

Varun Vidyarthi

Varun is the Founder Director of Manavodaya, an institution in India recognised as a centre of excellence in people-based, self-help approaches to development.



During his twenties, Varun abandoned a career in electrical engineering and business management to

live and work among poor villagers in Uttar Pradesh.

Varun and his wife, Amla, are known for their pioneering contribution to the self-help movement in North India. They have motivated and trained several thousand Indian professionals in practical methods of dialogue, empowerment and self-help. Hundreds of students from Europe, the US, Africa and Asia have attended Manavodaya's international course in Lucknow.

For a short period in the early eighties, he became Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University and the East West Center, Honolulu. He also served as

a consultant to organisations like UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN.

Varun and Amla were conferred the Human Values award at national level in India in recognition of their contribution to values-based management and social change. Varun is currently working with colleagues in Europe to develop Manavodaya International and has recently run workshops in Ethiopia and Scotland.

Varun is an inspirational speaker. One high-profile delegate at a recent conference said 'That was the best and most challenging presentation I've ever heard'.

The practical details of the process developed by Manavodaya can be found in *Development from Within*, Varun Vidyarthi and Patricia Wilson, Xlibris, 2008.

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