

Indianpreneur

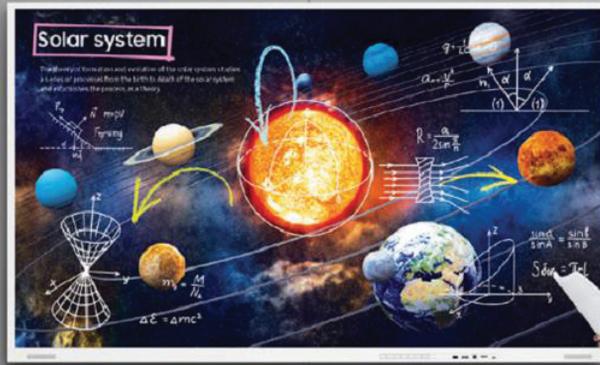


INFLUENTIAL
EDUCATIONAL
INDIANPRENEURS
TO WATCH WORLDWIDE 2023

OCT-NOV 2023



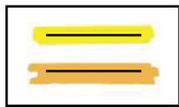
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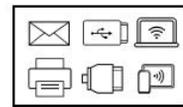
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and Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka)

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**INFLUENTIAL EDUCATIONAL
INDIANPRENEURS TO WATCH
WORLDWIDE 2023**

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**SANTOSH
SETHURAMAN**

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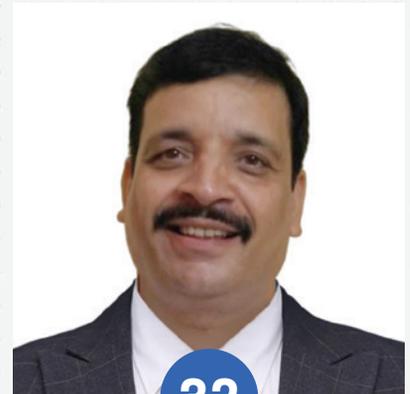
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BELWARIAR**



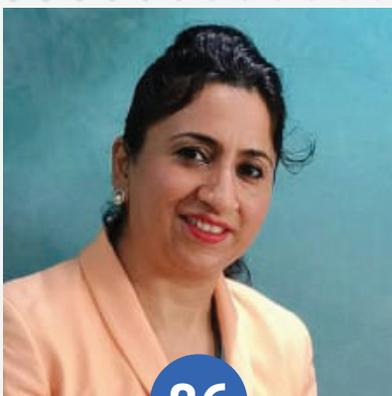
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INFLUENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INDIANPRENEURS

TO WATCH WORLDWIDE 2023

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Visionary educational leaders have the potential to significantly impact and transform students' lives through their innovative ideas, strategies, and dedication to educational progress.

Being an educational leader is all about making an impact on students, staff, parents and others. We know we learn most of the things in our schools, colleges or institutes from teachers. A major role is played by these leaders while running an educational institution. Lots of challenges faced by them in maintaining discipline and decorum. After covid, we can see the innovation in education has tremendously changed. Adapting such new technologies is impactful for the students and helping them to learn in new ways. We can see a huge transformation in this education sector. This edition of the Indianpreneur, a list of educational leaders from school, colleges, universities, EdTech, Institutes. This issue "Influential Educational Indianpreneurs to Watch Worldwide 2023" is to provide insights of few such Indian educational leaders whose story is inspiring and influencing other educational leaders / educators in their leadership journey. How they are running their institute, challenges faced by them, adoption of advanced technology and many more.



INFLUENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INDIANPRENEURS

TO WATCH WORLDWIDE 2023



Ms. Sneha Biswas
Founder and CEO

Early Steps Academy
earlysteps.co
USA

Sneha, an IIT and Harvard graduate, grew up in Jamshedpur, a small town in Eastern India.

She credits the 200+ awards that she won in debates and international competitions to her mother's push to make her read books, follow the news, and to frequently talk in front of people in different situations.



Mr. Sanjeev Gupta
Founder and CEO

eHack Academy
ehackacademy.com
Bangalore, India

He is the Founder and CEO of ehack Academy and Director Operations Byte Code Cyber Security Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, an enterprise focused on InfoSec Training and Consulting. He has a Post Graduate in Business Management from IIM Calcutta, Personnel Management from NIPM Calcutta, Bachelors of Laws from Bangalore University and Bachelors of Commerce (Hons) from NEHU University Shillong. He thoroughly enjoys volunteering social services at various Forums.



Mr. Ritesh Hada
President

Karnavati University
karnavatiuniversity.edu.in
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Mr. Ritesh Hada is the president of Karnavati University, a prestigious private university with 8 top-notch institutes and more than 8500 students on campus, which is located in Gujarat. He is also the Promoter & Managing Director of the United Group. The Group is presently operating in the verticals of Education, FMCG, Hospitality, and Textiles.



Mr. Santosh Sethuraman
President

Neuron Labs School
neuronlabs.org
Pune, India

Santosh Sethuraman, Founder and President of Neuron Labs School have worked in US multinational companies for over twenty years and have always been fascinated with the education sector.



Ms. Baljeet Oberoi
Principal

Oakridge International School Bachupally
oakridge.in/bachupally/
Hyderabad, India

She worked as the Head of Middle School and successfully launched Middle Years Programme (MYP) and was instrumental in getting the school authorized.



Mr. Pankaj Belwariar
Director-Communications

SRM University – AP, Andhra Pradesh
srmap.edu.in
Andhra Pradesh, India

Mr Pankaj Belwariar, Director of Communications, is an experienced executive in the field of media and management. His expertise lies in Organisation development, Career development, Leadership, and Marketing. He has upheld his potential in strategy and planning throughout his professional career.



Dr. Anantha Shekhar
Senior VC for the Health Sciences | John and Gertrude Petersen Dean of the School of Medicine

University of Pittsburgh
pitt.edu
Pennsylvania

Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD, has emphasized excellence in education, biomedical research, translation and innovation, clinical care, equity and inclusion, and community engagement. He is a nationally recognized educator, researcher and entrepreneur with major contributions in medicine and life sciences



Ms. Ujwala Sonawane
Dean

ITM Institute Of Hotel Management
itm.edu/institute-of-hotel-management
Mumbai, India

Her main objective of working in the Industry was to challenge herself and self check if she would be able to sustain an Industry Job, which she proved to do very well in the capacity of Manager, training several aspirants in a pan India Chain of Hotels



Mr. Sandeep Mazumder
Dean

Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business
hankamer.baylor.edu
Texas, USA

Sandeep Mazumder was appointed as the William E. Crenshaw Endowed Dean of Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business in 2021. He previously served as professor and chair of the Department of Economics at Wake Forest University.



