



Sri S. Sankara Raman is a Chartered Accountant who was affected by Muscular Dystrophy since infancy. His disability did not deter him from achieving in life. Being a gold medalist in Chartered Accountancy, he was a successful practitioner too. As a young professional his dream was to build a 'Valley for the Disabled'; in 1992 he joined hands with Shri. S. Ramakrishnan (Founder - Amar Seva Sangam), leaving a lucrative practice at Chennai, to make his dream a reality.



Today Amar Seva Sangam at Ayikudi, Tamilnadu is a model centre catering to all the needs of the disabled, thanks to his determination and relentless efforts. Its activities have expanded multifold; they provide education, training, institution-based rehabilitation, village-based rehabilitation and employment generation for the differently-abled. For his selfless service over the years, S. Sankara Raman has been honoured repeatedly by the Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu, and numerous other organizations.

Here Sri S. Sankara Raman shares his thoughts with *infinithoughts* readers in an exclusive interview.

Sri S. Sankara Raman

Hon. Secretary - Amar Seva Sangam

What has been the turning point of your life? An ever since moment...

Meeting CA S Gurumurthy (journalist) in 1978 at the age of 16, who inspired me to be a professional and at the same time a social activist.

One principle that you have held onto that has carried you this far...

Problems are potential opportunities and risks are the small price that you may have to pay for grabbing it.

One-character trait of yours that you admire the most ...

Challenge the challenges which brings the best out of me.

One weakness of yours which you are aware of...

Expecting same value systems of mine from others.

Your top two regular practices that have helped you in life...

Use of smart phones for immediate responses and regular reading of analytical articles of current importance.

One factor that motivates you to give your best ...

My (so called) disability which I consider should not be a constraint for my performance.

One relationship who has contributed to the making of you...

My father who never gave me any special/preferential treatment even though I was having the muscular dystrophy condition which slowly pushed me to use wheelchair from age 12.

What is that one emotion of yours which consumes a lot of energy? How do you channelise?

Never liked to be side-lined or under-estimated because of disability. Want to be understood as any other person; for this purpose, I always want to be correct in my acts and behaviour and work hard to produce results. I want to do and achieve things that others would find difficult...

If you are given an opportunity to live all over again what would you have done?

Get married again to Ramani and live happily in Hawaii islands trading on coconuts for our living.

A book / A movie / A song which has transformed you the most.

One novel that inspired me in my young age was 'Exodus' by Leon Uris.

What is that one thing that you wish to change in this world using your talent and potential?

I don't want to change the world, but I want to work for a totally barrier free country for the disabled which gives equal access to all. ●