

Niranjana Vanalli

Born in a remote village called Vanalli in Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka state, Dr Niranjana Vanalli is the eldest son of Dr Shivaram Hegde and Lakshmi Hegde. He had his primary education at government Primary school, Vanalli and high school at Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala , Mysore. Studying Pre university at MGM College was a turning point in his life as he was the speakers club secretary of MGM college Students Union. Niranjana moved to Mysore for his higher studies and did his Bachelors and Masters in Journalism from University of Mysore. He has a PhD in Journalism , which he did under the guidance of Prof N Usha Rani, and his research was on the art and literary magazines in Kannada.

Niranjana started teaching at SDM College Ujire, 25 years back. He served there for 6 years before shifting to University of Mysore as Lecturer in Communication and journalism. At Ujire he established himself as a serious freelancer in Kannada and English, apart from editing Manjuvani magazine of Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala. He published his first book, Suddiyaste Alla in Ujire, which won him State Sahitya Akademy Award (1993). After joining Mysore University in 1994 Dr Vanalli has been serving the Department of communication and Journalism for the last 20 years and at present he is serving as Professor and Chairman of Board of Studies in communication and journalism. The University has entrusted two more responsibilities to him in the form of Director of Centre for Proficiency Development and Director of Educational Multimedia Research Centre.

A prolific writer in Kannada, Dr Niranjana Vanalli has penned 31 books till now and thirty second book is in print. He has been a well known columnist in Kannada , writing columns for various popular news papers for the past 25 years. Till recently he wrote a popular column 'Kandiddu Kaadiddu' in Udayavani, Kannada daily for the last seven years. He has written more than 500 features till now as a freelancer. His books on various aspects of journalism and communication have proved very useful to the students. Dr Niranjana worked at Sultanate of Oman as Communication Professor for 28 months and produced a volume on the experiences there which has been considered a pioneer work in Kannada on the life at Middle East Countries. Dr Niranjana is a popular public speaker too, in Mysore.

Dr Niranjana has won several awards and recognitions for his contributions to Journalism, literature, and academic fields. Apart from being Sahitya Akademy Awardee, he was chosen for Goruru Award (2000) Ugraana Prashasthi (2002) HSK Award (2002) Krishnananda Kamath Puraskaara(2010), shimogga Karnataka Sangha Award (2010) and Rotary Amara vani prashasthi in 2014.

Niranjana lives in Mysore with wife Savitha and daughters Spoorthi and Siri at his residence 'Shalmala' in Sharada Devi Nagar, Mysore.