Dr. M. Kasturi
Principal

Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani
bbvpilani.edu.in
Rajasthan, India

Dr. M. Kasturi, Principal, Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, has several academic achievements for the past 26 years. She has obtained M.Sc., M.Phil., M.Ed and Ph.D degrees and was in Research and Development during initial years working in the areas of Reproductive Physiology, Fertility Regulation and contraception.

RITESH HADA

FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF KARNAVATI UNIVERSITY AND
THE MANAGING TRUSTEE OF KARNAVATI MEDICAL & EDUCATIONAL TRUST

KARNAVATI UNIVERSITY

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH
INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING



karnavatiuniversity.edu.in

Mr. Ritesh Hada, Promoter & Managing Director of United Group, currently operates in the division of Education, FMCG, Hospitality, and Textiles. He is the president of Karnavati University, a reputable private university located in Gujarat with 8 prestigious institutes and over 8500 students on campus.

Over the last 20 years, on the quest to achieving sustained growth, Mr. Hada established and directed various corporate operations including, finance, business process optimization, innovation, investor relations and more.

Under his directive guidance, Karnavati University has enhanced education standards through research-driven coursework and technological advancements in the classroom.

Additionally, Mr. Hada oversees the task of corporatizing United Group by initiating procedures as well as selecting qualified individuals for the management team.

A number of students in various professional education streams flock to United Group and Karnavati University because of their unparalleled growth model and competitive edge. United Group offers immense value for all of its stakeholders by upholding the highest standards of corporate governance and business ethics.

The education industry recognizes Mr. Hada as a thinking leader who has been crucial in transforming the country's design education landscape from a government-dominated sector to one that is led by professional institutes.





“

Today, technology undisputedly leads the way in which the methodologies of imparting knowledge are judged, by both the people and the industry”

Mr. Hada is a true advocate of startup culture in India. He established the first-ever defense incubation system at Karnavati University, also known as the Defense Design and Technology incubator of India. Moreover, he heads the Karnavati Innovation Incubation Foundation, a parallel ecosystem at Karnavati University.

In more recent times, Karnavati University has launched a string of national events such as Ahmedabad Design Week and the Youth Parliament of India, in which students from across the country have participated. Additionally, Mr. Hada is actively involved in SIS Prep, Edumystic Global (the United Group's international education arm), and the board of United PolyFab Gujarat Ltd, a fabric manufacturing company.

1. Tell us about your journey (personal & professional), when you started your journey in this education industry and what is the future plan.

Back in my early twenties, I had a vision of creating an institution which would have a strong contribution to the world in various aspects. With that in mind, I tried out various avenues which took me a few steps towards the path of achieving it. Despite, facing challenges as an inexperienced candidate in the corporate world, it was a risk worth taking.

- ▶ **Educational Qualifications:**
MA in Marketing Administration
- ▶ **Most Loved:**
Book: Wings of Fire [by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam]
- ▶ **Holiday Destination:** London
- ▶ **Hobby:** Philanthropy, Travelling, Reading
- ▶ **Role Model:** Lt. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
- ▶ **Motivational Mantra:** “कर्म करो, फल की चिन्ता मत करो।” – Bhagavad Gita
- ▶ **Notable Awards & Accolades:**
2020 - Excellence in Education Award by CSR Awards
2019 - Best Private Dental College Award by DIAC
2019 - The Best Emerging University of Gujarat by DIAC
2018 - Best Design Institute in India - UID by WEA 2019
2018 - IP emerging Campus of the year (Legal) - UWSL by IPPO
2017 - Top 10 promising Law Colleges in India - UWSL by HER

After having rolled down a handful of enterprising ventures by the age of twenty-two, I realized that the education sector was the best fit and suited my temperament and personality.

After that epiphany, there was no looking back, and it has been an exciting and treasured journey so far. The first milestone in my journey was the Karnavati School of Dentistry, which brought my vision to life as it offered the right opportunity. Looking back, it feels as like it was just yesterday that I was shuttling places to give KSD the life that I had envisioned. Over the last 15 odd years, five more institutions converging various other disciplines such as Business, Law, Design, Liberal Arts and Mass Communication and Computational Intelligence have followed suit under the vibrant and all-encompassing umbrella of Karnavati University. I am elated at the way things have turned out and how it continues to enable thousands of young Indian students to explore, discover and pursue their career dreams.

Apart from this core effort, I have been blessed to draw a fair bit of success in the hospitality, textile and FMCG sectors over the last decade. I hope to contribute much more to the economy and the society in the coming years.

As far as the future is concerned, I wish to create more opportunities, particularly in the area of academia across more disciplines around the globe, Canada and London being two main geographies which have been under serious consideration for my expansion plans.

2. Share an insight, if you have faced any challenges while running your organization. What inspired you to get into this industry?

I believe that challenges decide the mettle of a person and the quality of an institution. Karnavati University is one of the fastest growing private Universities of India, and maintaining the momentum to keep pace with the changing world of academics is a perennial challenge.

However, instead of considering it as a challenge, I have built this habit of treating it as a congenial ally, one that will keep me on my toes and inspire relentlessly to keep moving forward

despite all odds. Whether it is the students, the faculty or the parents' community, a wholesome effort to secure and nurture the personal intellectual and emotional health and balance of all stakeholders have always been at the forefront of my goals. On similar lines, any change in the external environment always demands a significant restructuring or realigning of the internal atmosphere. Right from adjustments in curriculum to enhancement of infrastructure, the pedagogy and technology, Karnavati University has always strived to stay handsomely ahead of its challenges.

As I had mentioned earlier, my vision to chart out a meaningful and productive roadmap whereby all stakeholders, especially the brilliant and creative young minds of India are able to generate a significant and effective impact on the society and the economy is what has driven me in the world of education.

3. Being an educational leader, what message would you like to give? Your motivational mantra?

Think, plan, act, deliver: These four words have been the magical combination which has worked wonders for me. Furthermore, I believe this is applicable universally for all who really want to make their dreams come true.

