

A portrait of Dr. Sangeeta Bhatia, a woman with short, wavy grey hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a blue and white patterned sari with a gold border and a matching blue blouse. She is holding a pen in her right hand, poised to write on a document. The background is a solid light yellow.

Shaping The Future: Redefining Education, Inspiring Change

Dr. Sangeeta Bhatia

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Dr. Sangeeta Bhatia, recipient of the MoE National Award for Teachers in 2008, is recognised as a change-maker in Indian education, at the very forefront of progressive K-12 teaching and learning paradigms. Under her dynamic leadership, KIIT World School Delhi, established in 1965, offers students the latest knowledge and skills backed by mentorship and opportunities in step with the energy and aspirations of India.

We explore the future of education in an insightful interview with Dr. Sangeeta Bhatia.

Q. What pivotal moments in your own education shaped the educator you are today?

As a student I experienced Indian education in many ways – from a government school to graduate, post-graduate and doctoral studies at the prestigious Delhi University and completing courses at IIM Ahmedabad. Each institution deepened my understanding of the **diversity of education required for an inclusive India**.

During my doctoral programme, I reached a plateau and had to make a breakthrough. After struggling, suddenly I came to a turning point and completed six months of work in just three weeks. This personal breakthrough inspired my belief in human potential, that is captured in our motto, **“I am a Promise, I am a Possibility”**.

Q. How do you translate your personal learning philosophies into the classroom environment?

KIIT World School is defined by a single-minded purpose – to unlock the unique potential of every child. Every school day comes packed with learning opportunities, from visiting the Book Fair to exploring biodiversity in Uttarakhand. Through these and many more classroom activities, we discover the possibilities within each child of our diverse 2000-strong student body. Our **Centre for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CITL)** encourages teachers to experiment and drive teaching-learning methods that **empower children** – helping them break free of personal, societal and environmental constraints to achieve their unique potential.

Q. What are your thoughts on the current trends in education, such as the rise of technology and digital learning platforms? How do you see them shaping the future of education?

The key question we must answer today is: how does technology support people? Without people, technology is meaningless. While educators foster 21st century skills and technological advancement, they must instil values like empathy and kindness, and create ethical boundaries for using technology. At KIIT World School, we foster competencies to drive scientific progress – from Artificial Intelligence (AI) to genetic research – and ensure values-based learning. The sections at KIIT World School are named on this principle. The section ‘Curiosity’ stands for a sense of inquiry that is core to STEM, while values of community engagement and societal contribution are defined by sections like ‘Connect’ and ‘Care’.

Q. What values or skills do you hope every student carries forward after their time in KIIT World School?

Reflection, self-awareness and meta-cognitive practices are core to our pedagogy and I was honoured with the **National Award for Teachers in 2008** from the President of India through the

Ministry of Education (then Ministry of HRD) for my work on reflective practices. Students practice reflective journalling daily, fostering engagement with the self that we aim for them to carry into the future, as this fuels achievement for oneself and contributes to a better world.

Q. What is your perspective on the current education policies in India?

The National Education Policy 2020 sets up a transformative agenda for India’s education system. We are poised to make the most of this new direction. The focus on age-appropriate development milestones and an integrated approach to learning are a positive shift. We have fully integrated curriculum and pedagogy between primary, secondary and higher secondary approaches. Our priorities now are to equip teachers with new skills and knowledge, and foster stakeholder collaboration. Many futuristic initiatives such as Art Integration, and interdisciplinary learning are now in place, and we continuously engage with the school’s stakeholders and parents to realise the vision of NEP.

Q. In your view, what qualities make an educator truly exceptional, and how do you nurture those qualities within your school staff?

KIIT World School stands for education that is ahead of the times, with the I and T in KIIT standing for ‘Innovation in Teaching’. We conducted Action Research on Teacher Competencies for NEP 2020 that showed that teachers must go beyond subject matter expertise to a Darwinian mindset to adapt and evolve. Darwinian theories says, “the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself.” So, my role is to keep teachers up to date with the latest educational advancements. Teachers and admini- strators undergo extensive training through capacity building programmes and on Diksha and Swayam platforms and then bring these

experiences back to enrich others in the school.

Q. Looking forward, what changes do you envision in the education system over the next 5 to 10 years?

Education is a moving target that reflects the complex realities of society and the environment. I see a need for education today to be driven by larger goals like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These set a powerful agenda, and education must build on them. We must build a better world for our children and teach them how to take this charter further.

Q. How would you like your students to remember you, both as an educator and as a person?

As one who taught them valuable life-lessons and endeavoured to contribute to each one’s individual transformation.

Q. What do you think is missing in the current education system that could better prepare students for the future?

Execution is key to change. We have a great vision, and many educators have powerful ideas that are truly transformative. I admire visionaries such as J. Krishnamurti and Rabindranath Tagore, who exemplified both ideation and action. I would like to see a culture of institution-building take root – a world where ideas are transformed to on-ground reality. In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, “You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.”

Q. If you had the power to implement one change in the education system today, what would it be and why?

I would make it accountable – for delivering on the promises of education.

