

PROFILE OF Ms. SHANTHI MENON



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"I don't teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide them conditions to learn"- Albert Einstein

Ms Shanthi Menon has extrapolated this enlightening quote by Albert Einstein in the creation and management of the Deens Group of Institutions which she leads in various roles.

As the Principal Founder of the Deens Academy in 2006, she envisioned, moulded and created an environment of empowerment not just for the pupils of this institution, but also for the teachers, staff and parent community of the Deens Group of Institutions.

Being a multitasking person herself, she embodies the spirit of the organisation which uses diverse skills of our multi-cultural environment to steer itself to the highest echelons of Educational excellence within a very short period. Through her personal engagement with every member of this growing establishment she has created an amiable team to provide a vibrant academic atmosphere which is creative and stimulating even while dealing with the metamorphosing world around us.

Despite her busy schedules, she continues to administer and replenish not just the Life skills curriculum at Deens but also strives to create multiple opportunities for Deenites to showcase their cultural and innovative skills in interschool competitions as well as in Community service projects.

A university rank holder from Stella Maris College, Chennai, she holds teaching and training diplomas with distinction from the Cambridge University, UK, and a Master's degree in Education. Ms Shanthi Menon has worked in many prestigious institutions in Chennai and Hyderabad after which she was the coordinator at CMR

National Public School, Bangalore and was also instrumental in setting up Gopalan International School in Bangalore before she joined Deens Academy.

Not just an academician and educationist par excellence- Ms Shanthi Menon is also an A-grade auditioned artist at Doordarshan, Chennai. She has the distinction of being able to perform a variety of Indian folk dance and some western forms too. Shanthi Menon has also to her credit some modelling assignments and comperes dance programmes and events. She has trained students in the Mohiniattam and Bharthanatyam styles. Shanthi is also trained in Carnatic music and is a creative artist who gives life to Tanjore paintings as well.

Daughter of the eminent, Dr E Sreedharan, the Metro Man of India and wife of Mr Hari Menon, Co-Founder CEO of Big Basket.com and ex-CEO, India Skills, a pioneering vocational skills development company, Shanthi is a passionate home maker and the mother of 3 sons.

Presentation, Awards and Recognition- **Presentations as a Speaker:**

Shanthi Menon has presented papers on various education related subjects including assessment and technology in classrooms, at various national and international forums.

- Speaker at the symposium on perspectives on e-schooling, jointly organized by Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai and the U.S. Embassy's American Center in New Delhi March 2021
- Speaker for IIHM on Inclusive Quality Education, Jan2021
- Hosted a panel discussion on Policies, Practices & Threats to School in Current Times, in the 8th National Conference, hosted by Education Today-Jan'2021.
- Anchored the segment on Honing appropriate skills to build competencies for future readiness at the 26th Annual National Sahodaya Schools Conference - Dec 2020
- Women's Economic Forum July 2020
- Academic Leadership Summit 2020
- Demystifying NEP at Athasri-Oct 2020
- Purposeful Student Engagement in conference hosted by IIEM-Oct 2020
- Speaker on conference held by EduTV Dec'2020
- Speaker at the educational conference organised by Garden City College on NEP , Oct, 2020
- Speaker at ELDROK- Indian K12 Award 2019
- 4th National Education conference on k12 Leadership 2016
- IDA connect speaker collaborative learning in the connected age -2016
- World Education Summit -2013

- Speaker at the MapMyStudy PAC Asia - Student Recruitment & Solutions

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- '50 Effective Principal's Award' – 2020 conferred by Education World
- 'Iconic Leader' Award- conferred by the Women's Economic Forum in July 2020
- '50 Top Effective Principal's award' – On 14th Sep 2019 conferred by Education World.
- 'Principal Par Excellence' - The Teachers Day Awards 2018 by the International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM)
- 'Life Time Education Achievement Award in School Development, 2018' - National School Award 2018, Delhi
- 'SHINING STAR AWARD' by ABHINANDANA 2018 – on 1st May 2018 for achieving success through Professional Excellence in the field of Education - An initiative of International School of Business and Research (ISBR) in association with ELCIA & PRCI –SHRAMA Awards to Women Achievers by Men of Distinction.
- 'Life Time Education Achievement Award, 2015' - International Institute of Education and Management, Delhi
- Winner in the category of Vision and Leadership – 2014 – 2015 presented by IBCI School Brilliance Awards 2015
- 'Ideal Principal Award 2015' by Akhil Bharatiya Nagrik Vikas Kendra, Aurangabad
- Honoured with 'Ideal Principal Award 2014' by Akhil Bharatiya Nagrik Vikas Kendra, Aurangabad.
- Recipient of the 'Chanakya Award for The Best Principal 2013, jointly presented to her by Education World and The Bangalore School.
- Conferred the Women Leadership & Innovation Awards in the category of education, from the International Women Leadership Forum in April 2013
- Conferred with an Award for Education Excellence 2011 from the Economic Development Forum and the Indian Achievers Forum, New Delhi.
- Honoured as 'Ideal Principal Award 2011' by Akhil Bharatiya Nagrik Vikas Kendra, Aurangabad.

