

Book
Launch

Help!
Can you hear us?

Navigating societal fault lines with children

Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy

As narrated to Vasanti Sundaram

Help!
Can you hear us?

Navigating societal fault
lines with children

Book Launch & Discussion

FEB · 07 · 2026

Saturday, 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Venue: MMA Management Center



VIDYA SHANKAR CHAKRAVARTHY
AUTHOR &
FOUNDER, RELIEF FOUNDATION

SYNOPSIS

"Help! Can You Hear Us? - Navigating Societal Fault Lines with Children" is a deeply personal account of Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy's life and work with children, as narrated to biographer Vasanti Sundaram.

Founder of Relief Foundation, Vidya has worked closely with some of the most vulnerable children in our society – those in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection. Drawing from her experience within government -run juvenile homes in Tamil Nadu, as well as her roles in the Juvenile Justice System, the book offers rare, firsthand insights into the lives of children who often slip through society's cracks.

Written from the perspective of a civilian stakeholder deeply engaged with the Juvenile Justice System, this work invites readers to look beyond labels and statistics, and to confront the human realities of childhood, vulnerability, and justice.

PROGRAMME

5:15 PM Registration & Hi-Tea

6:00 PM Welcome Address

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM

Executive Director

Madras Management Association

Launch of the book - By the dignitaries

Address by the Chief Guest

Dr S Muralidhar

Senior Advocate &

Former Chief Justice, Odisha High Court

Address by the Author

Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy

Author &

Founder, Relief Foundation

Fireside Chat

Dr S Muralidhar

Vasanti Sundaram

Biographer & Moderator

Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy

Q&A

7:25 PM Vote of Thanks

7:30 PM End of the Program

PROFILE

Dr S Muralidhar

Senior Advocate &
Former Chief Justice, Odisha High Court

Dr. S. Muralidhar is a distinguished Indian lawyer, former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, and currently a designated Senior Advocate practicing before the Supreme Court of India, known for his strong human rights stance, and recently appointed Chair of a UN Commission of Inquiry investigating the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He previously served as a judge at the Delhi and Punjab & Haryana High Courts and was elevated to Chief Justice of Orissa in 2021 before retiring and being designated Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in 2023.

Key Highlights:

- Began practice in Madras, moved to Delhi, became an Advocate-on-Record (AOR) in the Supreme Court, served as a Delhi HC Judge, then Punjab & Haryana HC Judge, and finally Chief Justice of Orissa HC.
- Designated Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court of India in October 2023.
- Appointed Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory in late 2025.
- Holds an LL.M in Constitutional & Administrative Law and is known for work on human rights and constitutional law.

Dr. S. Muralidhar is a highly respected legal figure who transitioned from a prominent judicial career to continuing his impactful work as a Senior Advocate and now holds a significant international human rights role with the UN.

PROFILE



Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy

Author &
Founder, Relief Foundation

Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy is a social entrepreneur, educator, and child rights advocate with over three decades of experience in India's social sector. A Chemical Engineer from A.C. Tech, Anna University (1986 batch), she founded Relief Foundation, which works at the intersection of juvenile justice and prevention-led early childhood education through a community-anchored rural Montessori model.

She also leads Awaken To Life, a training and consulting organisation working on children's rights, POSH, juvenile justice, and CSR project evaluation. She holds a PG Diploma in Child Rights Law and international Montessori qualifications.

A recipient of the Manava Seva Dharma Samvardhini Award and the Rotary Vocational Service Award, she is a widely travelled speaker and writer, and the compiler of Sakhi, a premarital preparation manual for youth.

PROFILE



Vasanti Sundaram

Biographer & Moderator

Vasanti Sundaram is an author, actor, and former media professional with over 35 years of experience across journalism, broadcast media, and corporate communications in Dubai and India. Her cross-cultural career adds perspective to the conversations she facilitates.

Her broadcast work includes radio news, television hosting, voiceovers, and screenwriting for *Sambar Salsa*, starring Rishi Kapoor. She has interviewed or featured several global figures and cultural icons, including leading Emirati business leaders in the UAE, as well as two Presidents of India—Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Smt. Pratibha Patil—Prime Minister I.K. Gujral, Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj, and leading actors such as Dilip Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Simi Garewal, Amitabh Bachchan, and Jaya Bachchan.

As an actor, her work spans four feature films, commercials, and three web series, including *Maharani Season 4*, currently streaming on Sony Liv.

Vasanti is also the author of three non-fiction books based on real-life experiences. Having travelled to 25 countries, she is comfortable engaging with diverse audiences and brings a straightforward, conversational style to interviews and live events.

CONNECT WITH US



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MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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