pacific region.

Why the “Father of Indian School Psychology” Award?

This title was not merely honorary—it was earned through decades of tireless work, advocacy, mentorship, and ground-breaking contributions. Prof. Ramalingam:

- Championed school psychology as a discipline, profession, and practice in establishing Indian School Psychology Association in 2009 by registering it in Puducherry and created vision and mission document with Logo.
- Mentored and inspired hundreds of psychologists, educators, and researchers.
- Strengthened human resource capacity through his work at the UGC-MMTTC, Pondicherry University.
- Promoted mental health in educational settings, long before it became mainstream.

It was therefore fitting that we celebrated him not only for his achievements but for the legacy he continued to build.

My Personal Reflections

As a fellow academic and psychologist, I had the privilege of witnessing Prof. Ramalingam’s dedication, scholarly depth, and warmth as a mentor. His encouragement of interdisciplinary research, his support for young psychologists, and his belief in psychology’s role in nation-building made him a true doyen of our field.

A Message to the Community

To the young professionals and students present that day: the path Prof. Ramalingam walked taught us that scholarship, leadership, and empathy must go hand in hand to truly impact society.

As we conferred the ***Father of Indian School Psychology*** award, we celebrated not just past

contributions but a living legacy that continued to inspire and guide us all.

Then, our Chief Guest, Prof. M. V. R. Raju from Andhra University, conferred the Father of Indian School Psychology Award on Prof. Panch. Ramalingam.



Presented the **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Prof. V.S.R. Vijayakumar,** Consultant Psychologist and Data Scientist, Chennai

It was truly a profound honour and privilege to preside over the conferment of the *Lifetime Achievement Award* to **Prof. V. S. R.**

Vijayakumar, a distinguished luminary in psychology and data science.

This was not merely an award function—it was a celebration of a life lived in the service of knowledge, a career marked by integrity, innovation, and impact.

A Career of Distinction and Dedication

Prof. Vijayakumar's contribution spanned decades of scholarship, academic leadership, and nation-building efforts. He blended scientific rigour with human understanding, shaped curriculum, strengthened mental health policy, and promoted

evidence-based interventions across diverse domains.

He held esteemed positions, guided numerous scholars, published over 50 peer-reviewed works, and applied psychology to real-world benefit. As an accomplished data scientist, he empowered institutions through analytics and played a key role in education technology and corporate consultancy.

What a Lifetime Achievement Truly Meant

This award acknowledged a lifetime of unrelenting pursuit of excellence—rare, sustained distinction that inspired others and left a lasting legacy. Dr. V. S. R. Vijayakumar is a distinguished psychologist and data scientist, widely recognized for his contributions to psychology, behavioral sciences, and

organizational development. Over a career spanning more than four decades, he has demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching, research, corporate training, and consultancy.

He has held faculty positions at some of India's most

education through adaptive content and scalable technology.

In the corporate sector, his behavioral training programs, leadership development modules, and evidence-based HR strategies have enabled



respected academic institutions, where he taught undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral courses. His teaching prowess is widely acknowledged; he is consistently sought after for his exceptional clarity of explanation and depth of insight. A dedicated mentor, he has guided numerous M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars, many of whom have gone on to make significant contributions in academia, research, and professional practice. His scholarly output, comprising over 50 peer-reviewed publications, addresses critical issues in identity, cognition, work behavior, and applied psychological science.

Dr. Vijayakumar is also a consummate data scientist whose expertise in advanced statistical methods and computational analytics has empowered both organizations and individual scholars. He is proficient in a wide range of software platforms—such as SPSS, R, SAS, AMOS, and Statistica—and is known for transforming complex data into practical insights. His analytical support and guidance are widely sought after by educational institutions, corporate bodies, and individual researchers.

As a leader in educational innovation, he held a senior role in a major EdTech organization, where he designed and implemented psychologically grounded digital learning systems. His work has expanded access, improved pedagogical quality, and contributed significantly to learner-centered

numerous organizations to align human capital with institutional goals. His consultancy practice is marked by empirical depth, strategic insight, and measurable impact.

