Prof. Manjula Vibhasini Vithanapathirana, Professor in Educational Psychology at the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Her main area of expertise is in Child Developmental Psychology and Learning. She has supervised and produced a large number of postgraduate degrees in the area of Psychological Development of Children and Adolescence.

She is also an interdisciplinary scientist which is reflected in her education, research and practice. She graduated from the University of Colombo with Zoology Honours, completed postgraduate studies in Education with a Masters from the Open University of Sri Lanka and PhD from Institute of Education (IOE) University College London (UCL) in the United Kingdom. She also secured a Post Graduate Diploma and a Master of Arts from the Post Graduate Institute of Buddhist and Pali Studies of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

She has over 35 years of experience in teaching and research. She completed a tenure as the Dean of the Faculty of Education, the University of Colombo from 2016-2019. She was elected as the General President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) in 2016.

She won the scholar award in the US government Institute for Secondary School Educators in 2011. She has extensively traveled for research and study to Japan, China, Vietnam, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Eritrea, Nepal, Pakistan, England and Wales, Isle of Man, Peru, Germany, Austria, and Finland.

Prof. Vithanapathirana has delivered invited keynote addresses and speeches in around 50 conferences, international organizations, and universities on a range of topics. She is a member of the editorial boards of more than 15 journals and an active article reviewer of more than 20 journals of which mainly are international.

Her publications are on a range of topics on General Education, Teacher Education, and Buddhist Psychology.

At present she is the National Coordinator of the teacher capacity building CONTESSA project for Sri Lanka, launched by the University of Graz, Austria co-funded by EU.

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