

OBITUARY

Dr. C. Ramankutty

(1952 - 2023)



Dr C.Ramankutty, whose sudden demise on the 23rd of November, 2023 is a great loss, not only to Arya Vaidya Sala (AVS), including Centre for Textual Studies and Publications (CTSP) and but also to all those interested in medicinal plants. He served the publication department (today's CTSP) of Arya Vaidya Sala, most of his lifespan transforming it into an essential one among the various sections of the institution.

Dr. Ramankutty was born in the year 1952 at Kottakkal, that too near to the premises of Arya Vaidya Sala. He had his primary education at Kottakkal and college studies at Arts & Science College, Meenchanda, Kozhikode. Graduating in Ayurveda from Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram in 1976 and joined AVS Factory in the very next year. The guidance

of Late Aryavaidyan, S.R Iyer, then Factory Manager of AVS, was a turning point in his field of work. Thus he was immensely attracted to Ayurvedic literature and to the world of medicinal plants.

Holding the various positions like Assistant Physician, Assistant Editor, Assistant Factory Manager, Senior Manager and Chief Medical Officer he contributed relentless service at the AVS Publication department more than a quarter of a century.. All the books published during the period had the signature of this scholar as a main editor.

Dr. Ramankutty was very closely associated with the preparation of 'Indian Medicinal Plants – a compendium of 500 species' the prestigious literary contribution of AVS. To begin with, he supported S.R Iyer in preparing the draft. After the demise of Shri. Iyer, he made the ways of publication of the work, with the editorial supports of Prof. VP Nambiar (Senior Scientist, IDRC Project) and Dr. PK Warriar (Late Managing Trustee of AVS). The efforts were fruitful with its publication by Orient Longman in 1994.

He was the main helping hand to Dr MS Valiathan in writing the trio of great works on Ayurveda viz "Legacy of Caraka, Legacy of Susruta and Legacy of Vagbhata". He worked with Dr. N.V.K. Variar (Founder Chief Editor, Publication Department) in initiating the quarterly journal, Aryavaidyan as editor and also contributed articles to it. Doctor represented AVS in several national seminars and presented scientific papers. *Yogarathnavali* is the compendium wrote by him, evidences the profound knowledge especially thorough understanding of the identity of medicinal plants.

His wife, Late Dr. Chandrika Keeran served the Charitable Hospital of AVS as Medical Officer. His daughters Anjana Parvathi and Dr Archana Madhavi are a part of AVS now. We pay homage with tears to the departed soul.