4. During the Pandemic, every industry had challenges. What challenges you faced and how you overcome them?

The pandemic brought in a real testing phase for us all, irrespective of the industry or demography. I was no exception, either. If I talk about the University alone, it was a huge task for us. Firstly, to come to terms that an unprecedented event of that magnitude was happening around us. It was an unpleasant new experience for everyone, especially when education was in focus. The classrooms, laboratories, campus and the grounds,

all that used to be bustling with the positive energy of students, suddenly wore a deserted and demented look. Then came the whole new regime of working out a new structure of online classes, followed by exams. Whether the world was ready or not, the challenge was one that had to be overcome with everyone's efforts. Fortunately enough, the students' fraternity, mentors and faculty coped exceptionally well with the new norms.

Interestingly, we did have some positive takeaways from the Covid pandemic phase. While the campus was under complete lockdown, just as all other academic institutions worldwide, we converted a significant portion of Karnavati University's premises into a makeshift emergency Covid treatment facility with over a hundred beds. The on-campus staff also made arrangements for huge amounts of packed meals to be distributed among the needy across the city of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. These were a few ways of how we, as a family, tried to maintain a positive attitude and spread hope and help to everyone around us.

5. What, according to you, is the advancement in this industry in terms of technology? Do you think adopting such advanced technologies has brought you to this position?

The world is moving ahead at an unprecedented pace. I believe that the best way to stay relevant is by being intellectually proactive. Today, technology undisputedly leads the way in which the methodologies of imparting knowledge are judged, by both the people and the industry. Whether it is Hi-tech laboratory infrastructure or machine learning modules, if quality knowledge-sharing is the objective, these elements simply cannot be compromised. At Karnavati University, I have a sense of accomplishment when I see all the young students learning in the best technologically equipped environment.



SANTOSH SETHURAMAN

NEURON LABS SCHOOL

BREAKING THE BARRIERS OF TRADITIONAL
SCHOOLING



neuronlabs.org



1. Tell us about your journey (personal and professional) , when you started your journey with Neuron Labs School and how it is going and the future plan.

I am Santosh Sethuraman, Founder of Neuron Labs School. I have worked in US multinational companies for over twenty years and have always been fascinated with the education sector. As a young child I had a very creative mind and found the education system to stifle this creativity because of the set way in which education is taught. This inspired me to create Neuron Labs School 13 years ago starting as a preschool and then growing into the illustrious institution we

have today. The school is doing extremely well with the students showing incredible growth from when we started with them and are blossoming into smart, caring, and innovative individuals. The future for us is to grow the school and add more innovative approaches to education.

2. Share an insight, if any challenges you faced while establishing Neuron Labs School. What inspired you to get into this industry.

One of the challenges which we faced initially was getting people on board with unique and creative methods to education.

- ▶ **Educational Qualifications** – MBA
- ▶ **Book** - Connecting the Dots: Leadership Lessons in a Startup World
by John Chambers
- ▶ **Holiday Destination** – London
- ▶ **Hobby** – Photography
- ▶ **Role Model** – Amitabh Bachan
- ▶ **Motivational Mantra** - “Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits.” – Thomas Edison

People were initially fixed with the mindset of traditional schooling, following a fixed syllabus, and focusing only on marks and not on other activities. However, once people started seeing our holistic curriculum which develops all aspects of a student, whether it is academic, sports and values and saw how our motto of Learning by Doing enabled students to get a better grasp of concepts which enabled them to score in tests, this mindset changed.

I have worked in various multinational companies and when hiring for said companies, I noticed a gap in the industry. Employees hired by organizations are not skilled enough to compete with the global workforce. They lack knowledge which is required for the job as well as the ability to solve dynamic problems which are not from a textbook. This made me think of how these types of problems can be addressed and I realized that by the time a person is applying for a job, it is too late to teach them these skills. These skills need to be taught to a person as early and possible to enable them to have deep knowledge in their fields, a positive

attitude and an ability to problem solve. This was the inspiration to start a school.

3. Being an educational leader, what message would you like to give?

The future of this nation lies in its youth. If we inculcate the right values and provide them with a well-rounded education, there is no stopping India in the future. We will have a nation of incredible individuals who will be able to handle any problems and help India reach new heights. India in ancient times was once regarded as a country of knowledge and wisdom, with people from all over the world coming to our country to learn. If all of us in the education sector put our efforts to improve the education system, we will revive this title and ancient wisdom.

4. During the Pandemic every industry had challenges. What challenges you faced and how you overcame them?

During the pandemic because of the lockdown all establishments had to be shut to

“

The future of this nation lies in its youth. If we inculcate the right values and provide them with a well-rounded education, there is no stopping India in the future”

prevent the spread of the virus. This would cause a huge gap to the education of a child if immediate and effective measures were not taken immediately. To prevent the same, we immediately equipped our school with a medium for online learning. Online classes were conducted by teachers for students. In case any classes were missed by a student for any reason recordings of the same were provided to them. Progress of the students was tracked by regular online tests and videos were also made to further improve concepts. During the Pandemic, the human connect of bonding with the facilitator was critical and regular one to one interactions provided the platform to go above and beyond academic requirements.

5. What according to you is the advancement of the industry in terms of technology? Do you think

your adoption of such advanced technologies has brought you to this elite level?

The industry has definitely been advanced by technology. Technology is crucial to be taught to students early on as our entire world revolves around it. Due to the pandemic we had to embrace technology and evolve our curriculum with it. To prepare students for competitive exams in the future, we conduct online MCQ based tests to prepare them for the format of these exams. We have introduced coding and robotics to our curriculum so that students get a head start on the technologies prevalent in today's era like Machine Learning, IOT, Artificial Intelligence and Embedded Systems. By adopting such technologies of the curriculum and our operations we have truly evolved to an elite level.

PANKAJ BELWARIAR

SRM UNIVERSITY

CHARTING SUCCESS:
PANKAJ BELWARIAR'S ENTREPRENEURIAL
JOURNEY AT SRM UNIVERSITY



srmap.edu.in

In a realm of entrepreneurship, there exist individuals who not only chart their own paths to success but also illuminate the way for others. Pankaj Belwariar stands as a shining example of such an entrepreneur, empowering individuals and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow, a guiding principle that has defined his illustrious career. SRM University-AP, where Pankaj's influence has left a mark, serves as a testament to the transformative power of entrepreneurship. The story of SRM University-AP mirrors this entrepreneurial spirit, aspiring to be globally connected, nationally significant, and regionally transformative, exemplifying not only the embrace of entrepreneurship but also the pursuit of excellence within it.

1. Tell us about your journey (personal and professional), when you started your journey in this education industry, how it is going, and what the future plans are.

