

VIVEK SRINIVASAN

Name	Vivek Srinivasan
Current Status	Doctoral Candidate, Syracuse University, USA.
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Ph:	+1 801 784 8357
Date of Birth	May 25, 1977

Education

Ph.D. in Social Sciences

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

(Aug 2005 onwards)

Note: Social Science is a multi-disciplinary programme at Syracuse University. The coursework is completely designed by the student based on her topic.

Research Topic: What determines the widespread provision and good governance of basic amenities in Tamil Nadu: An institutional inquiry (see last page)

Subjects: Sociological theory, Citizenship and human affairs, Transnational feminist theories, Poverty law (law school), Social movement theories, Institutional economics. *Research methods:* Quantitative methods, Qualitative methods (Ethnography), Qualitative political economy

M. A. Economics

DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

(1997-2000)

Subjects: Basic courses in economics, Economic development and Planning in India, Industrial organization, Rise and the fall of international financial systems, Economic history of medieval India and Statistics & Econometrics.

B. A. Economics

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, TRICHY, TN, INDIA

(1994-97)

Work Experience

Consultant

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
(2008-09)

Created a syllabus and a study module on *Rights based approach and human development* for a course to be offered to mid-career professionals by TISS in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Coordinator¹

SUPPORT GROUP -RIGHT TO FOOD CAMPAIGN
(Feb 2002 – Mar 2005)

Nature of organization: Voluntary association of individuals formed to support the Right to food ‘Public interest litigation²’ and support India’s Right to Food Campaign.

www.righttofoodindia.org

Nature of my work: (i) Supporting campaign groups across India with information, planning local campaign activities, interlinking campaign groups, media support, background work for advocacy (ii) Assisting Commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court (iii) Assisting in background work for the right to food litigation (iv) Research assistance on campaign issues.

Policy coordinator

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION (NAFRE)
(June 2001 – Jan 02)

Nature of organization: Association of over 2400 grassroots organizations across India formed to press for a constitutional amendment on the right to education.

Nature of my work: (i) Following policy issues on to right to education (ii) preparing ‘positive demands’ on changes required in the draft bill prepared by the government (iii) preparing communication materials for grassroots organizations (iv) organizational responsibility for major national events.

Research assistant

(Oct 2000 – May 2001)

Research assistance to Mr N P Rajashekar for a book on leadership.

Trainee

INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS (ICRISAT)
(May 2000 – Oct 2000)

Nature of organization: Agricultural research organization focused on the Semi-Arid Tropics; a part of the CGIAR group of institutions.

Nature of my work: Research assistance on the ‘Future of agriculture in the Semi-Arid Tropics’

¹ This is not a formal title. The support group was an informal body and did not have any formal title. “coordinator” best describes the role I played in that position.

² PUCL Vs Uol and Ors [W/p (civil) 196 of 2001, Supreme Court of India]

Work Experience @ Syracuse University

Instructor POLITICS OF SOUTH ASIA (Spring 2010)	A course on South Asian politics to be fully designed and taught by me for students of social sciences and humanities.
Research assistant (Summer 2009)	Research assistant with Prof. Prema Kurien on the political engagement of Indian-Americans.
Teaching Assistant INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (Fall 2009)	Introductory course on international relations targeted at Freshmen. My responsibilities including leading discussion sessions for two classes of fifty students each.
Teaching Assistant POLITICS OF CITIZENSHIP (Spring 2009)	The course covered a range of topics relating to issues of citizenship and immigration combining theoretical and topical issues.
Teaching Assistant CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (Fall 2008)	Introductory course offered to students of political science and philosophy covering basic ideas of political philosophers.
Research Assistant (2006-07)	Research assistance to Prof. John Burdick, Dept of Anthropology.
Research Assistant (2005-06)	Research assistance to Prof. Alasdair Roberts, Dept. of Public Administration.

