



V. R. Raman

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Research Expertise: Health Care Delivery Systems; Human Resources for Health; Health Financing; Health Governance; Health Behaviour Change; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion; Community Nutrition

Executive Director, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability;

National Convenor, Public Health Resource Network;

India In-Country Focal Person, Sanitation Learning Hub, IDS Sussex;

Former Policy Research Mentor, ATREE;

Former National Coordinator, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan;

Former Head of Policy, WaterAid India;

Former Director of State Health Resource Centre Chhattisgarh; Former Principal Fellow and Adviser, Public Health Foundation of India;

Former Chief Functionary, Multi-Sectoral Approach to Health Project

Brief Profile:

VR Raman is a practitioner turned administrator, researcher, and academician with over three decades of multisectoral experience working on health and allied themes across India and the

South of the world. He has unique senior-level involvement with all the flagship social sector development missions set up by the Government of India.

He has been a co-founder and leader of some of the key health sector reform initiatives in the country, such as the State Health Resource Centre Chhattisgarh, State Institute of Health and Family Welfare Chhattisgarh; Mitranin Community Health Worker Programme that influenced the design of ASHA programme under the National Rural Health Mission; The Swasth Panchayat Health and Human Development Index; Participatory Hospital Management and Quality Improvement Initiative; Institutional Support Arrangements for the Sahiyya Community Health Worker Programme; AYUSH mainstreaming and strengthening, and so on. He is also one of the founders of the Public Health Resource Network, a national-level collective of public health experts and organisations. He started his public health involvement from the state of Uttar Pradesh, leading the statewide community-level needs assessment for Reproductive and Child Health programme in the mid-1990s, called Jan Swasthya Samvaad and a Govt of India and UNDP-supported pilot project for setting up district health systems, namely, A Multi Sectoral Approach to Health.

As one of the founders of the Public Health Resource Network, he was instrumental in its nationwide support and capacity building measures for district health planning, including in the structuring of the PG Diploma in District Health Management jointly launched by PHRN with IGNOU.

He was a co-founder of the Health Governance Hub at the Public Health Foundation of India and served on several committees of the PHFI, such as for the study group on OneHealth and the Advisory Board for the Centre for Environmental Health at the PHFI.

While working with WaterAid, he spearheaded important studies and initiatives on drinking water quality, environmentally safe sanitation and menstrual hygiene and hand hygiene and safety and as the Policy Research Mentor at the Centre for Social and Environmental Innovations at ATREE, Bengaluru, he helped shaping their studies and initiatives for rural evidence and learning for Water.

With IDS Sussex, he spearheaded several participatory action research initiatives on different aspects of sanitation and hygiene, especially around Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.

Currently he heads the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, a unique organisation that analyses budgets and educates people of several walks on its nuances towards establishing better implementation of budgets. It also runs one of the largest open data repository on budgets called the OpenBudgetsIndia.org.

As an invited faculty, he teaches/ taught important topics at renowned institutions such as: Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani and Goa; Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, Bombay and Tuljapur; TERI, New Delhi; LBSNAA, Mussoorie; NIHF, New Delhi; and NHSRC, New Delhi.

He serves/ served several committees and boards such as:

- High-Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage as its Technical Adviser on Community Participation, Urban Health and Social Determinants of Health.
- Technical Resource Group for National Urban Health Mission as a member of its three task forces on community participation, equity and inclusion, financing and governance.
- Core Health Advisory, National Human Rights Commission, as a member.
- Expert Group, Central Bureau of Health Intelligence as a member.
- Joint review group of the International Water Association and World Health Organisation for suggesting revisions in the Water Safety Guidelines of the WHO as a member.
- International Advisory Committee for Health, Safety and Welfare of Sanitation Workers Constituted by the WHO, ILO, World Bank and the WaterAid, as a member.
- Course Advisory Committee for Post Graduate Diploma in District Health Planning and Management, Indira Gandhi National Open University, as a member.
- National Evaluation Group for the ASHA Programme, as a member.
- National ASHA Mentoring Group, as a special invitee.
- Vigyan Prasar's Scientific Advisory Group, as a member.

He has authored or co-authored several publications and resource material around various health and allied themes and has been featured in a Ted talk, several pod casts and media interactions.