



21K School

Where Every Learner
Finds Their Path

THE PATHMAKERS

21 STORIES OF GRIT, GROWTH & THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLING

EBOOK

VOLUME 1



21K School Education Private Limited[©]



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21 STORIES OF GRIT, GROWTH & THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLING
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Within these pages lie stories that illuminate the essence of 21K School—innovation anchored in empathy, and learning shaped through purpose.

Each narrative reveals the quiet dedication of facilitators who turn challenges into opportunities and moments into meaning.

Their journeys remind us that education is not defined by place, but by passion and presence. This volume stands as a tribute to those who guide with conviction and nurture with heart. May these reflections continue to inspire excellence across our community.

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The Maker's Squad



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AMANDEEP KAUR SODHI

From Greener Pastures to Greater Heights: My Journey as an Educator

With 16 years of teaching experience across IB, IGCSE, and CBSE, I hold an M.Phil in Mathematics, an M.Ed, and I'm UGC-NET qualified, currently pursuing a PhD in mathematics education. Married to an Air Force fighter pilot, I've taught across India, gaining diverse academic exposure. I'm passionate about using research-based strategies to enhance student learning and engagement.



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BEENA VIJJI

From Chalkboards to Clicks - My Pathmaker Story

With a foundation shaped by a defence background and professional experience in corporate communication, I bring over 13 years of expertise as an English Facilitator, Subject Coordinator, and Class Representative in a reputed CBSE school. Trained in designing inclusive, inquiry-driven learning environments, I am committed to fostering creativity, confidence, and critical thinking in young learners through innovative, student-centered teaching practices.

EKTA OM SARMALKAR

Teaching in Pixels, Impacting in Real Life - My 21K Years

Ms. Ekta Sarmalkar is an educator and instructional designer with 16 years of experience in Early Childhood Care and Education. She specialises in curriculum planning, learner engagement, and IB documentation, with strong expertise in Google e-portfolios and ManageBac. She creates safe, learner-centred environments, integrates ATL skills effectively, and designs meaningful learning experiences that nurture confident, curious, and expressive learners.



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INDU CHATURVEDI

Echoes of My Soul

With 29 years of teaching experience, I have embraced the role of a language facilitator as more than just an educator—as a mentor who inspires learners to discover the beauty of language. My deep-rooted passion for Sanskrit & Hindi literature has guided my journey, earning me numerous awards and recognition, while shaping generations of learners to appreciate the richness of language and culture.



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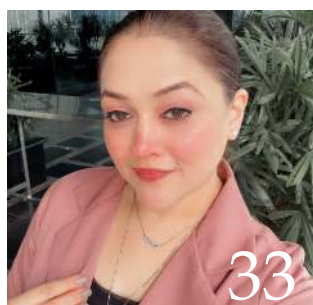
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KHUSHBOO AGARWAL

Ink, Paper, Passion: The Facilitator's Legacy

Dr. Khushboo Agarwal, a management graduate with a doctorate in Training and Development, is passionate about imparting essential life skills to early years learners. She nurtures honesty, kindness, empathy, and confidence to help children build resilience. With multiple EYFS and counseling certifications, her work is published in several journals. Her strong connection with learners is her core strength, and she continually refines her expertise.



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KRITIKA SHARMA

From Rock Bottom to Rising Strong: My 21K Journey

A woman of resilience, courage, and unwavering self-belief, she is Mrs. India 2018 and a multifaceted force — jewellery designer, diabetic nutritionist, educationist, brand consultant, and TEDx speaker. Her journey of transformation reflects strength and grace, inspiring others to rise beyond fear and pursue their dreams. She lives by the powerful mantra: Dream. Believe. Achieve.

The Maker's Squad



LAEEQA KHAN

Beyond The Screen

An experienced Urdu language facilitator holding an M.Phil in Urdu Literature from Mumbai University, with eight years of experience guiding learners. My main focus is creating fun and useful learning materials for children. Achievements include writing poems and stories, and designing comprehensive worksheets and presentations. My goal is to use my deep knowledge of literature and creative writing to help young learners acquire and love Urdu.



MADHURI YADAV

Beyond Teaching: My Journey as a Facilitator at 21K School

Experienced Hindi language facilitator with 18 years across IB MYP, IGCSE, and CBSE curricula, supported by strong academic qualifications including M.Com, M.A. and B.Ed. I design engaging, student-centered, and technology-integrated learning experiences that nurture a deep appreciation for Hindi while developing IB learner profiles and ATL skills. Passionate about lifelong learning and inspired by helping students communicate confidently, think critically, and express themselves creatively.

MANJU NAVANI

Bridging the Virtual Gap: A Journey of Inclusivity, Connection, and Transformation

A passionate educator and Accounting Facilitator specializing in Cambridge and Edexcel IGCSE and AS/A Levels, currently pursuing a PhD in Education. With research interests in process improvement, open schooling, and educational technology, she is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and MH-SET qualified. She blends industry and leadership experience with a commitment to learner success, digital innovation, inclusion, and overall well-being.



MARY SEBASTIAN

Connecting Hearts Before Teaching

Mary Sebastian, originally from Delhi and now settled in Kochi, is an educator with 34 years of experience across India and the Middle East. Known in Kuwait as "The teacher from India" because she was the only Indian teacher in an all-Arab school and Kuwait university. She is a TED Ambassador, SDG Ambassador, TED Educator, and Ambassador of India for the International Teachers' Association. An author and proud mother, she champions learner growth and global citizenship.



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MAUREEN BLOSSOM

A Journey of Purpose, Passion, and Possibility

A dedicated educator with over two decades of experience in Science teaching and academic leadership, holding degrees in Science and Education. As Principal of Evangeline Higher Secondary School, she led consistent centum results and a strong learner-centred culture. With virtual teaching experience at 21K School, she integrates technology, personalised instruction, and innovative pedagogy. She is driven by character building, meaningful learning, and empowering learners with confidence and curiosity.



NITHIYALAKSHMI S

From Roses to Rising Stars

An inspiring educator who blends technology, digital literacy, and empathy to create meaningful learning experiences. With a B.Tech background and experience as a software engineer, she transitioned into coding and soft-skills training. A Google Certified Educator and Canva trainer, she now facilitates middle school coding. Her approach turns "bugs" into growth opportunities, nurturing resilience, confidence, and a genuine love for technology in young learners.

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PRABHA NANDAKUMAR

From Setback to Spotlight: A Tamil Facilitator's 21K Journey

An educator specializing in Tamil as a second and third language, adept at supporting foundational learners through bilingual strategies. Skilled in creating interactive, learner-centred lessons integrating Higher Order Thinking Skills, Habits of Mind, and ATL competencies. Known for a cooperative approach, strong teamwork, and a positive work culture. Holds qualifications in education and linguistics, committed to nurturing curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.



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SAJITHA MENON

From Blackboard to Broadband- Redefining Education

Teacher with long standing experience across schools in India, having taught diverse learners from primary to Grade 10. Educated in Chennai, with roles including Head of Department, activity in-charge, and exam cell head. Known for a student-centred approach that builds lasting connections, reflected in former students reaching out years later with gratitude. Strong background in academic planning, holistic development, and nurturing meaningful learning experiences.

SANDHYA VINOJ

The Path from Serene Valleys to Global Learners: An Educator's Journey of Growth and Connection

Driven by a love for learning, I strive to inspire curiosity, confidence, and resilience in every learner. With experience across diverse classrooms, I design interactive and inclusive learning experiences. As a Microsoft Innovative Educator trained by the British Council, I blend technology, creative pedagogy, and reflection to build critical thinking, collaboration, and real-world connections, empowering learners to grow with purpose and confidence.



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SAVITHA N

A Journey of Rediscovery: Savitha's New Wings at 21K

An accomplished primary educator with extensive experience in online and offline schooling, holding an MCA and B.Ed. Skilled in integrating Habits of Mind, Visible Thinking Routines, and Cambridge-aligned digital pedagogy. Honoured with awards including Avantika Atal Samman and Most Innovative Teacher. Known for exceptional event management, strong parent-learner rapport, and a commitment to fostering holistic learner growth and development.



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SHILPA SHARMA

The Colourful Wings of Connection

Shilpa Sharma is a distinguished pre-primary educator with over 13 years of experience and specialized certifications, including E.C.C.E., Montessori, and Jolly Phonics. Her teaching philosophy centers on compassion and empathy, focusing deeply on the holistic growth of young learners. She expertly leverages her expertise in the online classroom, providing fun, contemporary, and engaging learning experiences.