Dr. Vijayakumar has traveled widely across the globe as a keynote speaker and expert resource person at international conferences and professional gatherings. He is widely respected for his ability to connect theory with real-world applications, communicate across cultures, and offer grounded, data-informed perspectives on psychological and organizational issues.

He is known for his intellectual independence, creative thinking, and contrarian perspectives that challenge conventional wisdom and stimulate critical reflection. He remains actively engaged in research, mentoring, and consultancy even after formal retirement. His continued work in school psychology and mental health advocacy highlights his enduring commitment to societal well-being. His career is a testament to scholarly integrity, interdisciplinary vision, and lifelong dedication to the advancement of psychological and data sciences.

Personal Reflections

Prof. Vijayakumar's depth of knowledge and clarity of vision impacted lives far beyond books or

lectures. His presence that day reminded every young psychologist that a life of service, rooted in values, shapes the destiny of a profession.

Followed by, Prof. M. V. R. Raju, Senior Professor from Andhra University, Presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. V.S.R. Vijayakumar,

8th APSPA International Conference at Tokyo University of Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan

18 – 24 September 2025

Theme: "Advancements of School Psychology in the Asia Pacific Region."

**10th International General Body Meeting will be held on Saturday,
20.9.2025 at 12.00 Noon**

At Tokyo University of Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan

Releasing of Arabic and Nepali translation of School Psychology in the Indian Context in the
8th APSPA International Conference at Tokyo University of Social Welfare, Tokyo

Conference Keynote Speaker



Prof. P. Prakash Babu, Vice-Chancellor,
Pondicherry University, India.

Inauguration by



Shri Sibi George
Ambassador of India to Japan, Tokyo

Chairman, Tokyo University of Social Welfare



Prof. L. M. Lopez

President, Tokyo University of Social Welfare



Prof. Jiro Sakai

Conference Chairman



Prof. Panch. Ramalingam

Professor cum Director (Retd), UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India International President, Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), Malaysia, (www.apspa.in) President, Indian School Psychology Association (www.InSPA.org)

Guests of Honour



Dr. A. Baheerathan AEDU, London, UK



Mavai So. Thangarajah Germany

Conference Coordinator



Prof. Michiko Ishikawa, is Professor of Psychology, Tokyo University of Social Welfare, Japan. She has a Master's in Education from Aichi University of Education, Japan, and a Doctorate Degree in Psychology from Nagoya University, Japan. Presently she is Professor (Specially Appointed Professor) at the Department of Contemporary Business, Nagoya Sangyo University. She has held positions as Professor, Graduate School, Tokoha University (Apr 2016 - Mar 2021), Professor, Graduate School, Kyoto University of Education.

Invited Speakers



Prof. Parvathy Varma. S, Ph.D is Program Director, Graduate programs in Psychology, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand. She is basically a psychologist, working in the field of Management. Her area of interest include cross-cultural research, suicide prevention, and socio emotional intelligence.



Prof. Wael M.F. Abuhasan, PhD., Clinical Health Psychologist, Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences, The Arab American University of Palestine- AAUP.

India Coordinator



Prof. T. Santhanam, Chennai

Malaysia Coordinator



T. Ganesan

India and Malaysian Delegates to Japan

 <p>Dr. Zahir Ahmed, China</p>	 <p>Dr. Lalitha Subramanian, USA</p>	 <p>Dr. Suja Koshy, Mumbai</p>	 <p>Dr. R. Rajesh, Madurai</p>
 <p>Dr. Dhruv Kumar</p>	 <p>Dr. Kalyani Kenneth</p>	 <p>Sgt Abhimanyu Pandey</p>	 <p>Dr Latrice</p>
 <p>Dr Indumathi S</p>	 <p>Dr. R.M. Murugaiyan</p>	 <p>Prof. K. Pajanivelou</p>	 <p>Prof. Sunita Singh</p>
 <p>Dr. Ragitha Radhakrishnan</p>	 <p>K. Sasikumar</p>	 <p>Prof N Shanti Kokila (kanak)</p>	 <p>Ghayathri Swetha Kumari R.A</p>
 <p>Dr. Abhay Kumar</p>	 <p>Dr. Vithya V</p>	 <p>Dr. Pramila Ramani</p>	 <p>Dr. Anil Kumar Yadav</p>



