Professor Viswanatha Ramamurti (1938-2016) was a celebrated teacher, an excellent researcher and an industrial consultant par excellence. He pioneered industrial consultancy in the Department of Applied Mechanics at Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM).

Prof. Ramamurti earned his M. Tech degree from IIT Kharagpur in 1963, and his PhD in 1970 from IIT Madras. Prof. Ramamurti was the chair of the Department of Applied Mechanics from 1978 to 1981.

He continued to be academically active even after his retirement from IIT Madras in 2001. He wrote four books on Engineering Analysis & Design with second editions, indicating the popularity of his textbooks.

Prof. Ramamurti was a rare gem; a very unique personality who went beyond the classroom work to be close to students both in India and abroad. Scholarship, hard work, impeccable moral credentials were his inspirational hall marks that benefitted a whole cadre of students. Prof. Ramamurti had a very close rapport with Mechanical Engineering B. Tech students and developed lasting ties with them as a Mentor. In all, he guided 25 students for their doctoral degrees and authored more than 185 papers in international journals. Prof. Ramamurti’s students have occupied important academic, industrial, and administrative positions across the world.

He will be remembered as a great teacher, most sought after author, and a successful industrial consultant par excellence.

The Prof. V. Ramamurti Institute Chair Professorship at IIT Madras will honor the legendary professor and will be instituted in the broad area of ‘Stress Analysis, Dynamics and Controls Engineering’.

Prof. Ramamurti’s expertise was in Machine Dynamics, and his work had broad implications from the fundamental studies in fracture mechanics on one extreme and mechanisms & controls engineering on the other.

The Professor V Ramamurti Chair campaign has reached its goal. Any additional contributions will go towards funding research assistantships for BTech students under the mentorship of the selected VR Chair. The proposed VR Chair for Engineering Excellence covering areas of Mechanics, Design & Control Engineering is planned to be inaugurated in August 2018.