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SHUBHADA S. PARTE

Brick by Brick: My Path with 21K

Shubhada S. Parte is a dedicated Hindi Facilitator whose career from 2006 to 2025 includes work as a special educator, Hindi teacher, mentor for B.Ed/M.Ed trainees, and event organizer in Mumbai, later serving as Hindi HOD in Bengaluru. At 21K British Senior School, she facilitates IGCSE Grades 9-10 and is a three-time awardee, known for leading major events and ensuring consistent A+ learner achievement.

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SOHINI ROY BISWAS

From Chalk to Clicks

Senior school English facilitator, bibliophile, and soft skills consultant with expertise in curriculum design, assessment strategies, and language instruction. An HRD Ministry Awardee, certified SEL facilitator, HP IDEA Fellow, and Habits of Mind practitioner, I mentor educators through NITI Aayog initiatives and lead collaborative academic programs. I build high-impact virtual classrooms that foster engagement and am currently pursuing a PGDEMA from IGNOU to deepen my understanding of educational administration.

SUSHMA RANI

The Power of Belief

Sushma Rani is an experienced online learning facilitator who specializes in creating engaging, student-centered virtual classrooms. With expertise in digital tools and collaborative learning, support learners in developing academic confidence, communication skills, and independent learning habits. Prior to that I served in Off line school and having experience of more than 28 years.



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UMA VENKATARAMAN

The Classroom Odyssey: A Personal Journey

Uma is a senior teacher with 25 years of experience mentoring high-school learners and is a certified trainer for Cambridge International AS & A Level History. With master's degrees in History and Education, she also holds a diploma in Human Rights. A Faculty Advisor for MUN, TED-Ed, and debate clubs, she is a Teach SDG Ambassador and an award-winning educator, including TAFIT and Lighthouse Learning awards.



Acknowledgement

Every great endeavor is born from a shared vision, fuelled by passion, and strengthened by collaboration.

The Pathmakers Initiative – Volume 1 stands as a testament to these values. More than a collection of stories, it is a celebration of dedication, growth, and the remarkable spirit of our facilitators who continue to make learning both meaningful and transformative.

Our deepest gratitude goes to **Ms. Aruna Shetty, Head of School**, for her unwavering guidance, insightful feedback, and steady leadership throughout this initiative. Heartfelt thanks to our esteemed Principals — **Ms. Tanuja Amin (Indian School)**, **Ms. Priya Dwivedi (Indian Senior School)**, **Ms. Paminder Kohli (British School)**, **Dr. Amita Mehrotra (British Senior School)** — along with **Ms. Vandana Khera (Head – Training & Development)** and **Ms. Smita Pise (Coordinator – Special Needs)** for their thoughtful reviews and for helping curate the inspiring stories that bring Pathmakers to life.

We extend our sincere appreciation to **Mr. Vaibhav Kulshreshtha (Head – Academic Operations)** for his steady leadership, and to **Mr. Rohail Qamar and Ms. Pallabi Samaddar**, whose creativity and meticulous work in designing and compiling this volume have given it its distinctive character.

A heartfelt thank you to all our **facilitators** who shared their journeys with honesty, vulnerability, and passion — your stories form the very heart of this initiative. Our gratitude also goes to the **HR Team** for their tireless coordination and commitment in driving this project from concept to completion.

Acknowledgement

We would also like to acknowledge our **learners**, whose curiosity, resilience, and willingness to grow continue to inspire every educator; and our **parents**, whose trust, encouragement, and partnership strengthen our shared mission of delivering meaningful, personalised learning experiences.

At the foundation of this initiative lies the vision and encouragement of our **Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Yeshwanth Raj Parasmal**, whose belief in honouring and celebrating the journeys of our educators continues to inspire excellence across 21K School.

As we present ***The Pathmakers – Volume 1***, we celebrate not only achievements, but the extraordinary people behind them — the dreamers, the doers, and the changemakers who illuminate the path for many more to follow.

Foreword



Education is undergoing a fundamental shift. As the world transforms, so must the way we nurture curiosity, character, and capability in every learner. 21K School was founded on the belief that a new model of schooling - flexible, inclusive, and future-ready - was not only possible but necessary.

Our Facilitators stand at the centre of this evolution. They are the ones translating vision into lived experience for thousands of children each day. Their work demands more than subject expertise; it calls for adaptability, empathy, and a mindset that embraces both innovation and responsibility.

This book captures a selection of their journeys - perspectives that illuminate what it means to teach in a digital-first, learner-centric environment. These chapters offer insight into a profession undergoing reinvention and highlight the depth of thinking, commitment, and creativity that define our community. It is important to recognise that the stories included here represent only a fraction of the many powerful experiences within 21K School. Featuring a few voices does not diminish the contributions of the many others whose stories remain untold. Every Facilitator shapes our culture, strengthens our mission, and enriches the learning experience.

As we look ahead, technology - especially AI - will continue to play a transformative role. Yet one truth remains constant: the joy of learning is

Foreword

fundamentally human. AI can support, extend, and personalise learning at unprecedented scale, but it cannot replicate the warmth, intuition, and relational depth that a teacher brings into a child's life. The connection between a learner and a facilitator - built on trust, encouragement, and shared discovery - is irreplaceable. AI tools and avatars will serve as powerful enablers, but the centre of learning will always remain human. The stories in this book reflect this truth. They are not accounts of systems or platforms; they are reflections of culture, connection, and the meaningful relationships our learners share with their Facilitators.

My hope is that this book serves not merely as documentation, but as a lens into the future of teaching - one shaped by purpose-driven professionals who are redefining what modern education can be.

With love and joy,

Yeshwanth Raj Parasmal

Founder & Chief Executive Officer
21K School

Message from Head of Schools



ARUNA SHETTY
Head of Schools

Dear Readers,

It is with profound pride and heartfelt appreciation that I introduce this distinguished compilation of narratives—reflections from our facilitators whose experiences illuminate the very essence of teaching and learning at 21K School.

Each story captured in these pages offers a glimpse into the moments that shape us: encounters with learners that inspire, challenges that refine our practice, and

quiet affirmations that remind us that we **are in the right profession, within the right organisation, at precisely the right time.**

At 21K School, our model is intentionally **innovative, inclusive, personalised, and flexible.** These stories bring that vision to life with authenticity and grace. They demonstrate that when learners are met with empathy and intellectual rigour—even in virtual spaces—education becomes transformative, expansive, and deeply human.

Within this collection, one can sense the collective pride that binds our community:

- **Pride in our learners**, whose curiosity, resilience, and brilliance elevate our purpose;
- **Pride in our facilitators**, whose professionalism and passion shape meaningful learning experiences every day; and
- **Pride in our school**, where bold ideas and thoughtful practice converge to reimagine what education can be.

Message from Head of Schools

I extend my deepest gratitude to our **parents**, whose trust and partnership are the foundation upon which our learners thrive. Your faith in our mission strengthens our resolve and inspires us to reach higher.

My sincere appreciation also goes to our **leadership team**, whose clarity of vision, unwavering support, and commitment to excellence enable this community to flourish with confidence and ambition.

To our facilitators who contributed their voices to this book: thank you for your candour, your dedication, and the remarkable work you do. Your stories are a testament to the impact of teaching—and to the extraordinary spirit of 21K School.

With respect and immense pride,

Ms.Aruna Shetty
Head of School

Amandeep Kaur Sodhi

From Greener Pastures to Greater Heights: My Journey as an Educator



Roots of Resilience

I come from the greener pastures of Punjab, India — a land woven with vibrant colours, spirited traditions and stories of resilience. It's a place where education is seen not just as a path but as a purpose. From there, I began a journey that would take me across the length and breadth of India and deeper still into my own self-discovery. I

reached the pinnacle of educational pursuit by earning my PhD in Education — a moment that brought with it not just pride, but a profound sense of fulfilment. The day I received my Doctor of Philosophy — was not just a personal victory, but a celebration of every detour, delay and determination. But life had more in store for me.

Wings of Change

Marrying an Indian Air Force fighter pilot changed my world — quite literally. With each posting, I was gifted glimpses into the diverse landscapes, cultures and flavours of India. From the spice-laden air of southern kitchens to the serene sandscapes of Rajasthan, every location offered me not just a home but also a classroom. My passion for teaching thrived through these travels. I taught across various curricula —

IB, IGCSE, CBSE, ICSE — and across countless learning styles and mindsets. I witnessed the quick, witty problem-solvers of Hyderabad and also the laid-back learners in Rajasthan whose dreams were shaped more by legacy than numbers. Each learner reaffirmed my belief that no two minds are alike.