- Award of recognition for her contribution to society, on the occasion of Womens' Day, 2011, by His Excellency Dr Joseph V G, Honorary Counsel of the Republic of Maldives in Bangalore in partnership with The Garden City College, Bangalore.

AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE DEENS ACADEMY UNDER HER LEADERSHIP

- Award in the category of 'Attention to Students' - 2019 from Education Today
- Deens Academy, Gunjur campus received the award for Upcoming School of the Year - National School Award 2018, Delhi
- The Deens Academy Ranked No.1 in India under the Top CBSE Parameter for 'Academic Reputation` in a survey conducted by EducationToday - India`s School Merit Awards, 2018
- Assocham - Parent of School Innovation Awards, 2017 - presented Deens Academy with the Jury Choice award in the category of Parent Engagement (Jury) CBSE
- Education Today - India's School Merit - 2016 - 17 - At the 4th National School Merit Awards and Conference on K12 leadership, The Deens Academy was ranked No. 10 in India, No. 3 in Bangalore and No. 3 in Karnataka in the category of the top 10 CBSE schools in India
- First Runner - Ignite your minds - The Leadership Event - Quest 2015 - Organised by Global Awareness Program (GAP)
- 'School Excellence Awards - Top 20 CBSE Schools' in 2015 present by Brainfeed in recognition of School vision and mission in imparting life changing learning opportunities and pre-eminence as a beacon of change for the future generation
- Awarded 'India's Top 20 CBSE Schools in 2015 - Ranked No. 3 in Bangalore and Ranked No. 10 in India for exemplary contribution to the Education Field' presented by Education Today
- Winner in the category of Vision and Leadership - 2014 - 2015 presented by IBCI School Brilliance Awards 2015
- 'Best School Award - 2014' by Akhil Bhartiya Nagrik Vikas Kendra (All India Citizens Development Centre)
- Sirigannada Prakashana Chitradurga Certificate for School 2013 for the Best School Award in the State Level

Shanthi Menon-The Artist

Ms Shanthi Menon is better known as an eminent personality in the field of Education. She is the founder Principal of the Deens Academy which has now grown to be the Deens Group of Institutions with two main Branches, two kindergarten units and a Pre-University college which she heads in various prominent designations.

She is the daughter of the eminent, Dr E Sreedharan, the Metro Man of India and wife of Mr Hari Menon, Co-Founder CEO of Big Basket.com and ex-CEO, India Skills, a pioneering vocational skills development company, Shanthi is a passionate home maker and the mother of three sons



Running parallel to her chosen career is her talent in the field of dance. She is a trained Bharatanatyam and Mohiniattam dancer. Shanthi is also trained in Carnatic music and is a creative artist who gives life to Tanjore paintings as well.

Having been an A-grade auditioned artist at Doordarshan, Chennai, Ms Shanthi featured often on the local programmes. She has the distinction of being able to perform a variety of Indian folk dance and some western forms too. Shanthi Menon has also to her credit some modeling assignments and comperes dance programmes and events.

Ms Shanthi was initiated into Bharatanatyam at the tender age of 3, propelled by her mother's zeal for dancing. She trained under Kalamandalam Thangamani Kutty (Calcutta) and performed her arangetram, at the age of 9, within the inner sanctums of the famous Guruvayoor Temple, Kerala.

After being under the guidance of Padmasri Venkatalakshamma (Mysore), Kalakshetra Uma (Chennai) and Kalakshetra Sheela, Shanthi later made a transition to Mohiniyattam.

Under the tutelage of Kalamandalam Mani (Cochin), Trichur Shadevan and Smt. Sridevi Unni (Bangalore), Shanthi evolved for herself a technique which is powerful and passionate, marked by eloquent grace and aesthetic presence. Shanthi continues to be attached to Monisha Arts, the dance centre run by Smt Sridevi Unni.

Shanthi has to her credit many choreographies and events which have won her many laurels. Shanthi has performed extensively, to mention a few:

- 1) The Surya Festival (Trivandrum)
- (2) Mahabalipuram festival (Chennai)
- (3) At the Ministry for Railways
- (4) Hampi Festival
- (5) Kinkini Nrithyotsava (Bangalore)
- (6) Hassan festival
- (7) At the Raj Bhavan(Bangalore) - as part of Smt Sridevi Unni's troupe
- (8) ISKCON Dance Festival -Brahmotsava - 2004/2006
- (9) Tribute to Gandhiji - organized Sarvodaya International Trust (Andhra Pradesh Chapter) - as part of Smt Sridevi Unni's troupe
- (10) Festival of classical dance organized by Sadhana Sangama Dance Centre, Bangalore
- (11) Dussera dance festival at Mysore
- (12) Founders' day event for the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- (13) Gandhi Jayanti programme 2011 as part of Smt Sridevi Unni's troupe at the Raj Bhavan.
- (14) World Dance day programme at the Alliance Franchise-2011
- (15) Mohininrtyotsav 2019
- (16) Shilparamam Festival, Hyderabad - Nov, 2019
- (17) Kinkini Nrthyotsava- Jan, 2020