



## Bala Mandir Research Foundation

cordially invites you to the

### S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar - 2015

## Parents Have Rights Too!

**Date:** Wednesday, 10 February, 2016

**Time:** 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Vaishali Hall, Hotel Palmgrove  
13, Kodambakkam High Road,  
Near Gemini Flyover, Chennai - 600 034

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#### Programme

4.30 pm Tea

5.00 pm Presentation by Panelists

6.00 pm Public Forum

#### Panelists

Dr. Vijay Nagaswami, *Psychiatrist and Author*

Dr. Gita Arjun, *FACOG, Director, E.V. Kalyani Medical Foundation*

Ms. Usha Ramakrishnan, *Chairperson, Vidya Sagar*

Ms. Mirai Chatterji, *Director, Social Security, SEWA*

#### Chaired by

Dr. S. Anandalakshmy, *President, Bala Mandir Research Foundation*

## PARENTS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

This is the fourth in the series of seminars with a Rights' approach, shifting the focus now, from the children to the parents. And as in the earlier seminars, the bottom line is that rights and responsibilities should go together.

The word "burden", to refer to parental duties, must be excised from our vocabulary. Parenting is an exciting and emotionally satisfying human interaction, a biologically in-built activity for ensuring that the next generation thrives. Persons who are engaged in parenting in the world of today, may feel that they are involved in a balancing act, as demanding as that of a trapeze artiste's. But surely, whatever the challenges, they would not trade their parenting, for a life without children to nourish.

We reiterate our inclusive definition of parent, as anyone who plays a nurturing role in the lives of children. We also remind ourselves that children are not "owned" by parents, but held in trust.

#### What would some of these rights be?

To be individuals with an identity and opportunities for self-actualisation

To have personal space and choice of activities, including in public life

The right to provision for child care

Access to legal counsel in matters of adoption, custody, surrogacy and child support

Gender balance at home and work place

Right to information on schools and schooling options for children

Our illustrious panelists will present perspectives on these issues and engage the audience in a dialogue, which promises to be enlightening and stimulating.

Other parental rights will emerge from the presentation of the experts on the Panel and the discussions among the audience.