Turning Challenges into Growth

Amid the responsibilities of motherhood, relocations and service life, I continued to study, to teach and to grow. Then came 2020 — the year that reshaped the world. When the pandemic hit, it brought uncertainty for many, including me. But it also brought unexpected blessings. I found time to explore hobbies but most importantly — to pause and reflect. It was during this time that I discovered 21K School, a platform that didn't just value educators — it empowered them. It allowed me to turn my lifelong passion into a dynamic reality: teaching from home. With 21K, I found the perfect blend of flexibility and purpose. I could support my husband as he proudly serves the nation, care for my little ones and still do what I love most — educate. 21K allowed me to turn my enduring passion for teaching into a flexible, fulfilling reality — working from home, nurturing young minds virtually, while also nurturing my own little ones in real life. As we continued to move from place to place with my husband's Air Force postings, 21K became my constant, my classroom and my creative space. My husband, soaring the skies in fighter aircrafts, proudly follows his passion for serving the nation. And he does so with peace of mind, knowing that while he touches the sky with glory, our home remains grounded — calm, composed, bursting with josh and always welcoming. In many ways, we both serve — he in the skies and I in the hearts and minds of students across the country.

A Day in My Virtual Classroom

For me, each day begins with a quiet ritual—a click and a login before 9 a.m. That small act of logging into 21K isn't just the start of work. It's the beginning of something that brings balance to my life. The morning assembly marks the beginning of shared energy, smiles and connection. I see eager faces lighting up the screen and I know I'm right where I belong. Classes begin and with them the real magic unfolds. I meet curious learners ready to explore, discover and grow. Every lesson is more than just a topic—it's a conversation. The happiness on the learners' faces says it all. It tells me that I'm not just teaching—I'm reaching hearts, building comfort and nurturing confidence. My focus always remains on studies, but equally on ensuring that every child feels seen, safe and supported. 21K has been more than a workplace it's been a platform of possibilities. I've learned how to host guest sessions with poise, plan virtual events like Mathalon with creativity and truly engage with the online world in ways I never thought possible. This year, we are proudly celebrating the Year of Math at 21K. It's not just about numbers—it's about narratives. I've been fortunate to integrate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into math, weaving relevance and real-world application into lessons. It's been a beautiful blend of logic and purpose.

Gratitude and Growth: Living the Balance

Through it all, what I cherish most is how 21K has allowed me to explore myself, rediscover my capabilities and grow as a professional while still being present for my family. It's a balance many chase—and I'm living it. For all this, I am deeply grateful.



Beena Vijji

From Chalkboards to Clicks – My Pathmaker Story



Early Roots and Foundations

Coming from a defence background, I grew up where discipline, resilience, and adaptability were a way of life. These principles shaped my outlook and guided my professional journey. Before entering education, I worked with a Cyprus-based software firm, collaborating with programmers to simplify complex technical information.

This honed my communication and interpersonal skills, proving invaluable in education.

New Beginnings

While independence always mattered to me, motherhood added a new dimension. Blessed with two daughters, I wanted to be present during their formative years. Since remote work and online schooling were rare, I stepped away from my corporate career to prioritize family. Supporting my husband part-time in his HR firm. This period taught me balance, discipline, and the joy of focusing on what truly matters. It also rekindled my desire to pursue something meaningful that aligned with my values and aspirations.

Discovering My Calling in Education

A turning point came when I applied for a teaching opportunity at a neighbourhood school in GK2, Delhi—the beginning of my journey as an educator. What drew me in was its transformative power: shaping young minds academically and personally while helping them discover their potential.

I worked for a reputed CBSE school in South Delhi for 13 years, serving as English Facilitator, Subject Coordinator, and Class Representative. These roles deepened my understanding of classroom dynamics, leadership, and curriculum design. I learned to create inclusive, engaging learning spaces that encouraged curiosity, empathy, and collaboration. Each role reinforced my belief that education is not confined to textbooks but about nurturing confident, compassionate, and creative individuals ready for the real world.

A Pause and a New Chapter

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unforeseen challenges, and a family emergency required me to step away from my role. Though it was difficult, it led to reflection and renewal. An unexpected call from 21K School opened a deeply meaningful new chapter in my professional life.

Embracing a Progressive Vision at 21K

At 21K School, I found an environment that perfectly aligns with my philosophy of holistic, learner-centered education. The school's progressive approach empowers facilitators and learners to think critically, create fearlessly, and grow continuously. Here, I am not just a facilitator but also a guide, mentor, and co-learner.

21K's philosophy goes beyond rote learning. Its experiential, inquiry-based methods, flipped classrooms, and interdisciplinary projects, beautifully align with NEP's vision. Learning is celebrated through events and initiatives that extend education beyond screens into meaningful real-life experiences.

A Day in My Life

My day begins early with yoga amidst serene greenery, grounding me for what lies ahead. After preparing meals and tending to my plants and pet Koko, and a short gratitude before stepping into my virtual classroom. I aim to create a warm, welcoming space where learners feel valued and motivated to express themselves freely.

My interactions go beyond academics—they focus on building trust, curiosity, and confidence. Through discussions, real-life connections, and creative activities, I try to make every session an experience of exploration and joy rather than just a lesson.

Innovative Teaching Strategies

I try to make learning purposeful and enjoyable using creative strategies, flipped learning, teamwork, real-life connections, and games, helping learners confidently take charge of their educational journey.

Moments of Inspiration

Among my most inspiring experiences at 21K is the journey of a remarkable Grade 5 learner who wrote and published books at a young age, even presenting one to the Honourable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. Interviewing her and sharing her story with the school community was a proud moment. Her humility, focus, and creativity continue to inspire peers and facilitators alike.

Equally inspiring are learners who face physical challenges but approach life with courage and enthusiasm. I fondly recall one learner during our Monsoon Trek at Lodhi Garden—her laughter and energy lit up the day. Such moments reaffirm my belief that true strength lies in spirit, not circumstance.

Vision for the Future

At 21K, my vision is for every learner to experience the joy of learning in a way that reflects their individuality. Personalized education allows learners to progress at their own pace, explore their passions, and build confidence in their abilities. There is no “one-size-fits-all.” We celebrate diversity in abilities, learning styles, and aspirations. I believe personalized learning unlocks each learner’s limitless potential, preparing them to thrive in an evolving world as empathetic, resilient, and creative global citizens.

Path-Making, Not Just Teaching

With yoga-filled mornings, purposeful teaching, and inspiration drawn from my learners, my journey at 21K is not merely about education, it is about transformation. Every day reminds me that being an educator is not just about imparting knowledge; it is about lighting the path for others to find their own way.

This is not just teaching -it is path-making.



Teaching in Pixels, Impacting in Real Life - My 21K Years



At 21K School, every facilitator brings more than just subject knowledge; they bring heart, commitment, and a belief in the power of connection, even across screens. The story of online learning at 21K is not just about technology or academics, it's about relationships, adaptability, and the shared joy of learning together. Here's one such story from a facilitator who has not only

taught lessons but built meaningful relationships, one virtual classroom at a time.

A New Beginning

When I joined 21K School, I was stepping into an unfamiliar world—an online classroom without walls, desks, or bells. There was no sound of shuffling feet or the usual morning greetings echoing through corridors. Instead, there were screens, icons, and digital voices waiting to be connected. I wasn't sure what to expect, but what I discovered was something far more powerful than a physical classroom could offer: connection, purpose, and community.

The first few weeks were filled with curiosity and learning, not just for the learners but for me as well. I learned how to read emotions through screens, how to build engagement through my tone, and how to make every learner feel seen and valued. Slowly, I realized that even though our classrooms looked different, our hearts and minds were still deeply connected.

Building Bonds Beyond Borders

In the past few years, I've taught learners from cities, towns, and countries I had never visited but the learning felt deeply personal. My classroom became a mosaic of cultures, languages, and perspectives. Every discussion brought new ideas, and every project revealed the creative spirit of learners who were growing together despite being miles apart.

We celebrated birthdays virtually, shared stories about festivals, and even exchanged laughter over the smallest moments. Together, we celebrated milestones, navigated challenges, and created a space where curiosity and kindness could thrive. I've seen reluctant learners find their voice, watched friendships bloom through breakout rooms, and felt the unwavering support of parents and colleagues even from hundreds of miles away.

