

Greetings, Thanks and Best Wishes to Senior Professor K. Karunakaran

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Prof. K. Karunakaran is well known to everyone in the linguistics and related fields. Prof. Karunakaran was born on 15-06-1941 as the eldest son to the couple Mr. U.V. Krishnamoorthy and Mrs. Pappammal in a small village named Marakkottai in Salem district. After completing his B.Sc. (Mathematics) at the PSG College of Arts and Science in Coimbatore, he obtained his Masters and Doctoral degrees from the Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics at Annamalai University. He started his teaching activities in Linguistics and Tamil fields, and later adapted teaching and research as a part of his life.

Prof. K. Karunakaran is one of the pioneers in the development of the linguistics field and its spread in Tamil Nadu. When the Department of Linguistics was started at the Bharathiar University, Coimbatore in 1985, he became its first Professor and Head of the department. In 1996, he was appointed as Vice Chancellor of the Tamil University, Thanjavur.

Prof. K. Karunakaran has been rendering over 58 years of notable service for linguistics with due commitment and interest. He is a person who adapts himself to the environment wherever he works and creates a remarkable milestone in that place.

The beneficiaries of his educational works are not only in India but also overseas. He worked in many Universities abroad, and we can find his research in the UK, teaching in the US, educational service in Malaysia and research in Mauritius. He has written books and research articles for the benefit of students and researchers in other countries as well and has submitted them to universities around the world, especially in the United States, Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius.

Professor Karunakaran has written numerous books (42) and published a large number of articles (450). The students he moulded have served with great responsibilities both globally and in India. He never discriminated against anyone based on the grounds of race, sex, age, caste, language, region, religion or disability, etc. He treats all his friends, coworkers and students with kindness and generosity. He is the President of the Tamil Linguistics Association, which has been functioning for over 50 years, and also the Honorary Chairman of International School of Dravidian Linguistics.

Professor Karunakaran has received the Government of Tamil Nadu Literary Publication Award way back in 1994 and special awards in the names of scholars like Prof. R. P. Sethupillai and Prof. T.P. Meenakshi Sundaram and others. He is also a recipient of the Best Linguist Award and the Best Teacher Award presented by the American Tamil Association.

Professor Karunakaran is one of the greatest professors who shaped and moulded so many professors in Linguistics, Tamil, and English, etc. He is a man of simplicity. He has always been compassionate, kind, and strict. He offers a model of friendship; he is a cultivator of affinity in enmity among people, having potential, energy, and personality to complete any academic task in a most elegant manner. He is also a progressive thinker who lives from old to new.

We in the fields of Tamil, Dravidian linguistics and the study and research in Indian languages are greatly blessed by his academic knowledge and support. We greet Professor K. Karunakaran and his family and offer our thanks and best wishes.

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