

# Profile of Mr. Vivek Sawant

Mr. Vivek Sawant is the Managing Director and CEO of Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) since its inception in 2001. Under his leadership, MKCL has emerged as a high-tech initiative of the Government of Maharashtra and 10 universities in Maharashtra for development and delivery of Education, Governance and Empowerment technologies, solutions and services to masses.

In MKCL, he has successfully integrated a network of about **5500** Authorized Learning Centers spanning over the Maharashtra state. About **25,000** trainers, counselors and facilitators serve in this network. These large-scale employment and self-employment opportunities in the field of IT have been provided to them at their own native places. This network is the single largest private-public-partnership network of its kind in India. In last 13 years, under the leadership of Mr. Sawant, about **9.5 million (95 Lac) students** have taken low-cost, high-quality IT Literacy education leading to **MKCL's MS-CIT** certification through this network. This is a world record. These 9.5 million students belong to diverse age groups and diverse economic and social strata. They come from metro, urban, Semi-urban, rural and even tribal areas of Maharashtra.

MS-CIT is widely recognized as the de-facto benchmark in IT Literacy and also the major step towards bridging the *Digital Divide* and resultant *Knowledge Divide* and *Career Opportunity Divide*.

Under Mr. Sawant's leadership, MKCL with its popular brands such as:

- ERA i.e. eLearning Revolution for All
- KLiC i.e. Knowledge Lit Careers Development
- MFS i.e. MKCL Finishing Schools
- Digital University
- OASIS i.e. Online Application Solutions and Integrated Services

has offered its Digital Empowerment services to more than **20 million (2 Crore)** common people in Maharashtra and several other states of India as well as abroad.

MKCL has emerged as a self-sustaining, wealth creating and ever growing enterprise and it is firmly committed to its social responsibility and accountability and ethical values.

Soon after completing his school and college education in Nasik and Post-Graduate education in Pune, Mr. Sawant served as a teacher of Physics, Electronics and Computer Science at the Fergusson College, Pune from 1979 to 1987 and as the Deputy Director of Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research from 1987 to 1988.

Later he participated in design and development of India's first indigenous Supercomputers **PARAM** at C-DAC from 1988 to 2000. There he served in various roles in R&D, management and leadership.

During his tenure at C-DAC, he developed the nationwide network of 20 Advanced Computing Training Schools (ACTS). Under his leadership at ACTS, more than 25,000 engineering graduates from various disciplines were rigorously trained in software engineering and state-of-the-art software development tools and methodologies. All of them were placed in leading IT industries in India and abroad and are now serving in leadership roles in IT industry all over the developed world.

Later he also served as the founder Director of International Institute of Information Technology at Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park at Hinjawadi, Pune.

Mr. Sawant has served on several policy-formulation committees at state and national level including the Indian Prime Minister's IT Task Force, State eGovernance Task Forces, etc.

He has served on Boards of Studies and Academic Councils of several universities.

He is an honorary fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences.

He serves on the boards of directors of several organizations such as MKCL, Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation Limited (RKCL), Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Limited (HKCL), MKCL International Free Zone Establishment, Dubai, MKCL Arabia Ltd, Riyadh, MKCL Lanka, MKCL Knowledge Foundation, etc.

He also offers his strategic contributions and voluntary services on the boards of trustees and advisory councils of many educational, social and voluntary organizations.

His research interests include:

- Development of New Paradigms in Education
- Development of innovative eEducation, eGovernance and eEmpowerment technologies, solutions and services for common people
- Building Private-Public-People Partnership Networks for Development and Empowerment

Mr. Sawant has authored many research papers and articles and delivered lectures in these areas in English and Marathi in India and abroad.

Mr. Sawant has been felicitated by various awards for his distinguished contributions in the fields of education, high performance computing, entrepreneurship development, leadership development, innovations, etc. Some of the awards are:

- Dnyana Surya Award
- Rotary's Young Recipient Award
- Rotary's Vocational Excellence Award
- Yashokeerti Award of the Computer Society of India
- Rajeev Gandhi Sanganak Sarathi Award
- ETH Education Award
- IT-ICON Award
- Doordarshan's Shikshan Ratna Award
- VASVIK Award for Excellence in R&D
- Dr. Annasaheb Shinde Memorial Award for excellence in education
- Neel-Vasant Award for Excellence in Education
- Maharashtra Corporate Excellence Award for Innovation (Maxcell Award)
- Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award of Maharashtra Foundation America
- Pune's Pride Award
- Swami Rama Humanitarian Award of Swami Rama Himalayan University, Uttarakhand