There were moments when technology tested our patience, but those very challenges strengthened our adaptability. Learners taught me that connection doesn't need proximity, it needs presence, empathy, and trust.

A Shared Vision

At 21K, we are not bounded by location but united by a shared vision: to nurture excellence through innovation and empathy. Every facilitator brings a different teaching style, but we are all guided by the same goal to make learning meaningful and inclusive for every child.

Each day, I'm reminded that online learning isn't distant, it's deeply human. The virtual space has become a bridge that connects learners and facilitators in ways that were once unimaginable. It allows flexibility for learners to explore their interests while still feeling supported by their facilitators and peers.

Through various school initiatives, projects, and celebrations, I've seen how digital tools can amplify creativity. A simple whiteboard can become a canvas for imagination, and a discussion forum can turn into a stage for ideas. Every class is a reminder that learning is not confined by four walls; it's a living experience shaped by relationships and shared dreams.

A Journey of Transformation

These past few years have been more than a teaching journey; they've been a story of transformation for me and for my learners. My students, too, have grown into confident, independent learners who can express themselves fearlessly and think critically.

Every day has brought new lessons, sometimes about academic concepts, sometimes about life. I've learned that a child's smile when they grasp a new concept online is just as rewarding as in a physical classroom. The applause may be through emojis, but the pride is real.

The journey continues with each new learner who logs in, each new idea that sparks in our digital classrooms, and each connection that turns a group of screens into a community of hearts. Because at the end of the day, it's not about teaching online, it's about teaching with heart, wherever we are.



Indu Chaturvedi

Echoes of My Soul



Roots in Jhansi: A Legacy of Learning

The city of Jhansi and its most distinguished, aristocratic family became the foundation of my life. My father — a renowned educationist, linguist, poet, author, litterateur, editor, and subject expert — was the strength and guiding light of my education. Surrounded by scholars and nurtured in the company of eminent litterateurs, I

spent my childhood blossoming in an environment rich with literary discourse.

The Birth of a Literary Soul

I do not even remember when I was first introduced to the beauty of words, meaning, poetry, and the experience of *rasa* (aesthetic joy); it all became a part of me so naturally. Words began to weave themselves into my pen and emerge on paper as compositions. All I know is that reading and creating literature is the true joy of my soul.

Education in My Bloodline

I have always been under the protective and inspiring shade of three Principals — my father, my mother-in-law, and my father-in-law. Other

prominent members of my family too have adorned high positions in the field of education. Thus, reading and teaching became an inseparable part of my very being. It was my father who was the primary source of inspiration for me to step into the world of education.

Leading with Purpose at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya

With an excellent academic record and a deep passion for teaching, I earned the distinguished opportunity to lead as the Head of the Indian Languages Department at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior — ranked as India's No. 1 girls' boarding school.

Celebrating Excellence and Recognition

Here, I understood the true and vast meaning of education and achieved several milestones. My subject, Sanskrit, consistently secured the highest aggregate in board results, for which I was twice awarded Certificates of Appreciation by the then Education Minister, Mrs. Smriti Irani.

Two Decades of Learning and Legacy

I received several significant academic trainings and was honored with one international and two national awards related to literature, along with multiple accolades as an Ideal Teacher and numerous letters of appreciation from various forums. This school, an unshakable pillar of culture, modernity, and moral values, became a strong companion in my academic journey for 20 years. It was here that I imbibed the seed mantra of seamless coordination between academics and co-curricular activities. My heart and soul remain forever grateful to this educational institution, which holds a place of deep reverence in my life.

A Turning Point in the Pandemic

In 2020–21, during the devastating wave of COVID-19, we were instructed to stay compulsorily within our educational institution. Considering the declining health of my family members, I expressed my inability to accept this arrangement and tendered my resignation.

A New Beginning at 21K School

In such challenging times, my two daughters suggested that I work for an online school. Through an interview, I stepped into 21K School — India's first online school. Initially, the very concept of an online school seemed beyond imagination. I began the journey with a little apprehension in my heart.

Discovering a Global Classroom

After joining this school, I came to know the truly global nature of education. Learners from nearly 78 countries, including those with physical or mental disabilities and special learners, study here together — a uniqueness that left a deep impact on me.

From Chalkboards to Screens

Life shifted from hard copy to soft copy; registers gave way to Google Sheets, handwritten notes to folders and Google Drive. The physical classroom transformed into a virtual classroom. Chalk and dusters were left behind, while whiteboards took the lead. PPTs emerged as a powerful medium of teaching and expression, and the entire class came alive within a laptop screen.

A Day in the Life of a Virtual Educator

The day begins with Check-in, followed by teaching in classrooms, conducting activity practice sessions, document submissions, corrections on Assessprep, meetings with the Principal, and ends with Check-out.

Learners Who Inspire Every Day

In this journey of online learning, the learners have quietly captured my heart — their shining minds, tender spirits, inventive ideas, and endless affection creating a melody that stays with me.

Strength in Community and Collaboration

The support, warmth, and generosity of my team and colleagues have left an indelible mark on my heart. Each day, they readily share their expertise, helping one another resolve countless issues with kindness and cooperation. With such support, we work with dedication, face network challenges with resilience, and move forward each day with the goal of learning more.

Lighting the Way Forward

It is my privilege to be part of this pioneering online school — shaping futures, touching lives, and lighting the way... where every learner finds their path.



Khushboo Agarwal

Ink, Paper, Passion: The Facilitator's Legacy



A Note from the Facilitator

I'm Khushboo, a passionate upholder for quality education, deeply rooted in the vibrant city of Jaipur. My academic journey spans a Doctorate in Management, a post-graduate degree in Marketing and HR, and a foundational science graduation.

My experience with the education system, particularly during my master's studies, illuminated significant gaps between theoretical knowledge and practical application. This realization ignited a desire within me to bridge that divide. My mission is to empower young learners, transforming them into kind, compassionate, and confident individuals who are well-equipped for the real world.

Charting My Course to 21K School

After a long sabbatical following my daughter's birth, I found myself at a crossroads, grappling with the emotional challenges of a new phase in life. While I'd initiated a skills training class during the COVID-19 pandemic, it faced the inherent hurdles of any new venture, leaving me

searching for a more structured path to fulfill my aspirations. Then, I discovered 21K School, and it felt like finding myself again.

The pursuit for the perfect fit ended when I joined 21K School. Each leader that I came across in this journey has been an incredible source of support and guidance, contributing significantly to my growth.

This school provides me with a profound sense of achievement, fulfillment, and respect; it has, in essence, become a part of my identity. It empowers me to pursue what I love most from the depths of my heart, granting me the freedom to be authentic and to impart the best I can, in a way that feels natural to me.

The Facilitator's Flow: Guiding Learners, Shaping Ideas

My day as a facilitator typically begins early, which is my most productive planning time. I use these quiet moments to review my daily agenda, check logs, prepare presentations, and note any special requirements for the day, such as upcoming events, celebrations, or learner' birthdays. This dedicated time allows me to organize my thoughts and tasks, ensuring I'm fully prepared for the day ahead.

Our classroom time is dynamic and engaging, structured around fun learning, sharing, and research. I believe in hands-on activities, employing out-of-the-box methods and enjoyable tasks to keep learners actively involved. I leverage my technical skills and various online platforms to design and manage my lessons efficiently, ensuring that learning is both effective and time-conscious.

Impactful Journeys

Among the many remarkable learners, I've had the privilege to guide one learner, whom we can name as **Tanisha** stands out. At just two years old, Tanisha underwent a liver transplant, an ordeal that continues to shape her life with regular check-ups, ongoing tests, and a delicate immune system. She also lives with mild autism, which means her childhood differs from what many consider "normal"- fewer carefree days at the park or large groups of friends.

Despite these significant challenges, Tanisha is incredibly positive, intelligent, and quick to grasp new concepts, always greeting the world with a smile that has a unique power to uplift everyone around her. I have immense respect for her mother, who navigates Tanisha's full-time care with remarkable patience and boundless love. Her father, an army officer who serves our nation, displayed incredible courage not only through his military service but also as Tanisha's liver donor. Their collective strength and Tanisha's bright spirit are truly inspiring

From Aspiration to Achievement: My Commitment to Every Learner

I aspire to be a pillar of strength for my learner, someone who helps root their foundations deeply and who they remember as their first facilitator when they achieve something significant in life. I draw inspiration from my own mother, a retired government facilitator, who always filled me with pride when her former learners would meet her and express gratitude for her guidance in their success. I dream of achieving the same profound connection and impact with my own learners.

