

Born in 1938 to parents of humble means, Mr. Ramiah showed potential and leadership qualities from a young age. At 18 years, he was provided a scholarship to pursue his education in the former Soviet Union, where he got his qualification in labour studies. He also pursued his education in East Germany.

On return to Sri Lanka, he joined the Trade Union movement, and the Sri Lanka Communist party. He fought for the rights of the workers including better pay and living conditions. He also contested the provincial council elections and was the Deputy Opposition Leader of the Central Provincial Council.

Mr. Ramiah was a prolific public speaker and a writer and thinker. He was a very frequent commentator on labour rights and political analysis on several national and international media.