Maria Aruldass,
Dubai



Shilpa Kapoor,
Dubai



Prof. M. Karunanidhi



Prof. S. Ravi



Dr. Vinod Kumar
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Dr. A. Malathi



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Dr. S. Saranya



Dr. Lalitha Raja



Dr. Ramesh Tamanna



Asst. Prof.
Rajitha Menon



Dato Dr. Gopala
Krishnan
Malaysia



Pushpa Virendra
Tripathi



Prof. Navjyot Bhanot



Rajan Kumar



Prof. Zokaitulangi



Dr. Sruthi Sivaraman



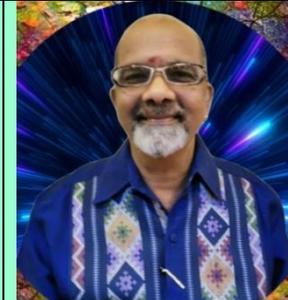
Menaka
Narayanasamy
Malaysia



Dr. Palimah
Selambaram



V. Vijaya



Dr. Kirubaharan
Marimuthoo

INSIGHT 2026 – 9th APSPA International Conference on Safe and Friendly School Education in the Asia Pacific Region

26th & 27th February 2026

Venue: Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, India

Organised by: Department of Psychology, Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)

Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, is a premier institution ranked **60th in NIRF 2024** and re-accredited with '**A++**' Grade by NAAC. It is a deemed University and a recipient of several national recognitions including the **Clean and Smart Campus Award**. The college is dedicated to academic excellence, value-based education, and global competencies. The Department of Psychology at Kristu Jayanti College, established in 2002, offers comprehensive training in clinical, counselling, and organizational psychology, with hands-on experience in diverse community and professional settings. The department's strong national and international affiliations provide students with global exposure, cutting-edge knowledge, and enhanced career opportunities in the field of psychology.



The **Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), International** was founded in 2019 with the mission to promote **school psychology services** and support **mental health and well-being** across the Asia Pacific region. The APSPA continues to be a dynamic voice for professional development and awareness in school psychology.

Insight 2026

An international conference themed 'Safe and Friendly School Education in the Asia Pacific Region' anticipates to encourage quality research appraisals on promoting safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environments across schools globally. The conference brings together educators, policymakers, researchers, and child rights advocates to share best practices, research findings, and strategies to combat violence, bullying, and discrimination in educational settings.

Insight 2026 aims to strengthen collaboration among regional stakeholders to develop and implement effective policies and programs that foster safe, inclusive, and welcoming school environments. Promote the adoption of evidence-based strategies to prevent and tackle violence, bullying, and discrimination within educational settings. Enhance the well-being, safety, inclusivity, and overall development of learners across the Asia Pacific region.

All academicians, researchers, professionals, research scholars and students are welcome to be part of this international academic event.

For further details, contact:

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Co- Convenors: Dr. Diganta Baishya

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Ms Sandra V

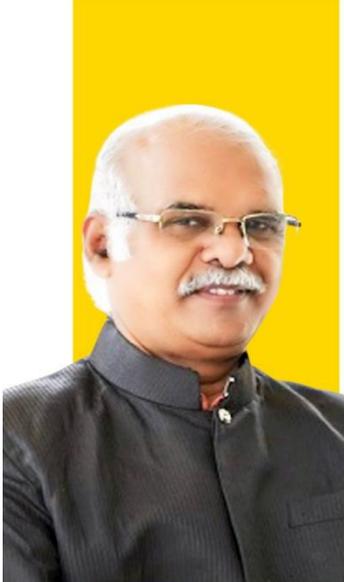
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INDIAN MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Indian Mental Health Summit (IMHS) is thrilled to join hands with the Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA) and the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) as our Knowledge Partners.