At 21K School, personalized and flexible learning is key to this dream. It empowers learners to express themselves authentically, and pursue their passions beyond traditional academics. This approach gives them the wings to follow their dreams without compromising their fundamental education.

A Final Word

My journey from a young academic to a dedicated facilitator at 21K School is a testament to the power of purpose and the profound impact one individual can have. Rooted in my personal experiences and fueled by a passion for holistic education, I found not just a career, but a calling. Through personalized learning and unwavering support, I continue to shape young minds, helping them build strong foundations and giving them the courage to chase their boldest aspirations. My story is a vibrant reminder that true education extends far beyond textbooks; fostering kindness, confidence, and the enduring spirit of human connection.



Kritika Sharma

From Rock Bottom to Rising Strong: My 21K Journey



A Door Closes, A New Path Opens

“When life closes one door, it’s often because a better one is waiting for you to knock.”

My journey with 21K has been nothing short of life-changing. It began in 2022, right after the world had endured the storm of COVID-19. My teaching career, however, had started long before—in 2013—when I began guiding CA Inter

students in subjects like Law, Ethics, and Communication. Teaching was never just a profession; it was my passion and purpose. Helping young minds achieve their dreams gave me immense joy and fulfillment.

The Crown and The Pause

Then came an unexpected twist. In 2018, I participated in a national beauty pageant and, to my surprise, won the title of Mrs. India 2018. It was a moment of immense pride that opened doors to new experiences and connections. However, amid the excitement, my teaching journey took a pause. Life seemed to be leading me elsewhere—and I followed—never realizing that another storm was around the corner.

The Pandemic and The Plunge

When COVID-19 struck, everything changed overnight. Schools shut down, and uncertainty clouded every aspect of life. Teaching at a physical college in Hyderabad suddenly became impossible. For safety reasons, I stepped away—unaware that this would leave me jobless and emotionally drained. As a single parent, the struggle was real. I hit rock bottom—unsure, frightened, and wondering how to rebuild.

A Ray of Hope: Enter 21K

Just when I felt directionless, a former colleague suggested I apply to 21K School. I was hesitant but took the leap. After a few rounds of interviews that tested my confidence and adaptability, I received an email that made me cry tears of relief:

“Congratulations! You have been selected as an English Facilitator for Grade 2.”

That one line changed everything. 21K didn’t just offer me a job—it offered me hope, stability, and a new beginning.

A Humongous Transition

Moving from teaching CA students to teaching Grade 2 learners was a huge shift. I went from discussing corporate ethics to singing rhymes and creating story-based lessons! Initially, I doubted myself. Could I really connect with such young learners? But once I started, those fears slowly melted away.

Smooth Sailing with Little Hearts

The first week showed me that teaching children is more about heart than technique. Their innocence and joy filled my days with warmth. Their cheerful “Good morning, Ma’am!” became the best part of my

mornings. The 21K team made the transition seamless—with their guidance, patience, and collaboration. What once felt overwhelming soon began to feel like home.

Learning, Growing, and Loving It

Before joining 21K, I had never taught online. But the platform empowered me. I learned to use digital tools like Zoom and Canva and discovered new ways to make learning fun and interactive. Most importantly, I learned to make children feel seen, heard, and valued—even through a screen. Every smile and every “Ma’am, you’re the best!” reignited my love for teaching.

The Heart of My Classroom

Today, as the HRT of Grade 1, I begin each day with gratitude. My learners are my little family—their curiosity and affection heal me in ways words can’t express. Once, a six-year-old said, “Ma’am, when I grow up, I want to be an English teacher like you.” That single sentence remains one of my life’s proudest moments.

A Journey of Strength and Gratitude

Four years later, 21K feels less like a workplace and more like family. The support, teamwork, and celebrations we share make every day meaningful. Meeting my learners offline and seeing their bright smiles fills my heart with joy and pride.

A New Chapter, A New Me

Looking back at the woman I was—scared, uncertain, and broken—I feel immense pride in how far I’ve come. 21K gave me more than a job; it gave me confidence, purpose, and a second chance at happiness.

From teaching professional adults to nurturing little learners—from fear to fulfilment—this journey has been nothing short of transformative.

Thank you, 21K.

You didn't just give me employment—you gave me belonging, hope, and the happiest chapter of my life.



Laeqa Khan

Beyond The Screen



"The wound is the place where the Light enters you."

— *Rumi*

Discovering the True Meaning of Online Teaching

When I joined 21K School, I did not fully understand what it meant to teach online. I imagined a routine of logging in, giving lessons, and logging out. What I discovered was something entirely

different. The online classroom was not just about teaching Urdu; it was about entering the private worlds of learners, each carrying their own stories. Behind every muted microphone and black screen was a child with a life I could not see, but sometimes I was given a glimpse.

The Girl Behind the Camera

One of my learners was a girl who always kept her camera off. Her mother had asked me to allow this, and I respected the request. She was regular, attentive, and always completed her assignments. I often wondered why she hid her face, but I never asked. Then one day, while showing her notebook on camera, the book slipped. For the first time, her face appeared on the screen—marked with scars, badly disfigured. She quickly adjusted the camera, but the image stayed with me.

In that instant, I understood her silence, her mother's request, and the camera, always off. It was all about protecting her dignity. For her, the online classroom was not just a place to learn Urdu; it was a safe space where she could exist without being stared at.

The Boy Who Wouldn't Stop Scratching

Another learner was a boy in Grade 2. During lessons, he scratched his body constantly—his arms, his neck, his face. Sometimes he looked as though he was in pain. On difficult days, he would turn off his camera and cry. At first, I didn't know what to make of it. Finally, I asked his mother.

She told me that in his previous school, he had been asked to leave. The facilitators there complained that his "constant scratching" disturbed the other children. Some even suggested it might spread, though his condition was not contagious. Instead of supporting him, the school rejected him.

Hearing this, I understood why he sometimes looked so defeated. But here, at least, he could attend. No one was forcing him out. No one was shaming him. He could still learn Urdu, even if it meant keeping his camera off some days.

Redefining My Role as a Facilitator

Moments like these made me stop and think about my role. At first, I believed my work was only about teaching language—alphabets, grammar, reading, and writing. But these children showed me that being an Urdu facilitator was also about creating space. It was about letting them belong, even with their challenges. It was about allowing them to stay when other places had pushed them away.

A Global Urdu Classroom

Over time, I began to notice another pattern. Many of my learners were from different countries. Some lived in Pakistan, others in the Middle East, and some in completely different corners of the world. Families chose 21K because they wanted their children to stay connected to Urdu. Watching learners from different time zones come together in one virtual classroom for one language was a powerful experience. It reminded me how language itself can be a bridge—connecting hearts, homes, and histories.

Lessons Beyond the Curriculum

When I look back, what stands out are not the polished lessons or the test scores. What stands out are the faces and stories—the girl who hid her scars, the boy who could not stop scratching, the learners logging in from faraway homes just to keep a language alive.

These experiences taught me that being a facilitator is not only about guiding lessons. It is about paying attention to what learners need beyond the subject. Sometimes it is patience, sometimes silence, and sometimes just the understanding that they deserve a place where they can be themselves.



Madhuri Yadav

Beyond Teaching: My Journey as a Facilitator at 21K School



From city classrooms to digital spaces, a story of transformation and purpose.

Background: A Journey through Cities and Pathway

My journey in education has never been confined to a single city or pathway. It has unfolded like a mosaic—Ahmedabad with its vibrant classrooms, Nashik with its calm simplicity,

Kolhapur steeped in tradition, and Pune alive with refreshing pace. Each place added its own color to my experience, shaping not just my teaching, but my philosophy of learning. Along the way, I embraced diverse pathways—CBSE, IGCSE, IB—not as rigid frameworks, but as windows into the many ways children learn, think, and dream. These experiences taught me to adapt, to listen, and to teach not from a script, but from an ever-growing understanding of young minds.

Then came 2020, the year the world paused. Classrooms turned into computer screens, and I stepped into online teaching. At first, it felt like losing something precious. But soon, I discovered new dimensions,

deeper engagement, meaningful connections, and the joy of meeting learners where they are, literally and metaphorically. This shift also stirred something within me. Constantly packing bags and shifting cities had begun to feel like running on a treadmill. I longed for stillness without losing purpose.