I am a graduate of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, India's premier institution, and hold a postgraduate degree in management (MBA) from IMT, Ghaziabad. With over three decades of experience in the corporate sector, I have spent more than 25 years in leadership positions within the media and communications industry. Additionally, I have dedicated over 15 years to consulting and devising communication strategies for various private universities and colleges.

During a period when the concept of private universities was unheard of in India, and there were



only a few players, our communication strategy focused on establishing trust, instilling confidence, and showcasing the exceptional infrastructure facilities to both students and parents.

With the increasing gap between demand and supply in central and state universities, the attractiveness of state private universities has grown. There was a growing need to craft a compelling narrative for private universities, and in October 2022, I joined as the Director of Communications at SRM University-AP.

SRM is a well-established brand with a presence in various locations, including Chennai, Trichy, Sikkim, Sonapat, Modinagar, and Amaravati (AP). The Amaravati campus, established in 2017, has achieved numerous awards in its six years of existence in fields like research, innovation, entrepreneurship, international collaborations, placements, and higher studies.

With its aspiration to establish global connections, maintain national significance, and

drive regional transformation, SRM-AP is leaving a lasting impact worldwide. In my role as the head of communication, we have successfully built a robust brand identity for SRM-AP primarily through the effective use of content marketing. By creating captivating, credible, and narrative-driven content, we are shaping a compelling storyline for the institution.

SRM University-AP has earned several prestigious recognitions, further solidifying its reputation. These include ranking as the third-best private university in the country in the Nature Index Ranking, securing the top position as the leading Young Private University in Engineering by Career 360 Degree Group, receiving awards for Excellence in Enabling Research Environment in the field of Science from Assocham, being recognized as the Best Emerging University with Educational Excellence in India by Asia Today, and winning the esteemed Best Brand Award from The Economic Times.



- ▶ **Educational Qualifications:**
Postgraduate (MBA)
- ▶ **Awards or recognitions received:**
“Iconic Business Leadership Award:
Communications by Dynergic Business
Solutions Sept 2023.
- Most Loved:**
- ▶ **Book:** “You Can Win” by Shiv Khera
- ▶ **Holiday Destination:** Kerala
- ▶ **Hobby:** reading books, listening to
music
- ▶ **Role Model:** Late Shri B. K. Sinha, my
boss, who believed in me, gave me
freedom to work, and encouraged me
to rise high in life.
- ▶ **Mantra:** Believe in yourself, set clear
goals, and stay persistent.

Our future objectives encompass sustaining recognition, striving for academic excellence, focusing on research and innovation, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset, enhancing the student experience, ensuring financial stability, and further improving our reputation and visibility.

2. Share an insight into any challenges faced while running the organization. What inspired you to get into this industry?

Every organization or institution sets specific objectives to pursue. In our case, we are guided by a well-defined vision and a strategic framework to achieve our aims. While challenges are an inherent part of any journey, effective leadership call for a thorough examination of these challenges and the creation of viable plans to overcome

them. Fortunately, we have assembled a highly qualified, experienced, and professional team that collaboratively tackles these challenges, propelling us closer to our goals.

It is widely acknowledged that the future of a nation depends significantly on its youth. The way we shape and nurture the younger generation will undeniably influence the direction of our country. This deep conviction in the transformative power of education and its pivotal role in nation-building is what drew me to this industry. The prospect of facilitating learning, nurturing growth, providing training, and contributing to the greater good of our nation continues to be a driving force behind my dedication to this field.

3. As an educational leader, what message would you like to give? Your motivational mantra

As an educational leader, my inspirational message revolves around guiding both students and educators toward realizing their fullest potential. Here are the core principles of my motivational mantra:

1. Embrace Lifelong Learning: I encourage everyone to cultivate an unquenchable thirst for knowledge that extends far beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. Together, we foster a culture of continuous learning.
2. Emphasize Resilience: I underscore the vital role of resilience in facing life's challenges. Every setback is an opportunity for personal growth and development.
3. Foster Inclusivity: I advocate for an inclusive environment where we celebrate diversity, ensuring that every voice is not only heard but also valued and appreciated.
4. Cultivate Creativity: I inspire individuals to unleash their creative potential and embrace innovation, reminding them that they possess the power to bring new ideas to life.
5. Prioritize Empathy: I stress the profound significance of empathy and kindness in our

interactions. Positive relationships are catalysts for both personal and professional growth.

6. **Set Goals and Take Action:** I motivate everyone to set clear, meaningful goals and take deliberate steps toward achieving them, instilling a sense of purpose and unwavering motivation.

7. **Lead by Example:** I lead by exemplifying the qualities and values I hope to see in others, serving as a role model for our educational community.

8. **Celebrate Achievements:** I believe in acknowledging and celebrating both small and monumental achievements, cultivating a strong sense of accomplishment and motivation.

9. **Adapt to Change:** I highlight the critical importance of adaptability in an ever-evolving world. Change often opens doors to new opportunities and growth.

10. **Believe in Yourself:** I remind individuals that self-belief is a potent driver of success, and I instill the belief that each person possesses the potential to make a positive impact on the world.

In summary, my motivational message as an educational leader centers on lifelong learning, resilience, inclusivity, creativity, empathy, goal setting, leading by example, celebrating achievements, adaptability, and self-belief. These principles guide our educational journey and empower all members of our community to thrive and excel.

4. What, according to you, is the advancement in this education industry in terms of technology? Do you think your adoption of such advanced technologies has brought you and your organization to this elite position?

The field of education has undergone significant technological advancements in recent years, profoundly influencing the operations of educational institutions. Here are some notable innovations:

1. **Online Learning Platforms:** The proliferation of online learning platforms, Learning Management Systems (LMS), and Massive Open Online Courses

(MOOCs) has democratized education, making it accessible to a global audience. These platforms provide a wide array of courses and resources, enriching the learning experience.

2. **Personalized Learning:** Adaptive learning technology leverages data analytics and artificial intelligence to customize educational content according to individual student requirements. This tailored approach enables students to learn at their own pace and in alignment with their unique learning styles.

3. **Gamification:** Integrating game-like elements into education has made learning more enjoyable and engaging. Gamification introduces elements like points, rewards, and competition into educational activities, fostering student motivation and participation.

4. **Digital Textbooks and Resources:** Traditional printed textbooks are gradually being supplanted by digital counterparts that offer interactivity and the ability for regular updates. E-books and online libraries provide access to an extensive array of educational resources.