PROF PANCH RAMALINGAM PHD

President, Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) International,
President, Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA)

PANEL SPEAKER

ONE NATION, ONE SYSTEM:
Unifying School Psychology Across All Indian Schools

The Beattle Hotel, Powai, Mumbai
www.indianmentalhealthsummit.org

Organized By:



IMHS Welcomes New Knowledge Partners: InSPA and APSPA

At the Indian Mental Health Summit (IMHS), we believe that transformative progress in mental health is only possible through meaningful collaboration.

We are proud to announce our Knowledge Partnership with the Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA) and the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), two esteemed

organizations leading the way in school psychology at national and regional levels.

InSPA has been instrumental in advancing the practice and awareness of school psychology in India, while APSPA has played a critical role in shaping policy, training, and systemic support across the Asia-Pacific region.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to promoting early intervention, building inclusive educational environments, and strengthening the

role of school psychologists in creating safe, supportive spaces for children and adolescents.

The Indian Mental Health Summit 2025 will take place on 22-23 November at The Beatle Hotel, Powai, Mumbai. This two-day event will feature multiple keynote addresses, panel discussions, research paper presentations, and conversations that bridge theory and practice. With 400+ participants expected to attend, IMHS continues to be a key space for dialogue, connection, and innovation in the mental health community.

Together, we move closer to a future where every child feels seen, supported, and psychologically safe.



PREDICTING STUDENTS ACADEMIC AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

APSPA, in collaboration with its technology partner M/s. Evexia Analytics Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, has developed “Manasika,” a unique hybrid tool that leverages Artificial Intelligence and validated psychometric frameworks to systematically assess and address the emotional and academic needs of students from **Standards VIII to XII**.

Key highlights of “Manasika” include:

- AI-powered predictive analytics to detect early signs of emotional distress and academic challenges.
- Developed through **four years of rigorous research** involving international and Indian domain experts.



- **Validated by the Department of Psychology, University of Madras, and model-tested by InSPA with academic support from Pondicherry University.**
- **Pilot tested** in 15 schools across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, with highly encouraging outcomes and endorsement as a tool for **evidence-based governance** in school settings.

Given its proven effectiveness, we propose to implement “Manasika” across countries. This initiative would enable systematic assessments and targeted interventions, benefiting not just students, but also teachers and parents in ensuring holistic child development





Launching of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust

- Enhance mental health and well-being of children through school-based interventions
- Foster collaboration among educators, psychologists, researchers, and policymakers in the region
- Support culturally relevant practices and training models in school psychology
- Encourage capacity-building programs and research exchange



We are delighted to announce the **official launch of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust** on 14th March 2025 at **Pondicherry University**.

This significant initiative marks a milestone in promoting the development of **school psychology services, training, and research across the Asia Pacific region**. The Trust aims to:

The launching event will feature key dignitaries, academic leaders, and experts in school psychology from across India and the Asia Pacific region.

We cordially invite all stakeholders, practitioners, researchers, and students to be part of this historic initiative to **empower future generations through psychological well-being in schools**.

Together for children. Together for a resilient future.

Private circulation Newsletter to the members of Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)
www.apspa.in



ASIA PACIFIC SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (INTERNATIONAL)

(APSPA promotes school psychology in Asia Pacific by Enhancing Student Well-being, Professional Training, Advocacy, and regional collaboration)



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CHILD MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION AND COUNSELLING

The Child Mental Health Intervention and Counselling course provides a comprehensive understanding of the psychological, emotional, and behavioural challenges faced by children. This program focuses on early identification, assessment, and intervention strategies to promote positive mental health outcomes in children. Participants will learn evidence-based approaches, including play therapy, cognitive-behavioural techniques, and family-focused interventions. Emphasis is placed on developmental milestones, trauma-informed care, and culturally sensitive counselling practices. Designed for aspiring psychologists, educators, and allied professionals, the course aims to build the skills necessary to support children's mental well-being in clinical, school, and community settings through preventive and therapeutic strategies.

