



Anne Ferrer

Essex, England (1947)

Anne Perry was born in Essex, England in 1947 and has been residing in India for almost 60 years and is currently an Indian citizen. At the age of 16, as part of an adventurous journey by car with her family, she arrived in India, where she completed her studies and started working as a journalist in a Mumbai-based news magazine *Current*.

She met **Vicente Ferrer** during an interview in 1968 and got stirred by his philosophy and work for the **disadvantaged communities** in Manmad, Maharashtra. Bound by a shared commitment to fight for the equality and rights of such communities, Anne joined Vicente in Anantapur and founded the Rural Development Trust (RDT) in 1969. A year later, they got married.

As a co-founder of RDT, young Anne Ferrer started spearheading the interventions during the 1970s when the conditions in the Anantapur district were severe and drought consequences included extreme poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, illiteracy and worsening health conditions. She opened a school for children with disabilities which was attended by only three children. From then on, **she designed and implemented programmes with a focus on children, women and persons with disabilities as well as in community health and hospitals.**

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Ms. Ferrer has also been actively involved in interventions in ecology, livelihoods, habitat and area development. With 50 years of experience in field of development, she applies her expertise to not only upscale existing programmes but also to initiate other sustainable and innovative projects. Currently she is the **Executive Director of RDT as well as the President of Fundación Vicente Ferrer in Spain.**

Amongst several accolades, Anne Ferrer is the recipient of the **Jamnjalal Bajaj 2015 award** for the development of women and children and the **Hamsa Award 2015** given by the Andhra Pradesh Government for her contribution to rural development. Internationally, she has received the Isabel Ferrer Award for equality between men and women (Generalitat Valenciana) in 2005, Knight Commander of the Order of the Civil Merit granted by the Ministry of External Affairs of Spain in 2014 and the **Robert Burns Humanitarian Award** received in Scotland in 2018.

She has portrayed her journey of life and work in her book ***Expect A Miracle and Lots of Hard Work.***