5. **Collaborative Tools:** Collaboration tools and platforms have simplified collaboration among students and educators, regardless of their geographic locations. Video conferencing, cloud-based document sharing, and collaborative apps are examples of technologies that facilitate seamless cooperation and knowledge sharing. These technological advancements have not only expanded the horizons of education but have also enriched the learning experience, making education more accessible, adaptable, engaging, and collaborative.

6. **Remote and Blended Learning:** The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the integration of remote and blended learning models, where technology assumes a central role in educational delivery. These models are expected to maintain their relevance even beyond the pandemic era.

Educational institutions, including SRM University-AP, that have enthusiastically embraced

these advanced technologies have often reaped various advantages. These benefits encompass heightened student engagement, improved learning outcomes, streamlined administrative processes, and an expanded reach to a global audience. These technological strides have unquestionably propelled the evolution of education and positioned institutions as pioneers of innovation in the industry. Nonetheless, it is vital to underscore that the effective adoption of technology is contingent upon sound pedagogical strategies and the capacity to adeptly navigate the ever-changing educational landscape.

5. Does SRM University have international students? If yes, then please brief us on the admission procedure for international students and the major countries from which most of the students come.

SRM University-AP boasts a diverse and vibrant international student community comprising approximately 200 students from a wide array of countries, including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Zambia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and more. The admission process for these international students is based on a combination of entrance exams and personal interviews, ensuring a thorough evaluation of candidates. Furthermore, to support and recognize deserving candidates, the university offers enticing scholarships, including significant fee concessions, further enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of its educational offerings.

6. Any additional information or story you would like to express. Kindly share with us.

As a leader, my core belief has always been centered on the empowerment and development of individuals into future leaders themselves. Training, mentoring, and nurturing the growth of others have consistently been my passions.

Reflecting on a meaningful experience from my

journey, I recall a junior clerk who joined my team 15 years ago. This individual displayed exceptional dedication and a keen thirst for knowledge. Eager to learn and grow, they actively sought opportunities to sit with me and receive guidance. I encouraged them not only to learn from me but also to engage with my team members, gaining insights into various aspects of their roles and acquiring new skills along the way.



The prospect of facilitating learning, nurturing growth, providing training, and contributing to the greater good of our nation continues to be a driving force behind my dedication to this field



Within a remarkably short span of one year, this individual had not only amassed a multitude of new skills but was also prepared to step into more advanced positions. They embarked on a remarkable ascent up the professional ladder and eventually transitioned to another organization. Today, they hold the esteemed position of Associate Vice President at a multinational corporation.

On a recent Teachers' Day celebration, this individual took to LinkedIn to express their gratitude, acknowledging the individuals who had played pivotal roles in their journey. To my delight, I discovered my name among those mentioned. This recognition was not only heartwarming, but also a profound compliment, affirming the impact of mentorship and leadership in shaping the careers and futures of others.



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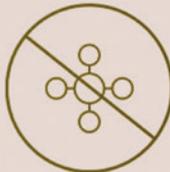
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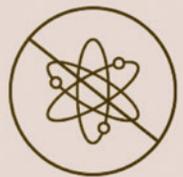
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“ At Early Steps Academy, it is the power of technology that enables us to create global classrooms, connecting children from different parts of the world to learn with and from each other seamlessly ”

SNEHA BISWAS

FOUNDER AND CEO,
EARLY STEPS ACADEMY

EARLY STEPS ACADEMY

www.earlysteps.co

Tell us about your journey (personal & professional), when you started your journey in this education industry, how it is going and what is your future plan.

I personally feel obligated to the education sector. Starting from a very modest background, it has purely been the power of good learning that has helped me transform my life completely. I strongly believe that education is the only sector in the world that has the power to significantly transform the lives of every individual - from where they start to where they end. I am an example of that.

This personal motivation has led me to go back and forth with education multiple times in the last decade and a half. When I was 18, I used to teach Maths at a coaching institute, preparing children for the coveted IIT entrance exam.

I later worked with Teach for India in Mumbai, India and as a trainer for fresh hires in

Schlumberger's Middle East and Asia Learning Center in Abu Dhabi, UAE. I even worked with an edtech in Shanghai, China and at Harvard, I was a faculty-nominated tutor for a couple of core subjects - Finance and Operations.

Today, I run Early Steps Academy - a global education program to upskill school children on modern, essential subjects and 21st century skills. The mission of Early Steps Academy is to revolutionise education by making learning relevant (useful) and engaging (fun!) for the 2 Billion school going children worldwide.

Share an insight, into any challenges you faced while running your organization. What Inspired you to get into this industry?

One of the biggest challenges in building Early Steps Academy is to build a global company from Day 1. While it is in the interest of the learner

to have a global community of peers and to be able to start on the journey of becoming a “global citizen” from a very young age, it is operationally cumbersome to manage business across 50 countries. From language and cultural nuances, varying currency and communication methods to training a team to handle global customer needs has been both exciting and challenging. However, the ability to solve something at such a large scale is nothing less than thrilling - just like other global brands such as Uber, Google or Netflix have it for the world!

Being an educational leader, what message would you like to give? Your motivational mantra?

As an educational leader, my definition of education is not limited to the walls of a school or the pages of a book. Learning and education can be as expansive as one wants and the “willingness to learn” is in itself the sole skill one needs in life in order to succeed.

As humans, our ability to build such a beautiful world around us - buildings to technology to space science - is driven by our curiosity and confidence. Man’s interest (curiosity) in knowing what’s happening in distant lands and outer space, and the confidence to actually step out of comfort zones are what led to explorations and discoveries, taking mankind forward. I believe, for humans to survive and thrive in the decades and centuries to come, in the face of its own innovations and technological advancements, the basic skills of curiosity and confidence are to be protected (and nurtured).

