

**KIX EMAP Podcast – Episode #26: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Improving Education, with Prof. Manjula Vithanapathirana**

Speaker biographical note



Prof. [Manjula Vithanapathirana](#) is the Chair Professor of Educational Psychology at the [Faculty of Education, University of Colombo](#) (Sri Lanka). She was formerly the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the university from 2016-2019. Her research spans a wide range of [interdisciplinary educational areas](#), including teacher education, science and math education, and Buddhist cultural perspectives. While her work has been influential in Sri Lanka, she has also had wide recognition and collaboration from abroad, such as work with the [EU Co-funded CONTESSA project](#), Aga Khan Education Service in Pakistan, and and [UNICEF Eritrea](#) in the African region. She earned a PhD from the Institute of Education at the University College London (UK). She holds a Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies from the [University of Kelaniya](#) (Sri Lanka) and a Master of Education from the [Open University of Sri Lanka](#). She also graduated with a BSc in Zoology from the University of Colombo.