

PROFILE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

OF

**Prof. M.R. Doreswamy,
Founder Secretary, PES Education Society;
Chancellor, PES University and Adviser to the Government of Karnataka
(Education Reforms)**



Prof. M.R. Doreswamy (MRD),
an *Educationist Par Excellence*

A multitude of dynamic attributes are intertwined and synergized to manifest a multifaceted personality of Prof. M.R. Doreswamy. His profile and accomplishments are succinctly provided here in 3 sections: In Brief, In Detail and A Vision for Modernizing Education in Karnataka.

1. In Brief:

Personal Profile: Born in Narravuru village of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh on 7th November, 1937, in an agricultural family, his journey to the present exalted position of Chancellor of the globally renowned PES University and Adviser, Education Reforms, Government of Karnataka symbolizes a journey '**From Letters towards Excellence**' (**Aksharadinda Ananyada Kadage**), in letter and spirit. This journey is worthy of emulation by those who aspire to accomplish high professional standards by sincerity, dedication and untiring perseverance. Even at the age of 83+ years now, his energies, discipline, time consciousness, conceptual clarity, focused attention to even minute details coupled with eagerness to leverage education services in Karnataka and a genial, disarming smile are bound to impress everyone who meets him.

Prof. MRD is blessed with an equally dynamic family: his wife Ms. Radha Manohari, son Prof. D. Jawahar, daughter in law Ms. Suman Jawahar, daughter Dr. D. Roopa and son in law Dr. Suresh Krishna, all individually and collectively extending affectionate support for all his endeavours and have been pillars of strength in his life. Having mentioned these formal relations, it is necessary to note that Prof. MRD considers the all the staff and students of PES institutions as a large academic family, which reciprocates by affectionately acknowledging him as a father figure and mentor.

The PES Group of Institutions he has established and nurtured to become a global brand name, bear testimony to his passion for high quality education services. Today, PES group of institutions, spread over the states of Andhra and Karnataka, are offering school education (SSM Public School), PES Public School (Chittoor), higher education in a conventional mode (B.Com etc.,) in PES College, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore and PES University technical/professional education (B.Tech, M...Tech, MBA, Law, Ph.D; (Banashankari and Hosur Road campuses, Bangalore) and Medical Education (MBBS, MD,MS, medical and paramedical diploma courses) in PES Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh). A medical college with a 1100-bed super-specialty hospital is under construction in the Bengaluru South campus for offering high quality dedicated medical education and healthcare services to people of Bangalore/Karnataka.

At present, there are >1500 teaching, 1000 non-teaching/support/technical staff, presently working in these institutions. About 25, 000 students are pursuing their education in various PES institutions. An admirable feature of the PES institutions is their exceptional student performance, not merely in written exams but in placements across the globe, based on merit and campus interviews conducted by more than 120 national/global companies. It is no wonder that PES University is consistently getting high rating (10-15) every year, by national accreditation agencies.

Visits to US and UK as a Fulbright Fellow (1985) gave Prof. MRD him with not only an exposure to the emerging global trends in education but also an opportunity to formulate/shape the growth of PES institutions back in India for global competitiveness. By virtue of these expertise and accomplishments, Prof. MRD was nominated by Sri B.S. Yedyurappa, hon'ble chief minister of Government as a member of Karnataka Legislative Council (MLC) from education sector (2007-2013).

Such a spectacular history of good governance, educational outcomes, social service and philanthropy, Prof. MRD took the institutions to the next level i.e., establishing a PES University in 2013.

Bestowed with such high academic propensities and vision, it was natural for Prof. MRD to transform PES University to a renowned institution by establishing a Research Foundation in 2017. The accomplishments of PES Research Foundation, within just a few years of its establishment, have propelled PESU to a unique niche in the educational ecosystem of the country. DRDO commissioned PESU to build 2 satellites for their nationally important projects. These satellites have been successfully launched by ISRO with specialized payloads of high national importance. In India, only IIT, Mumbai has such accomplishments. Plans for taking up research/technology in globally prioritized areas such as Climate Change, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Green Chemistry and interdisciplinary research to evolve healthcare applications are under active consideration.

Since his student days, Prof. MRD was inspired with a sense of nationalism and social work. He was instrumental in constructing a school for the children of Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore by mobilizing public resources and enlisting support of local leaders reflects his concern to empower students with education. While studying in St. Joseph's college, Bangalore he actively participated in literacy programmes involving 20 slums of Bangalore including those in Srirampura, Siddapura and others. These social inclinations later manifested in his endeavours whenever an opportunity opened up. In a unique programme of empowering dropouts from schools, PESU has imparted employability enhanced training in carpentry, electrical repairs, TV repair etc.

As an MLC, he espoused adoption of government schools for development and committed his PES University to adopt more than 40 schools in and around and recently constructed 11 schools in the flood ravaged areas in north Karnataka districts of Chokkodi and Bagalkot. As the Adviser, Education Reforms, GoK he has opened up new vistas in leveraging school education services by involving all elected representatives (MLAs, MLCs and MPs) and enlisting the support of universities/autonomous colleges under a government programme, a first in the country worthy of emulation by other states.

He has submitted 18 recommendations to the government, officially released by hon'ble CM of Karnataka. Separate action plans for school and higher education sectors and 25 contextual recommendations to facilitate smooth implementation of NEP 2020 in Karnataka.

Government of Karnataka has honoured itself by inviting Prof. MRD to be its adviser for education reforms. The quantum leap in concepts and policy frameworks after Prof. MRD assumed the office of adviser bear ample testimony for this. We are sure that in short future, these policies will bear fruits to transform the education ecosystem in Karnataka, with all knowledge systems thriving and participating in nation building knowledge activities through empowerment of youth with contemporary education, skills and values.

Contributions as Adviser, Education Reforms, Government of Karnataka:

In recognition of his exceptional accomplishments, the Karnataka Government has invited him to be an Adviser to the Government on education reforms with a cabinet rank. With humility and gratefulness to Sri B.S. Yedyurappa, hon'ble CM , Prof. MRD has accepted this assignment as a responsibility to bring all his experience, expertise and learning to the public domain to enrich educational services by public institutions.

He has so far submitted 18 recommendations and corresponding action plans for their smooth implementation to the government so far to redefine and reshape the education outcomes from school to higher education in Karnataka and align them with the objectives of the National Education Policy, 2020. His recommendations on involving elected representatives (MLAs, MLCs and MPs) and Universities/Autonomous Colleges in government school development have caught national attention. Equally important recommendations for educational institutions at all levels include Mentoring, Meaningful Celebration of Holidays, Yoga and Meditation, Value Education, a Dedicated University for Divyang Students, Digital Health cards for students studying in all the 48,000+ government schools, a special education policy for the 6 districts coming under Art. 371-J (Kalyana Karnataka), Skill Development Centers and establishment of a Online Education Resources Center (OERC) by each state university to train the teachers and colleges to reach out to students during prolonged lockdown periods and thus prevent academic loss. His call for

appointing a visionary academician as Vice Chancellor has been acclaimed by all stakeholders as the need of the hour.

In addition, Prof. MRD has also submitted 2 separate action plans, one for school education and another for higher education, to implement the recommendations of NEP 2020 in Karnataka.