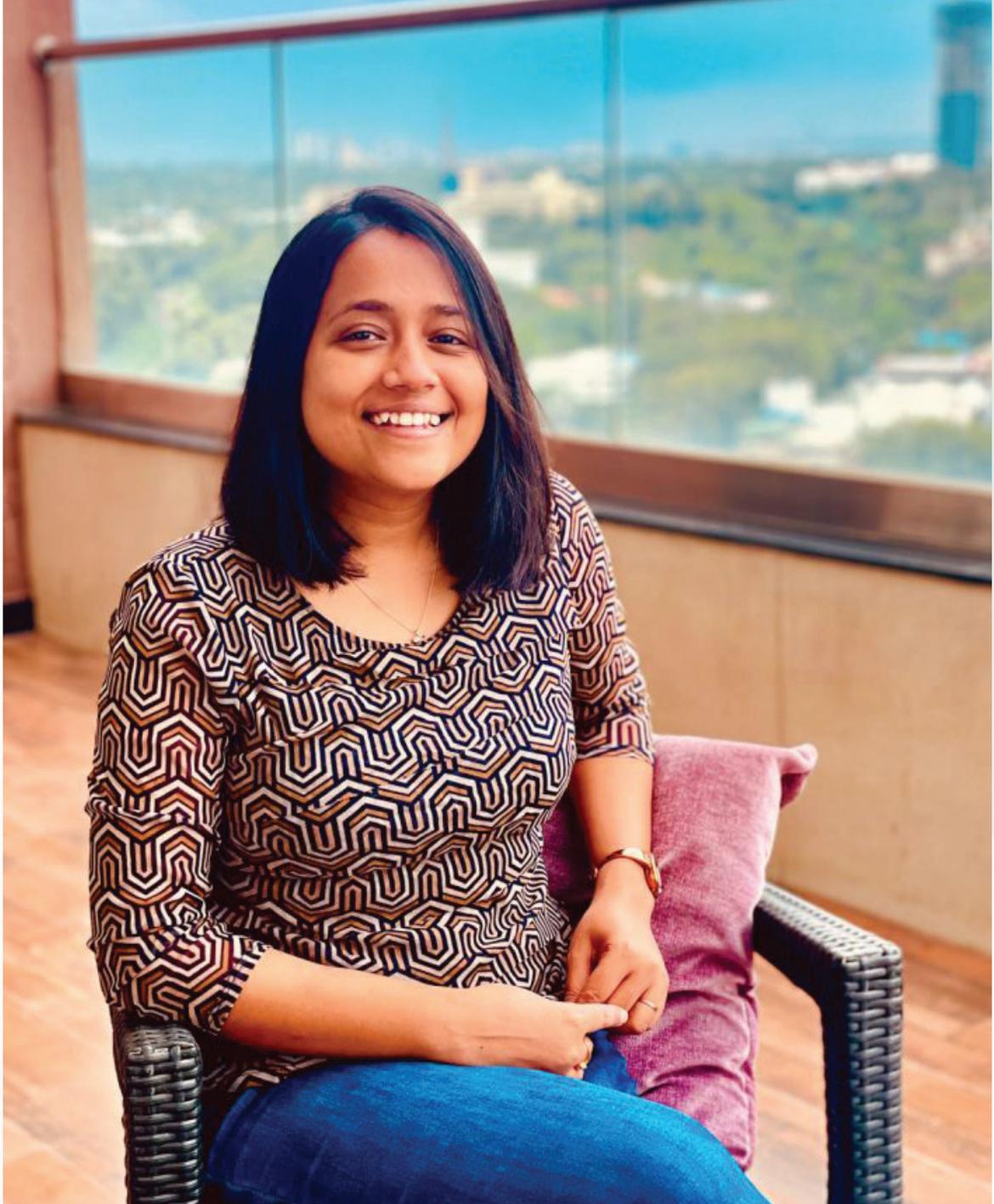
During the Pandemic every industry had challenges. What challenges you faced and how you overcame them?

While pandemic highlighted new challenges in the education sector, it also presented itself as an opportunity to many as scaling up online education was simpler in many ways than to scale up capex-heavy offline business.

- ▶ a. Educational Qualifications:
 - Bachelors and Masters from IIT Kharagpur
 - MBA (with distinction) from Harvard Business School

 - ▶ b. Awards or recognitions received:
 - Nirja Sahay Gold Medal (Top of Class, IIT Kharagpur)
 - CEO’s Award (Schlumberger)
 - Featured in the Forbes US

 - ▶ Most Loved:
 - a. Book: The Alchemist
 - b. Holiday Destination: Sun, Sand and Water (Seychelles, Hawaii, Maldives)
 - c. Hobby: Reading, Painting
 - d. Role Model: My dad
 - e. Motivational Mantra: Find your purpose on Earth. Try to fulfil it to the best of your abilities.
- Mantra: Believe in yourself, set clear goals, and stay persistent.



However, education is not just about moving between offline and online. It is much more nuanced than that and each method has its own benefits to the learner. As a global program, Early Steps Academy has always been online as it enables global learning experiences to children at affordable prices.

5, What according to you, what is the advancement in this industry in terms of technology? Do you think your adoption of such advanced technologies has brought you to this elite position?

Technology has made learning more accessible for sure. At Early Steps Academy, it is the power of technology that enables us to create global classrooms, connecting children from different parts of the world to learn with and from each other seamlessly. Apart from the actual execution, at Early Steps, our AI-powered feedback system (steps.ai) enables more nuanced performance mapping, better and faster feedback loops as well as more accurate progress tracking, giving educators the power to deliver personalised learning experience to each child.

SANJEEV GUPTA

FOUNDER | DIRECTOR



www.ehackacademy.com

eHackAcademy is One of the foremost Training Institution with 40 Business Satellite Centre's, based out of Bangalore for providing Cyber Security education. eHack Academy began in the year 2015 and started providing Cyber Security and networking training along with International Certification. Have organized 50+ workshops throughout India and have different kinds of learning techniques for the betterment of the students. Through innovative Analysis they help students bring a change in the cyber-World. They prepare students to Protect Data and crimes in the Cyber World, which will be priceless experience to enhance one's Resume.

1. Tell us about your journey (personal & professional) , when you started your journey in this education industry and how it is going and what is the future plan.