Why I Joined 21K School: A Breath of Possibility

And just then, 21K School entered my life like a breath of fresh, digital air. Here was a space that didn't just allow innovation, it encouraged it. A school that treated personalized and flexible learning not as buzzwords but as its very foundation. It wasn't just a job opening; it felt like the answer I hadn't known I was seeking. At 21K, I found something rare—freedom. The freedom to teach in my voice, to reach every learner in their unique way, and to grow without borders. Most importantly, I found balance between personal well-being and professional calling.

A Day in My Life: Structure Meets Soul

Each day starts with a quiet moment, a sip of chai, a breath of gratitude. Then I turn to my digital classroom. I review the learner's progress, tweak lesson plans, and prepare activities that go beyond teaching—they spark curiosity. Whether it's turning a grammar lesson into a story quest or using real-world scenarios in language, my sessions are designed to connect, not just instruct.

Time management is my invisible superpower. I weave through sessions, feedback, assessments, and check-ins with a rhythm that comes from experience. And while tools and platforms help me stay organized, it's the emotional connection with learners that grounds everything. A five-minute heart-to-heart can sometimes teach more than a fifty-minute lecture.

Learners I'm Proud of: The Stories That Stay With Me

Among the many young hearts I've taught, some stories remain etched in mine.

There was Arnav, quiet, hesitant, almost invisible in discussions. I knew he had something to say. With patience and encouragement, I slowly saw him emerge. Today, he doesn't just participate—he leads group conversations with a quiet confidence. Watching him find his voice was like witnessing a flower bloom in its own season.

Then there was a learner Khushi, brilliant but chaotic, struggling with structure. Instead of fighting it, I built a flexible plan around her. I focused on her strengths, her rhythms. Now, she is not only disciplined but also self-driven, often reaching out to help peers organize their work.

Dreams and Aspirations: A Future Shaped by Choice

I dream of a world where every learner feels seen, heard, and celebrated. Where education bends to fit the learner, not the other way around. At 21K School, I see this dream in motion every day—learners charting their own journeys, guided by facilitators who believe in their potential.

Personalized learning is not just about technology or flexibility. It's about giving each learner the power of choice, the joy of discovery, and the strength of self-belief. As a facilitator, I don't just teach, I light paths. And I'm proud to walk beside my learners as they build a future that's uniquely theirs.

Final Thoughts

From chalkboards to digital whiteboards, from city hopping to working from home, my journey has been about transformation—of self, of teaching, and of dreams. And through it all, I’ve learned this: Education isn’t about filling minds. It’s about unlocking hearts.

At 21K School, I’ve found my place—and more importantly, my purpose.



Manju Navani

Bridging the Virtual Gap: A Journey of Inclusivity, Connection, and Transformation



A Curious Explorer Turned Researcher

I've always been a curious explorer, the kind of person who wants to understand how things work, why people behave the way they do, and how small changes can create big shifts. Today, that curiosity has led me to pursue a Ph.D. in Education, with my research focusing on the economics of education, quality assurance in higher education, open

schooling, adult education, and educational technology.

A Non-Linear Journey in Education

But my journey here hasn't been a straight line. Over the years, I've worn many hats: insurance claim auditor, accounting facilitator for Cambridge and Edexcel IGCSE and AS/A Level, outreach and admissions manager, assessment specialist, and special educator. The common thread through it all is a deep conviction that education has the power to transform lives, but only when it is both empowering and personal.

Inspired by a Facilitator

My decision to become a facilitator began in my own school days. I was lucky enough to meet a facilitator who showed me patience and care

when I needed it most. That experience shaped me. It taught me that kindness, empathy, and patience can turn things around for even the most challenging learners. My six years as a special educator only reinforced that lesson. I learned how to make accommodations, build trust, and create spaces where learners felt safe enough to try, and succeed.

Discovering 21K School

When I discovered 21K School, its vision instantly resonated with me, a commitment to learning that is personalized, flexible, and powered by technology. For me, the online platform isn't just a tool for delivering lessons, it's a bridge. It erases distances, removes barriers, and creates a place where every learner can be seen, heard, and valued.

Life as a Facilitator

At 21K School, no two days look the same. My work with learners starts well before our first class, as I design lessons that are engaging, purposeful, and practical. I create space for every voice, whether that's spoken aloud or typed in the chat box for those who feel more comfortable there. I answer questions between classes, design personalised exercises, and check in with learners who might be struggling. And thanks to our virtual and in-person events, I get to see learners grow in ways that go far beyond academics.

Supporting a Learner's Journey

One learner, let's call her Alicia, has been part of my journey since IGCSE Year 1. Now in AS Level, she has been navigating the heavy weight of clinical depression, which sometimes made even logging into the online learning space feel impossible. Together, we found ways to make learning feel safe and achievable for her, through flexibility to keep her

camera off, on-demand classes for every lesson, feedback on her own timeline, one-on-one mentoring, multiple ways to communicate, encouragement to attend therapy sessions with learning support from our SEN crew, and constant coordination with her parents.

Her parents often thanked me, but what truly moved me was seeing Alicia hold on to her education through her darkest days and go on to achieve an A* in 4 out of 5 subjects. This year, she chose to join my AS Accounting class, not because she had to, but because she wanted to. She's smiling more now, talking more, showing up more.

Small Wins, Big Impact

What I did for Alicia wasn't revolutionary. I didn't invent a groundbreaking teaching method. I simply showed up, consistently, patiently, without judgment. Sometimes, that's all a learner needs to keep going.

That, to me, is the heart of personalization at 21K School, knowing and caring for the whole child, not just the learner in front of you.

Hopes for Every Learner

My hope for every learner in this model is simple, that they leave school not just academically prepared, but confident, resilient, and ready to take on whatever life throws at them. That they see education not as a checklist of assessments, but as a way of thinking, living, and growing. That they practise the pedagogy we've worked on together until they become second nature.

The Role of Technology and Connection

Technology plays a huge role in making that happen. It allows me to reach learners wherever they are, respond to them in real time, reduce

passive learning, and make sure no one is left out because of circumstances beyond their control. And with my background as a special educator and a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider, I can use these digital tools to build real human connections.

Teaching Children, Not Subjects

In the end, we teach children, not subjects. And sometimes, just being there, truly being there, is what makes all the difference.



Mary Sebastian

Connecting Hearts Before Teaching



From the lanes of Delhi

I'm the second of three kids, grew up in North Delhi, and was put in an all-girls convent school run by Irish nuns. They were strict. Skirt length mattered, but not for me. I was average, more into cricket—Ravi Shastri was my hero. Our parents were professionals, not rich but comfortable. Shahrukh Khan was from St. Columba's, I was from Presentation Convent—had we met, maybe we'd have been in a study group.

Mathematics was a nightmare. The equation $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ meant nothing to me. After Grade 10, I left math behind and chose humanities. There, I discovered Shakespeare, Tolstoy, and Browning. Gradually, I improved. In Grade XII, I passed with distinction. Then came English Honours at Jesus and Mary College, followed by an M.A. in English at Hindu College.

I wrote CAT three times and failed—Quantitative Ability and reasoning tripped me up. I tried Civil Services, reached the final stage but failed the interview twice. Disappointments piled up—I became the tragedy queen of my house.

A push towards teaching

It was too early to marry, and my elder sister had just started teaching. Mom suggested a B.Ed., calling teaching the most respected profession—not just for managing family life but because it shaped lives. I tried, cleared the Delhi University entrance on my first attempt. After B.Ed., guess which school called me? My own alma mater—Presentation Convent—as PGT English for Grades XI and XII. I replaced my retiring English teacher, though I hadn't been her favourite.

On day one, I dreamed of winning the Best Teacher Award from the President of India. That award remains elusive—Shahrukh Khan received his National Award only in 2025.

First International Flight

Those 12 years in PCS weren't historic, but the turning point came from a **missed advertisement**. Married with two daughters, I heard of a **Ministry of Education, Kuwait** opening for English teachers. Soon came interviews, selection, resignation, medical checks, and tearful farewells. On August 12, I boarded Kuwait Airways flight 384 with 21 other teachers—the first group of Indians to teach English in Kuwait.

The land of golden deserts and date palms became home. Life followed the rhythm of the call to prayer; souks buzzed with spices and perfumes. My first three classes were disasters. In the fourth, a girl asked, “**Abla Mary, is Shahrukh Khan married?**” Shahrukh saved the day. Students and parents knew me.

My family joined me and we bought our first car. I conducted workshops that led to presenting internationally—becoming the first Indian teacher to present three times at TESOL, American University of Kuwait. From classrooms to global stages, my confidence grew.

The Pandemic Pause

Covid-19 hit hard. Restrictions tightened, my daughters were back in India, and the distance hurt. We decided to return.

