

NIHARIKA KASTURI

EDUCATIONAL LEADER | TEACHER EDUCATOR | CURRICULUM & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

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Education

Bachelors of Technology

Shiv Nadar University
2011-2015
Village Chhitera, Dadri

MA - Dance Research

University of Chichester
2017-18
Chichester, United Kingdom

Certifications

MYP Arts Cat. 1 Certification

Harvard Certification – UDL Explore and Action

Leadership in Coaching and Mentoring

Certificate Programme for Instructional Leadership (CPIL)

Jio Institute – Middle Leadership Residential Certificate Programme

Publication

JODE Publication (Journal of Dance Education) – Learning on the go – The Journey of a Dance Educator in a K-12 Space

PROFILE SUMMARY

Research-informed educational leader with 8+ years of K–12 experience across CBSE and IB contexts, working at the intersection of curriculum design, educator development, instructional practice and educational inquiry. Experienced in designing professional learning, mentoring educators, developing concept-driven curricula, leading distributed leadership structures and using classroom and programme evidence to inform improvement. My interdisciplinary background in engineering, Bharatanatyam, arts education and postgraduate research enables me to bring multiple perspectives to teacher education, with particular interests in adult learning, reflective practice, learner agency, interdisciplinary learning, inclusion and sustainable professional learning.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Lead - Teaching and Learning - Arts Apr 2019 - Present
Shiv Nadar School, NOIDA

Teacher Education, Professional Learning & Instructional Leadership

- Spearheaded the Pedagogical Leaders Programme, a long-term mentorship and distributed-leadership initiative strengthening reflective practice, instructional excellence, collaborative leadership, and sustainable professional learning.
- Co-developed and operationalised a shared Arts vision rooted in inquiry, creativity, inclusion, and learner agency; led educators through strategic planning, coaching, and collaborative curriculum leadership.
- As a Reporting Manager, supported teacher growth, performance development, instructional planning, and pedagogical implementation while fostering accountability, innovation, and professional ownership.

Contributions and Engagements

Conducted workshop on Arts Integration - Online
Conducted a 5 day ‘Harmony and Collaboration’ session through movement exercises for UNFPA team
Conducted Workshop on ‘Creative Movement’ across colleges
Conducted a workshop on the 'Basics of Bharatanatyam'
Performed 'Jatiswaram' at 'The Curve' in Leicester
Performed at 'Dance Explosion' - A Cultural Event at Portsmouth

Technical Skills

Toddle

Talentel

MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Sway

Zoom, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams

Seqta, Veracross, Toddle, Genially and Seesaw

Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sites, Google Spreadsheet, Jamboard

Quizzizz, Wix, Wordpress and Menti

Canva, Inshot, Filmora and VideoScribe

Languages

English

Hindi

Telugu

Research, Inquiry and Educational Practice

- Built an interdisciplinary foundation through postgraduate Dance Research in the UK, combining arts practice, research, critical inquiry, and education; developed a research-informed approach to learning that continues to shape curriculum and pedagogy.
- Engaged with contemporary approaches to arts education, reflective practice, learner-centred pedagogy, and interdisciplinary learning, developing perspectives that later informed K–12 curriculum and teacher development.
- Published research in the Journal of Dance Education, strengthening the ability to connect practice with research, critically evaluate educational approaches, and translate knowledge into practice.

Curriculum, Pedagogy and Learning Design

- Led the design of concept-based, inquiry-driven curricula and vertical progression frameworks, strengthening coherence between learning outcomes, pedagogy, assessment, documentation, and disciplinary depth.
- Designed and facilitated professional development on pedagogy, inquiry, assessment, documentation, DOK, classroom practice, and reflective teaching, alongside instructional coaching and collaborative planning.
- Developed interdisciplinary MYP units and integrated learning experiences, balancing disciplinary practice, conceptual understanding, inquiry, and student agency.
- Designed programmes connecting creative practice with entrepreneurship, leadership, interdisciplinary learning, and authentic real-world experiences.

Educational Leadership, Quality & School Improvement

- Contributed to whole-school development planning across Early Years, Primary, Middle and Senior School, developing insight into phase-specific pedagogical, assessment, compliance, and operational requirements.
- Participated in organisational policy, accreditation, and institutional review processes, contributing critical perspectives on learning principles, documentation, compliance, and institutional effectiveness.
- Conducted programme reviews, classroom observations, and learning walks across campuses, using evidence and feedback to identify improvement priorities and inform professional learning.
- Collaborated with school leaders and cross-functional teams to strengthen systems, distributed leadership, programme quality, and continuous improvement.

Experiential Learning, Student Leadership & Programme Development

- Designed and led the Arts Entrepreneurship Programme, mentoring students through authentic experiences in leadership, management, creative enterprise, and event execution.
- As Festival Director of Kaafila, led visioning, strategic planning, and cross-departmental coordination for a large-scale student-led integrated arts festival, developing the leadership capacity of students and educators.