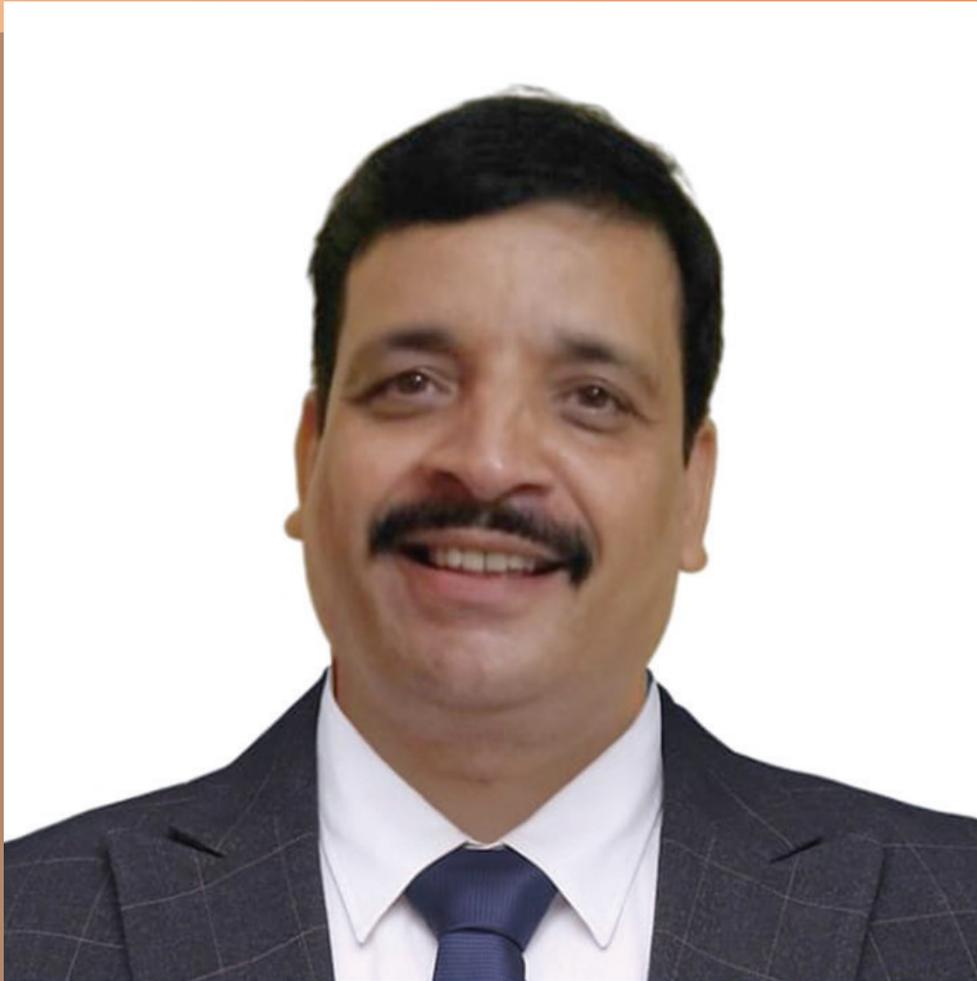
He has three decades of experience that spreads across various sectors of Banking, Finance, Leasing, information technology, Cyber Security

and building businesses, executing in diverse domains that spans across banking, software and information technology security. His passion lies in acquiring knowledge about technology, building business models and exploring new product development. Further, to enable student members to foster a holistic approach towards understanding the theoretical and practical aspects of in-depth learning through innovation ecosystem.

2) Share an insight, if any challenges are faced while running the organization. What Inspired you to get into this industry?

Yes of course, there have been challenges that are faced during the initial days of my entrepreneurial journey.

Start from being an organization focused on cyber-Security and ethical hacking, we had to deal with various challenges, such as rapid technological advancements, legal and ethical complexities, and the costs associated with tools



and training. However, my inspiration lies in the passion towards technology. He enjoys embracing content changes, learning, and implementing them. Every day, he and his teams continues to learn and grow. There are no easy wins; every game must be played through practice and a never-give-up attitude.

3) Who all are your target audience and what product/services you offer?

Target audience could be anyone interested in enhancing their skills mainly in cybersecurity and ethical hacking, spanning from individuals at a young age to those in mid-level careers. However, the primary focus is on providing zoom and google classroom that enables seamless remote learning.

4) Being an educational leader, what

message would you like to give ? Your motivational mantra?

Motivational mantra would be Embrace the Journey, Empower the Future. Education is the key to unlocking potential, and it's our responsibility to guide and support every learner on their unique journey to success.

5). What, according to you, is the advancement in this education industry in terms of technology? Do you think your adoption of such advanced technologies has brought you and your organization to this elite position?

The advancements in the education industry through technology have been transformative. Some advancements are.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Gamification,

Remote Learning Tools: Especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, tools like Zoom and Google Classroom enable seamless remote learning. The adoption of advanced technologies has indeed played a significant role in the evolution of education. They have made learning more flexible, engaging, and tailored to individual needs. However, achieving an elite position in education also depends on effective implementation, talented educators, and a commitment to educational excellence.

While technology is a powerful tool, it should always complement the core values and goals of an educational institution. It's not just about adopting the latest gadgets but using them strategically to enhance the overall learning experience and achieve educational objectives.

We humans possess a gift from God - the power of perception, a power that holds the potential to transform our lives and of those around us. You must believe that every challenge is an opportunity, every setback is a stepping stone, and every person you meet has a story worth hearing.

Let me share a story: One evening, my boss and I were having tea on the sixth floor of our building. He pointed to an advertising board and asked me, "What do you see in this?" I wondered why he was asking such an obvious question. Nevertheless, I respected my boss's curiosity and replied, mentioning what was written on the board and admiring the beautiful actor's attire and appearance. My boss chuckled and said, "What sets you apart from the person walking on the street below? Even they would see the same things. I don't want you to be like everyone else because I've recognized your potential. You are capable of much more." He went on to explain how the advertising board represented hard work, determination, creativity, imagination, and so much more. That day, I made a choice to change my perception of the things I observed, a decision that paved the way for my journey to become what I am today. I want to emphasize the importance of recognizing potential in every situation.

▶ **a. Educational Qualifications:**
Post Graduate in Business Management from IIM Calcutta, Personnel Management from NIPM Calcutta, Bachelors of Laws from Bangalore University and Bachelors of Commerce (Hons) from NEHU University Shillong

▶ **b. Awards or recognitions received:**
Represented national level in sports, lots of awards and certification in bank and ESOPs.

▶ **Most Loved:**
a. Book: The Lean Entrepreneur
b. Holiday Destination: Bali , Goa, Wayanad and north-east of India
c. Hobby: Case studies related to legal, cyber forensic, cyber security, IT frauds, counselling
d. Role Model: Boss's in the bank
e. Motivational Mantra: Embrace the Journey, Empower the Future.

You must embark on a journey to uncover your hidden talents and redefine your life's narrative. The gift of perception that you carry will not only change your life but also influence and transform the lives of thousands of people, perhaps even the entire community. Your perception, combined with hope and resilience, will enable you to tap into your full potential. By altering your narratives, you possess the capacity to change your own life, and by changing your life, you hold the power to change the world.