Settling in Kerala, many doubted I could adjust. But I embraced it—conducting online CPD sessions in Egypt, Australia, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, and Finland. I missed students.

Finding 21K School

Another missed opportunity arrived as repeated calls from HR at 21K School. The third time, I answered. An online school? Interviews followed with HR and Ms. Vandana Khera, then onboarding. A week of training covered Habits of Mind, VTR, ATL — all familiar — but ASKA (Attributes, Skills, Knowledge, Action) impressed me.

My first assignment was Grades 6–8 ESOL. Meeting students online for the first time, I worried about acceptance. In Grade 6M, the first child I met was Keya Hatkar, who smiled and said, **“Welcome to 21K School.”** That warmth stayed with me.

The Heart of Learning

On July 22, 2022, a new chapter began. I learned the rhythm of this environment, teaching with passion and humour. Students taught me as much as I taught them. Some never missed my classes. The soft-spoken found their voices and delivered TED Talks, leading to our TED Club. Hesitant “Good mornings” became confident speeches; shy smiles became laughter.

At 21K, learning is alive beyond academics. We share achievements, explore ideas, and celebrate small wins. Grade 5 students present

projects, Grade 8 students teach me tech tricks, and every “**Ma’am, can I show you something?**” stays with me. I’ve met newborns on screen; entire classes became “uncles and aunts” and grandparents joined to bless students.

Here, there’s no bell, but there’s warmth; no competition, but every voice matters. Our motto, Happiest Classroom Online, is real. I came to try it for a month, but stayed for the people.

At the end of it all, I am **Mary Sebastian**—a proud mother, facilitator, learner, and dreamer. My journey proves classrooms can be anywhere. The heart of learning is in the people we meet. Let’s support each other and be kind—everyone is fighting some kind of battle.



Maureen Blossom

A Journey of Purpose, Passion, and Possibility



As a child, the desire to inspire others was in my heart. Whether it was helping a classmate or motivating a friend, I found joy in supporting others. That passion gradually evolved into a clear purpose: to become an educator. Teaching is about shaping lives that last forever.

Background

I am Maureen Blossom from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, a city close to my heart, where my journey as an educator first began. With a strong passion for teaching, I embarked on my professional journey as a Science Teacher at Holy Angels Matriculation Higher Secondary School. Those initial years of teaching were foundational, not just in shaping my pedagogical skills but in helping me grow personally. I began as a quiet, reserved individual, unsure of how to express myself boldly. But the classroom gave me my voice. Teaching became my strength, and more importantly, it became my purpose.

Pathway of Experience

Driven by a deep desire to make a meaningful impact, I steadily grew, taking a leadership role as the Principal of Evangeline Higher Secondary

School, Coimbatore, for over two decades. It was my vision to create a rural school with a difference, where learners from the local community could access quality education that nurtured integrity and purpose. The school grew in every sphere and consistently achieved centum results in both Grades 10 and 12, a testament to dedication and teamwork. I prioritised learners' well-being, discipline, and academic performance. Alongside, I managed budgets and resources for learning. Willing to go above and beyond, I never hesitated to work extra hours, driven by a goal to uplift and empower every learner under my care. What continues to inspire me are the achievements of my learners' success stories, a reminder of the transformative power of education and the importance of leading with purpose and passion.

Evolving Beyond the Blackboard

After serving in traditional schools, I found myself at crossroads. I yearned for something more, a space where innovation meets purpose, learning is designed for the future, and flexibility doesn't compromise quality. That's when I discovered 21K School. Everything resonated in focus on personalised learning, use of technology, and learner-centred education. It isn't just a school, it's a vision of the future.

My Evolution at 21K School

My journey at 21K School began on 4 April 2022, a day that marked a new chapter. Transitioning into a fully virtual, technology-driven environment was not without its struggles. I adapted to new tools, technologies, and teaching strategies of 21st-century learning, realising there's always more for me to grow and explore.

My Daily Story

A day in life begins not just with login and lesson plans, but with renewed energy and excitement. My role isn't just to teach Science, but to bring it to life. I plan, organise digital tools, prepare resources, simulations, and real-world examples, and ensure the class is interactive and inclusive. I focus on strategies that foster active participation, personalised attention, and emotional connection. A key pillar of my approach is to provide individual care so that no learner feels disconnected, especially in virtual settings. To keep classes engaging, I use digital tools, collaborative activities, visual aids, live polls, quizzes, and games. Breakout room activities encourage peer collaboration, curiosity, and critical thinking.

Metamorphosis of Learners

I've been privileged to witness remarkable journeys of transformation. From hesitant participants, into confident thinkers and curious explorers. The classroom brims with joy, laughter, smiles, compliments, and invaluable feedback. The connection with the learners even after they leave. The reward is to witness learners grow into curious thinkers, responsible individuals, and confident communicators. I believe in unlocking the potential of every learner. They reaffirm why I teach not merely to cover the learning pathway, but to ignite minds and help shape individuals for tomorrow, not just intellectually, but emotionally and ethically.

A Journey of Purpose and Transformation

This journey has been highly satisfying, made possible by the constant support and encouragement of the Manager and team. My team is my strength. Each day is an opportunity to grow, learn, and become a better version of myself. For me, being a part of 21K School is not just a job; it

is a continuation of my life’s mission to inspire, empower, and uplift. It is where all my past experiences, insights, and passions converge. Every learner’s journey, every challenge overcome, and every moment of discovery remind me why I chose this path. I am proud to be a path maker in this transformative journey, and I walk it every day with purpose, pride, and hope.



Nithiyalakshmi Sudhakaran

From Roses to Rising Stars



How a Quiet Garden Became the Root of a Digital Revolution

On the edge of a busy city, where the air still smells of earth and roses, my home sits quietly wrapped in blooms. Every morning begins with the scent of petals, the hum of bees, and the soft rustle of life that moves at its own pace. To my neighbours, it's a serene sight: until they notice me, the woman behind the window, laptop open, headset on, talking to invisible faces.

They often wonder, **"Is she really working?"**

What they don't see is that beyond that glass lies a bustling digital world. My classroom doesn't have walls or a blackboard: it stretches across screens, time zones, and hearts. I'm inside hundreds of homes, meeting curious minds ready to learn, question, and grow.

A Search for Balance

A few years ago, I was looking for something I couldn't quite name: a way to stay grounded in family life while still stretching toward something bigger. My husband, the ever-dedicated workaholic, was lost in his projects, and I wanted a career that could let me nurture both my child and my ambition.

That's when 21K School entered my story: not as a job, but as a calling. It offered flexibility, connection, and the one thing I'd been missing: purpose. Suddenly, my home wasn't just my home anymore: it was a hub of creativity, curiosity, and change.

As I stepped into the world of online teaching, I also stepped into myself. I trained, adapted, and earned the title of ***Google Certified Educator***. Each passing year brought not just skill, but wisdom: the kind that blooms quietly, like roses after rain.

The Heartbeat of a Virtual Classroom

Online teaching taught me that education is not about proximity; it's about connection. My learners don't sit beside me, yet I see them grow every day: voices that once trembled now speak with confidence, eyes that once avoided the screen now light up with curiosity.

The biggest joy? Watching learners I guided last year now lead as learner council members: confident, articulate, unstoppable. Their success feels like a reflection of my own journey.

Beyond the Code

As a coding facilitator, my mission goes beyond logic and loops. I don't just teach them to write programs; I teach them to write possibilities. The future will keep changing: languages, platforms, technologies: but the mindset to adapt will always matter more.

So, in my sessions, the real subject isn't "learning to code." It's learning to think. We debug together, not just computers, but fears and doubts. I want my learners to see every error not as a mistake, but as a steppingstone: a tiny spark toward mastery.

Stars in the Making

Even something as simple as homework found a new rhythm in my class. I turned the dreaded deadline into a game: **a Star Challenge**. Every time a learner submitted work on time, they earned a star. What began as a playful idea soon became a wave of motivation.

Those little stars turned into symbols of pride, persistence, and progress. Learners began finishing their work not because they had to, but because they **wanted to**. That's when I realized: discipline doesn't always need rules; sometimes, *it just needs a sparkle*.

Learning That Blossoms Beyond Books

My goal has always been to make learning feel alive. I encourage my learners to host events, run discussions, and present ideas to their peers. Watching them take the virtual stage: nervous at first, then glowing with pride: is a feeling words can't capture.

Parents often write to me saying, "My child is more responsible now," or "She's more excited about learning." To me, that's **the real report card**. My success isn't printed in titles or promotions: it lives in the courage and curiosity my learners carry forward.

