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## **Essential School Psychology Competencies for the Asia Pacific Region**

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### **Description:**

The Asia Pacific region is made up of multiple nations with diverse cultures and languages that are still developing. Every country has its distinctive schooling systems that cater to the needs of heterogeneous groups of children. Government-run and private schools in urban and rural areas differ from private English-medium schools, which mostly draw pupils from affluent families. Therefore, the current school setting is characterized by institutions of various standards that can be distinguished based on several criteria such as teaching and learning methods, physical infrastructure, and administration policies. Children attending these schools need suitable psychological support to learn and acquire the necessary life skills and abilities

We firmly believe that only professional school psychologists can provide the appropriate specialist guidance to children in schools and other educational establishments like special schools or mental health homes. Due to the post-COVID-19 pandemic, these schools desperately require professional school psychologists to create an environment conducive to teaching and learning. So, they can deliver high-quality education in Asia Pacific countries while promoting mental health and well-being. In response to Globalization the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation seems imminent. 2030 is not far off. Governments worldwide are striving to guarantee success. We hope to get guidance and support from the International School Psychology Association to provide the necessary School Psychology Competencies to meet the challenges and opportunities in the Asia Pacific region.

**Brief Bio:**

Prof. PANCH. RAMALINGAM, PhD (Psy)  
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Presently, **Prof. Panch. Ramalingam** is Director (i/c), UGC – Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (Formerly UGC-HRDC) of the Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India. Which is a higher education teacher development centre established by the University Grants Commission to plan, organize, monitor and evaluate programmes for teachers of Colleges/Universities. He is having rich experience of 27 years in teaching, research and co-ordinating the Faculty Induction Programmes/Orientation, Refresher Courses, Short Term Courses, and other programmes related to professional development of teachers and Research Scholars in higher education.

He had three Postgraduate degrees (MA in Psychology, MA in Education and MA in Political Science), M. Phil. and Ph.D. research in Educational Counselling Psychology at Annamalai University, He had his undergraduate in Mathematics (B.Sc.). His research area includes Teacher education, School Psychology, undergraduate occupational preferences, decision-making and mental health in Educational Counselling Psychology, Career Counselling, Integral Education, Yoga and Indian Psychology.

He is regularly attending and presenting research papers at the annual conferences organised by the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology (IAAP). He has organized 20 national and 25 international conferences/seminars. He authored/ edited more than 80 books including 30 books related to psychology and education, which include *School Psychology in the Indian Context (2021)* (It has been translated into 16 Indian Languages), *School Psychology: Enhancing Competencies (2015)*, *Educational Psychology (2013)*, *School Psychology (in Tamil 2012)*, *Life Skills for Quality Life (2012)*, *School Psychology: Counselling Perspectives (2012)*, *Recent Studies in School Psychology (2010)*, *European Educational Resources (2010)*, *Effective Teaching Skills (2007)*, *Teaching Skills and Techniques (2007)*, *Education and Information Technology (2006)*, *Psychological Approaches to Teacher Education(2004)*, *Studies in Applied Psychology (2003)*, *Applied Psychology for the World Peace and Prosperity (2002)*, *Psychological Perspectives in Education (2000)*, *Undergraduate Occupational Preferences (1998)*, *Dictionary of Psychology (English – English: 5th edition 2002)*. He has Co-authored/edited five books including *Education and Human Rights(1999)*, *Glimpses of Human Rights (1999)*, *Human Rights for the Third Millennium(2000)*, *Dictionary of Education (2000)* and published

52 research papers in reputed journals.

He has been recognized as Fellow of IAAP in February 2023, received twice Cal Catterall Award from International School Psychology Association, USA in 2009 and 2010. He visited University of Malta, Malta to present a paper in the 31st International Conference of ISPA in July 2009, The Trinity University, Dublin in July 2010, and University of Basel, Switzerland in July 2019. He visited London (2009 and 2010), Paris in July 2009, visited as guest faculty to Klagenfurt University, Austria in 2014, and Singapore in 2013, 2014 and 2016, Germany, 2019. He visited Malaysia to conduct School Psychology Programmes in 2016, 2018 and 2019, and Sri Lanka in 2017, and 2020. He has visited Bangladesh in 2019, Australia twice in 2022, Japan to conduct a symposium at Tokyo University of Social Welfare in 2023, and Mauritius to conduct an International Conference in 2023.

He is Editor of the *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology (2016 - 2020) and Editor (2005 – till date)*; Editor, InSPA Journal of Applied and School Psychology, (founded in 2019), Editor in Chief, International Journal of Asia Pacific School Psychology (Founded in 2020), Associate Editor and invited Editor of the Journals "*Indian Journal of Applied Psychology*" (2006-2020) and "*Journal of Psychological Researches*" (2006-2020). He is editor of the newsletter "*Indian Psychologist*" (2001- 2012) published by the Pondicherry Psychology Association, an editorial advisory member of Gujarat Journal of Psychology, *Journal of Disabilities*, member of the *PRP Journal of Human Rights*, New Delhi (1999-2003), Journal of Educational Psychology Studies (2022- till date).

He is Founder President, Asia Pacific School Psychology Association, Malaysia (2019 - 2025), Founder President of the Pondicherry Psychology Association (2000 - 2008), Founder and presently President, Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA) (2020 to 2026), Patron of the Pondicherry Educational Foundation. Hon' President, International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC), Canada, and Founder secretary of the Puducherry Co-op. Book Society (1996-2002) and Secretary of Centre for Universal Ethics, Pondicherry (1999–2003), member of International School Psychology Association (ISPA), USA, Transpersonal Association, USA, member of American Psychological Association (APA), Washington. Society for Educational Technology Research and Development, Bharathidasan University, Trichy and Life Member, Madras Psychology Society, Chennai.

