

## **Professor Subramani's New Book**

A renowned local literary giant and UniFiji Professor in English, Professor Subramani, has published a new book titled "Reason to Imagine". It is a work of non-fiction in English and a deviation from Professor Subramani's previous book "Fiji Maa; Mother of a Thousand (2019)", written in Fiji Hindi.

Professor Subramani has established for himself the distinctive identity as a writer who creates in two languages simultaneously or alternatively, employing multiple genres.

The UniFiji- based writer argues that bilingual authors have the capacity to push the boundaries of writing because of the intersection of two languages, apart from access to the resources of those languages, and the advantage of dual perspectives, world-views and philosophies. This gives them enormous advantage to innovate, experiment and produce something genuinely original and avant- garde in imaginative literature.

The University of the South Pacific's Professor Sudesh Mishra said the real test of a scholar is his or her capacity for intellectual restlessness.

"In these essays," Professor Mishra said, "whether he is reflecting on education, vernacular languages, social cohesion, and homegrown epistemologies or on his own journey as a writer, Subramani is a scholar par excellence because his interventions are driven by an audacious intellectual restlessness. This 'restlessness' as a virtue is exemplified his external and internal journeys".

In one of the essays, Professor Subramani is travelling to Assam for a literature festival and is worried about state of the world with the advent of Donald Trump, and at the same time he is inwardly thinking of his students in Fiji who are beginning to treat books with indifference, even disdain; he is cheered by the respect India still shows for books, placed at the top of the list of countries that read for pleasure.

The new work by Professor Subramani presents educators and policy-makers many subjects to debate, from the retrieval of local epistemologies (systems of knowledge), the reform of outdated curriculum, re-envisioning university education, the state of reading culture, building communities, to the protection of endangered vernacular languages. A tone of urgency resonates throughout the book that conveys Professor Subramani's belief that time is running out on these issues. Those aspiring to write and learn the 'craft' of writing, they can follow the journey of this Fijian writer who discovered early, as a child the 'reason to imagine', and then to create fiction and non-fiction in the English and Fiji Hindi languages.