TOPICS COVERED :

1. Understanding Child Mental Health
2. Assessment in Child Mental Health
3. Common Childhood Disorders – I
4. Common Childhood Disorders – II
5. Counselling Techniques for Children
6. Family and School-Based Interventions
7. Trauma, Abuse & Child Protection
8. Ethics, Supervision, and Case Work

KEY TAKEAWAYS :

Recorded Version, Training Materials, Training Worksheets, Case Studies and Certificate of Completion.

OPEN FOR :

Psychologists, Counsellors, Psychotherapists, Social Workers, Teachers, Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Professionals, Mental Health Professionals, Students, Research Scholars, and Parents

DURATION OF THE COURSE : 2 Month

TIMING : Every Friday 7.00 to 9.00 pm **FEE :** Rs. 6000/-

COMMENCING ON : 22 - 08 - 2025

MODE : Online (Zoom Link)

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Prof. Panch Ramalingam, Director of UGC-MMTTC, Pondicherry University, is a pioneering academic with 28 years of experience in teaching and research. Author of 110+ books, he has received national and international awards, including the "Father of Psychology Award," and leads psychology organizations promoting children's mental health across the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. T. Santhanam, a renowned psychologist with 40+ years of experience, is a national awardee and expert in counselling, hypnotherapy, and special education. Director of SDS Academy, he has trained thousands, authored books, and empowered individuals with disabilities. He recently received the Fellow Award from the Indian School Psychology Association.

Dr. V. S. R. Vijaya Kumar, a renowned psychologist and data scientist with over 40 years of experience, specializes in behavioural sciences and analytics. He has empowered organizations through data-driven strategies and is globally recognized for advancing school psychology and mental health. He is also an expert memory trainer and children's learning style specialist.

Dr. Venkatasubramanian, an educational strategist and research analyst, focuses on promoting the emotional well-being of school children. Through his objective analysis, he identifies distinct indicators that help in understanding the various challenges faced by students. This scientific approach enables parents and teachers to better comprehend these issues and support the child effectively in overcoming them.

Shruthi Sridharan, a licensed Rehabilitation Psychologist and psychotherapist, works with children with neuro developmental disorders, conducting assessments, behaviour therapy, and guiding IEP development. Trained in CBT from the Beck Institute, SRF, and WPA, she uses evidence-based approaches to help clients overcome negative thought patterns and enhance overall well-being.

Ms. Janani B, a Medical Psychology alumna from Sri Ramachandra University, has substantial experience in offering counselling and psychotherapy to children with special needs and their families. She specializes in behaviour therapy, effectively addressing and managing challenging behaviours in children with various psychological and developmental conditions.

Ms. Anushya P, an alumna of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research with a background in Medical Psychology, has extensive experience in counselling, psychotherapy, and psychodiagnosis. She supports children with academic and behavioural challenges and helps individuals manage psychological conditions like anxiety, depression, phobias, and OCD.

Ms. Swetha A, a health professional and alumna of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, specializes in childhood psychopathology with a focus on neurodiverse children. She is also an experienced parental trainer, having conducted numerous workshops to promote positive parenting and equip parents with effective child-rearing strategies.

For Registration and Enquiry:

044 - 7961 5029 | 98401 45405 | 98946 36352 | 94999 64405

Email ID: drtsp@psys@gmail.com | mail@sdsabs.in

Website: www.sdsabs.in | Insta : sds.abs | Facebook : Sds.Abs



15TH InSPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY: EMPOWERING CHILDREN WITH LIFE SKILLS

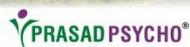
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8th APSPA International Conference in Japan

(18th - 23rd September, 2025)



"Advancements of School Psychology in the Asia Pacific Region"

Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), International and Asia Pacific School Psychology Trust (APSPT), India (Regd)

CONFERENCE BROCHURE



8th APSPA International Conference was held at the Assumption University of Thailand, Bangkok (28-30 October, 2024)