

Post Covid Lecture Series
National Online Lecture on



Governance of Local Resources and Local Economy

by

Shri. Ramasamy Elango

24 July 2021 at 6.00 p.m (IST)

Speaker



Shri. Ramasamy Elango is a native of Kuthambakkam village, Tamil Nadu. A Chemical Engineer by profession, his real passion was to empower his village through development initiatives. Being a substantial earner, using his money Elango started to rebuild the village community and formed associations like youth groups, women groups, and farmers groups to organize them to get empowered. More and more involvement in this created pressure in him to even resign the job and get fully involved in the village development process. With his experience in research and management, he planned many programs and started implementing those with the support of government agencies and nationalized banks.

In 1996, he was elected as the president for Kuthambakkam Gram Panchayat. In the beginning itself he prepared a five year plan for comprehensive development of the Panchayat rooted in participatory democratic model. Under Elango's leadership, various development initiatives were implemented in Kuthambakkam. He was reelected in 2001. Due to Elango's concerted efforts and his belief in bottom up approach to development, Kuthambakkam today is completely self sufficient. It is a hut-less village with well developed road infrastructure, rainwater harvesting and solar powered street lights.

In 2001, he founded a trust called "Trust for Village Self governance". Elango also set up a 'Panchayat Academy' for providing training to the Panchayat Presidents in Tamil Nadu and is working towards establishing a village based "Network Growth Economy" model. Through the Panchayat Academy, more than 600 Panchayats are networked in Tamil Nadu. Elango was awarded Man of the Year 2013 by *The Week* magazine. He had been to USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Austria, Cuba, Bangladesh, Taiwan and Pakistan to share his experiences at grassroots level development. He is actively working with 'Youth of India'. Elango also wants to create sustainable development opportunities which he believes can be accomplished by bringing viable technologies to the village. He is concentrating more on developing energy related technical solutions. At present, Elango is heading a sanitation program to provide dignified toilets to the village families.

Moderator : Dr. T M Joseph, Hon.Professor, Prof.BS Bhargava Chair on Decentralized Governance and Development, CRM, Kottayam & Principal, Mount Carmel College, Karukadom, Kothamangalam, Kerala.

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Organized by

Prof. B S Bhargava Chair on Decentralized Governance & Development, Centre for Rural Management (CRM), Kottayam, Kerala, Perumpaikadu Post, Kottayam, Kerala – 686 016 E-mail – crmkerala@gmail.com, www.crmindia.org, Mobile Number -80860 93363, Website – crmindia.org

All are Welcome

Please sign in at least 5 minutes before 06.00 p.m on 24 July 2021

Greetings from Dr. Jos Chathukulam, Director, CRM, Kottayam, Kerala