Selected presentations in USA

Academia and activism at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1 Apr 2009

Democratic process and the Indian state in a neoliberal era at Binghamton University, 20 Mar 2009

Legal action for the right to food in India at Harvard University, 16 Oct 2006

On the Right to Food Campaign at Boston University, 15 Oct 2006

School feeding in India for Hunger Project, Syracuse University, Fall 2005

Publications

- Mander, Harsh, Drèze, Jean, and Vivek, S. *Freedom from hunger and fear*. Delhi: RGICS, 2002.
- Vivek, S. Forthcoming. Making hunger a political priority in India. In *Human Right To Adequate Food: Definitions, Interpretations And Initiatives*, edited by Cecilia Florencio. Manila: Philippines: University of Philippines Press.
- Vivek, S. *Rights based approach and human development: An introduction*. Mumbai: India: Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Forthcoming.
- Vivek, S. 2008. School feeding as a global obligation. In *Global obligation for the right to food*, edited by George Kent. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Vivek, S. 2003. Hope in our hands. *Humanscape X*, no. Xii; 10th Anniversary Series:.
- Vivek, S. 2003. *Notes from the right to food campaign: People's movement for the right to food*. New Delhi ed. Delhi: World Food Program.
- Vivek, S., and Jean Drèze. 2002. Hunger in the classroom. *Hindustan Times Opinion*.
- Vivek, S., and Guha-Khasnobis, Basudeb. 2007. Rights Based Approach To Development: Lessons From The Right To Food Movement. In *Food Insecurity, Vulnerability and Human Rights Failure*, edited by Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis, Shabd Acharya and Benjamin Davies. Basingstoke: UK: Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Vivek, S., and Guha-Khasnobis, Basudeb. 2006. *Gender and the right to food: A critical re-examination*. Kolkatta ed. Helsinki: Finland: United Nations University: World Institute of Development Economics Research.
- Vivek, S., and Narayanan, Sudha. 2007. Food Policy and Social Movements: Reflections on the Right to Food Campaign in India. In *Food policy for developing countries: The role of government in the global food system*, edited by Per Pinstруп-Andersen and Fuzhi Cheng. Ithaca: New York: Cornell University.
- Citizens' Initiative for the Rights of Children Under Six. 2006. *Focus on children under six*. Delhi: Circus. (Contributor)

Current Research

Compared to most other states in India, Tamil Nadu is noted for widespread provision of education, primary health care, nutrition support, rural roads, electricity, water and other public services. These services are typically well planned and tend to work well. I examine what determines Tamil Nadu's performance and argue that this can be understood by looking at empowerment of poorer people and backward castes in four interrelated spheres: politics, society, individual freedoms and production relations. These changes were ushered in by a series of social movements from 18th century onwards including various Social reform movements, Dravidian movement, Communist movement, caste associations, and nascent Dalit and Women's movements. The research documents how these movements influenced policies and political priorities using colonial context, evolving democratic institutions and in the context of intense political competition in the state from 1952 onwards.

This work is based on 13 months of fieldwork that included extensive interviewing, participant observation (in administrative offices and offices of elected local representatives), and archival work.

Prior research engagements

- * Organised³ a survey on the performance of *Antayodaya Anna Yojana*, a grain-based social security programme in India. The results of the survey were presented to the Supreme Court of India in the right to food litigation and have resulted in landmark directions.
- * Organised a survey on school feeding programme with the Right to Food Campaign. This survey and the following have had a policy impact in India.
- * Organised a survey on childcare facilities in India that resulted in the FOCUS Report (see publications).
- * Investigator for a survey on small and medium scale export-oriented units in India for National Institute of Rural Development.
- * Research assistant for Dr. Prema Kurian in her work on political engagement of Indian-Americans.
- * Research assistant for Prof. Alasdair Roberts on representation of *public-private partnership* in the media.

³ This and the following two surveys were led by well known development economist, Jean Drèze. I provided organisational support from design to dissemination.

Other

Languages

- * Tamil (Fluent)
- * English (Fluent)
- * Hindi (Proficient)
- * French (Basic)
- * Portuguese (Basic)

Software Skills

- * NVivo content analysis tool
- * SPSS (basic) for statistical analysis
- * Advanced user of word processors, spread sheets & databases and other office packages.
- * Latex typesetting tool
- * Web tools like Dreamweaver, Wordpress, and advanced user of web 2.0 technologies.

Volunteering experience (selected)

TAMIL NADU SCIENCE FORUM

Participated in briefly in total literacy campaign, library programme for corporation school children in Madras city.

NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Involved organising food drives, volunteering in soup kitchens & other food related programmes in Syracuse area, New York.

AUBURN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Tutoring inmates at the centre high school level math, English and other subjects.

PLACEMENT CELL, DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Initiated an organisation to invite companies and research institutes to recruit students directly from campus at Delhi School of Economics. The 'cell' has completed 10 years now and has been enabling placements of most students in the economics department of DSE over the last few years.

Hobbies

Ventriloquism, movies, badminton, squash and travel.