

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



AUTHOR
**VIDYA SHANKAR
CHAKRAVARTHY**



CHIEF GUEST
DR S MURALIDHAR



SPECIAL INVITEE
VASANTHI SUNDARAM

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, Supreme Court

Former Chief Justice, Odisha High Court

Address by the Author

Ms Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy

Author &

Founder, Relief Foundation

Fireside Chat

Dr S Muralidhar

Ms Vasanthi Sundaram

Biographer & Moderator

Ms Vidya Shankar Chakravarthy

Q&A

7:25 PM Vote of Thanks

7:30 PM End of the Program

PROFILE



Dr S Muralidhar

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

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, 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



Ms 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



Ms Vasanthi Sundaram

Biographer & Moderator

Vasanthi Sundaram is a corporate communications specialist and published author. She has worked across media and storytelling formats—as a TV talk show host, radio newscaster, and film scriptwriter—bringing a sharp editorial sensibility and an engaging on-stage presence to public conversations.

Vasanthi is currently self-employed as a corporate communications specialist, editor, and biographer. Her professional experience spans communications consulting and publishing, with previous roles and associations including APCO Worldwide, Footprints, Impulse Magazine, DIT Publishing, and authorship/creative work connected to titles such as *Memoirs of an Indian Patriarch*, *Sambar Salsa*, and *Impulse Magazine*.

She is known for shaping thoughtful dialogue, drawing out stories behind decisions, and translating complex corporate journeys into accessible, audience-relevant insights.

CONNECT WITH US



Email:

mma@mmachennai.org

Phone Number

044 - 28291133 / 28291166

Website

www.mmachennai.org

MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



**ROUTE MAP
TO MMA -
CLICK TO VIEW**

[CLICK TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US](#)