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A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

www.oakridge.in/bachupally/

In the realm of education, Ms. Baljeet, a seasoned professional, places utmost importance on nurturing robust relationships among parents, students, and staff to create an environment conducive to optimal learning. Her unwavering commitment is dedicated to delivering a superior education aligned with the school's pursuit of academic excellence, championing equity, inclusion, and fostering a personalized learning atmosphere. As a proficient communicator, Ms. Baljeet forges meaningful connections with diverse students and, in her role as an instructional leader, diligently ensures that every teacher and student receive unwavering support for realizing their fullest potential through collaborative and purposeful learning.

1. Tell us about your journey (personal & professional), when you started your journey in this education industry and how it is going and what is the future plan.

My journey in education has been a continuous process of learning and growth, shaped by the ever-

changing landscape of teaching and learning. I have witnessed the evolution of education from passive methods to dynamic active learning, emphasizing holistic development, fostering values, global connectivity, and self-directed learning.

As an educator, I have experienced the transformative power of active learning, where students are no longer mere recipients of information but active participants in their learning journey. I believe in instilling core values in our students, fostering a global perspective, and empowering them to take ownership of their learning journey.

In this evolving educational landscape, the principles of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) serve as the cornerstone of my approach. I strive to create inclusive learning environments where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.

As I look towards the future of education, I envision a world where learning is personalized, accessible, and transformative. I believe that future-ready education will emphasize holistic

development, nurturing not only academic excellence but also social-emotional skills, global citizenship, and a lifelong love of learning.

2. Share an insight if any challenges you faced while running your organization. What Inspired you to get into this industry?

As an educator, I extend beyond traditional boundaries, driven by a purpose to strengthen society through problem-solving and education. I nurture young minds, understanding their brilliance will shape our future. This reciprocal exchange inspires me.

Values guide our transformative process, precious treasures leading to a brighter future. As the institution's head, I navigate challenges, seamlessly transitioning between roles. I foster an environment that nurtures growth, inclusivity, and collective success.

As an agent of societal fortitude, I empower young minds, recognizing their limitless potential. Together, we embark on a passionate journey, bridging gaps and unlocking the best in each student.

This multifaceted role allows me to make a meaningful impact on the world. It is a journey of continuous learning, growth, and purpose

3. Being an educational leader, what message would you like to give? Your motivational mantra?

As an educational leader, I impart this inspirational maxim: True courage lies in not only facing any situation as a role model but also in standing up for what's right, especially when it's tough. Success, however, is born not from mere inaction but from unwavering consistency in one's actions.

4. During the Pandemic, what challenges faced Oakridge International School, Bachupally and how you overcame them.

Educational Qualifications:

- ▶ Post graduation degree (M.Sc.) in Mathematics
- ▶ Bachelor's Degree in Education (B.Ed.) with specialization in Mathematics, Educational Psychology, Pedagogical Analysis



Achievements

- Top 20 best principals of the Year - 2022 by Indian Education & Edtech Awards
- Principal Of The Year by Universal Mentors Association
- Leader in Innovation by Clever Harvey
- Award of Appreciation from SOF
- Best Principal Performance Award for Education Excellence
- Certificate of Appreciation as Panelist by Metamorphosis
- Eminent Speaker Award by Eldrok India

We faced a multitude of challenges during the pandemic, with the abrupt shift to remote learning posing the most significant hurdle. To overcome this, we swiftly embraced virtual platforms, ensuring an engaging scholastic environment. Nord Anglia Education played a crucial role in fostering Student Agency, empowering students to take ownership of their learning journey.

Maintaining open communication with students and parents was paramount, and their unwavering support proved invaluable in navigating the

turbulent seas of uncertainty. Simultaneously, our dedicated faculty underwent intensive professional development, seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technologies into their teaching practices.

Through resilience, innovation, and a collaborative spirit, Oakridge International School Bachupally emerged stronger from the pandemic. We demonstrated our unwavering commitment to providing high-quality education, even in the face of unprecedented challenges.

5. What, according to you, is the advancement in this education industry in terms of technology? Do you think your adoption of such advanced technologies has brought you and your organisation to this elite position?

The education industry has witnessed a remarkable transformation driven by technological advancements. Online learning platforms have

Most Loved:

a. Book:

1. Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't" by Simon Sinek

&

Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts." by Brené Brown

b. Hobby – Expanding leadership and igniting innovation with books

c Role Model - My Mother

d. Motivational Mantra – Honesty and integrity illuminate the path of doing things right, while positivity and balance infuse life's journey with grace. In retrospect, this harmonious symphony paints a masterpiece of character and purpose.

expanded access to education, while AI-powered personalized instruction tailors learning experiences to individual needs. Immersive technologies like AR and VR bring abstract concepts to life, fostering deeper engagement and understanding.

Oakridge Bachupally has embraced these innovations, propelling our institution to a position of excellence. Our cutting-edge technology-infused programs attract top faculty and foster dynamic learning environments that prepare students for success in an ever-evolving world.

Technology is not merely a tool; it is a catalyst for educational excellence. By continuously integrating advanced technologies into our teaching and learning methodologies, we remain at the forefront of educational innovation, empowering students to become global citizens who are equipped to shape a brighter future.

6. What are the additional facilities provided by the Oakridge International School, Bachupally as compared to other schools in your locality.

Oakridge International School Bachupally distinguishes itself by offering a comprehensive and holistic education that goes beyond conventional boundaries. We foster student agency and global connectedness, nurturing their talents to prepare them for success in a rapidly changing world.

Through unique partnerships with esteemed institutions like MIT and Juilliard, Oakridge empowers students to actively engage in global endeavors. Gaining invaluable exposure and developing a global mindset, they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an interconnected and dynamic global society.

Advanced Learning Environment: Our modern campus provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment, with well-equipped classrooms, spacious libraries, advanced technology integration, and ample sports and recreational facilities.

Diverse curriculum and extracurricular activities: We offer a wide range of academic and extracurricular programs that cater to a variety of interests and talents, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Global citizenship education (NAE Family): We instill a global perspective in our students, preparing them to become responsible and engaged citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.

World's Best Teacher: Our highly qualified and experienced teachers are passionate about education and committed to providing individualized support and guidance to each student.

Strong support network: We maintain open communication with parents and guardians, fostering a collaborative partnership that supports students' academic and personal growth.



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