The Woman Behind the Window

From the outside, nothing much has changed. I'm still the woman behind the window, surrounded by roses, typing away. But my world is vast. Each day, I travel across screens, into hundreds of homes, nurturing ideas, building confidence, and planting seeds of possibility.

And just like the roses in my garden, my learners bloom in their own time: each one unique, beautiful, and filled with potential.

Because in the end, pathmakers aren't the ones who simply walk ahead: they're the ones who make sure the path remains open for others to follow.

Here, in my little corner of the world, among roses and radiant young minds, I'm not just teaching.

I'm growing too.



Prabha Nandakumar

From Setback to Spotlight: A Tamil Facilitator's 21K Journey



A Humble Beginning

Not all stories begin with a perfect start. Mine began in 2020, behind a closed door.

When I first applied to 21K School, I wasn't selected. It was disappointing, but not defeating. Life had already taught me resilience, since 2007, I was running my own tuition centre, guiding learners from grades 3 to 12. I was more than a facilitator: I was a learner, a

listener, and above all, someone who believed in the power of nurturing potential.

Roots of Passion

My love for Tamil and teaching began with my mother, who introduced me to the language in childhood and showed me that facilitating learning is an act of love, not just a profession. That early connection became the foundation of my lifelong passion for the Tamil language and for helping others discover it.

Finding My Calling

Later, in college, I deepened that bond through speech contests, poetry writing, and fortunate encounters with accomplished Tamil scholars and

orators. Their passion lit a spark in me that never faded. Teaching Tamil wasn't just a career; it was a calling. My dream was to inspire the same love for the language in younger generations.

A Second Chance at 21K

Eight months after my first attempt, a second chance arrived. On July 10, 2021, I officially became part of the 21K family. The very next day, I entered my first virtual classroom, grade 1. I still remember that moment clearly. Though I had years of experience behind me, I felt like a learner again, navigating unfamiliar tools, systems, and expectations. Everything was new: online platforms, digital etiquette, and how to foster engagement in a virtual space. It was a humbling yet invigorating beginning.

Learning, Unlearning, and Growing

I quickly learned that success in this new environment required not just technical skill, but a growth mindset. The everyday classroom approaches at 21K School—especially persistence, managing impulsivity, and striving for accuracy—slowly became part of my own practice. I began to see not just my learners evolving, but myself as well.

When Learners Choose Passion

Over the past few years, I've witnessed something remarkable: learners choosing to move from Third Language Tamil to Second Language Tamil out of genuine interest and emotional connection to the language. Seeing learners opt for a more challenging path because they loved what we were doing in class was deeply fulfilling. It felt like a quiet confirmation that learning had become meaningful beyond grades and assessments.

Creating Joyful Classrooms

One of my proudest achievements is creating a classroom culture where learners rarely miss a session. Sessions are more than lessons; they are joyful experiences filled with interactive language games, riddles, puzzles, and collaborative story-building tasks that turn learning into play. My goal has always been to make language learning easy, enjoyable, and relevant, and it has been heartening to see even hesitant learners grow in confidence.

Teaching Beyond the Curriculum

Beyond academics, I've also been privileged to build special bonds with learners who needed emotional support. Whether they faced personal challenges, anxiety, or a lapse in motivation, I made it a point to be present—not just as a facilitator, but as a steady, understanding adult in their lives. Some of these learners later told me that our sessions were a source of comfort and optimism, and those moments remind me why I chose this path.

Redefining Facilitation

At 21K I discovered that true facilitation isn't just about delivering content; it's about reinventing yourself with every learner, every day. The freedom to innovate without fear, the space to grow professionally, and a culture of continuous improvement allowed me to move beyond conventional methods and dive into meaningful pedagogy and differentiation.

Teaching as Craftsmanship

Concepts that once lived only in textbooks—classroom frameworks, assessment strategies, and approaches to learning—are now the pulse of my sessions. They shape how I plan, how I ask questions, how I challenge

my learners, and, most importantly, how I connect. Teaching has become intentional craftsmanship, where each session feels like composing a melody—structured, creative, and deeply human.

The Door That Opened a New World

The COVID lockdown altered many lives, including mine; but 21K didn't just offer me a job—it opened a door to a pivotal experience. Today, I am proud to be part of a dynamic, evolving institution that values growth, creativity, and human connection. The path wasn't easy, but it led me to a place where I can shape minds, kindle hearts, and keep learning every single day.

The Magic of 21K

"In every session I lead, I learn something new from my learners, my colleagues, and the journey itself. That's the magic of 21K: it doesn't just shape learners; it transforms facilitators too."



Sajitha Menon

From Blackboard to Broadband-Redefining Education



"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of fire".

~William Butler Yeats

A life of numbers

Being married to a military officer, I had the opportunity to travel across India and know more about its diversity and culture, which truly allowed me to adapt and see the world from a new perspective. Moving to different stations

and joining various physical schools, I have over 20 + years of teaching-learning experience in Mathematics, and my journey as an educator has been both humbling and fulfilling.

New Beginnings: My Evolution at 21K

When I was introduced to 21K School through an army friend of mine, I should admit, I was a bit skeptical during the initial days. The concept of online schooling was not much heard of, and I wondered if, after the initial launch, 21K would sustain its early momentum and gain traction. Now, as I step into my fourth year at 21K, I'm thankful to my friend who introduced me to this incredible online platform. It's been an amazing

experience to connect and interact with learners globally and gain new insights. On the personal front, I have got a perfect work-life balance and a setup that works perfectly for me-couldn't have asked for more.

Connecting with the learners: A heartfelt reflection

A typical day in my class is just not about completing the syllabus; it's about sparking curiosity and building confidence. I start the class by connecting with my learners, gauging their mood for the day and then reviewing what we did in the previous session to keep the momentum going. This has always helped me to establish a positive relationship, understand their emotional state and create a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Rather than lecturing and having a one-sided traditional teaching approach, I prefer to bring out and connect the topic with the learners' thought process, engage them with the information they share and arouse their inquisitiveness. I have realized that this approach not only makes them understand the concepts better, but also relates math to their everyday life. I aim to make math a language my learners can speak fluently.

The Joy of Teaching: A Reward Like No Other

It is so rewarding when learners get in touch to tell how much they miss the math classes and thank me for helping them strengthen their foundation and making math from the least preferred subject to the most loved one. It still warms my heart to recall a parent of a former learner, who is now in a higher class at 21K, reaching out to share how her child has evolved into a responsible learner and has developed a liking for math. Moments like these are what make the teaching profession such a noble and rewarding one.

Shifting Perspectives: Why does 21K stand out?

Many times, when I tell people that I work for India's first online school, they are so apprehensive. I ask them tell me a physical school which involves all round development of the learner, where each learner finds his own path, has the accessibility of choosing his own timing, have the accessibility of diverse geographical locations, have the comfort of personalized learning, have self-paced learning-where one can review and revisit material as many times as needed, access to digital resources and develop digital skills which is the need of the hour- all this and more in just 4 hours of everyday class. I have seen many people shift their perspective from "How can an online school help my child in his overall development?" to "Why shouldn't I choose 21K?"

Shaping the Future of Education

As I reflect on my journey at 21K School, I'm reminded that education is indeed about lighting a fire, not just filling a pail. It's about empowering learners to find their path, igniting their curiosity, and fueling their passion for growth. I'm proud to be a part of this journey and invite you to join the 21K mission of revolutionizing education. At 21K School, we don't just teach - we ignite potential. Join me and many others in shaping the future of education.



Sandhya Vinoj

The Path from Serene Valleys to Global Learners



From the Hills of Ooty to the World of Online Learning

I come from the serene and picturesque town of Ooty, where misty mountains and calm surroundings shaped my love for learning and reflection. My name is Sandhya Vinoj, and my journey as an educator has been deeply fulfilling, taking me through diverse classrooms and experiences, and now to my role as a facilitator at 21K School.

A Journey Through Classrooms

My teaching journey began at Ryan International School, where I blended creativity with academics to inspire learners to think beyond textbooks. At the Air Force School, Bangalore, I encountered disciplined and adaptable learners from defence families, learning empathy and flexibility for students who transitioned frequently across locations and curricula. Later, at the Zee Group of Schools, I saw how structured academics combined with curiosity-driven guidance can help young minds thrive. These experiences helped me evolve from a classroom teacher into a reflective educator who values connection, adaptability, and purpose-driven learning.

Beliefs That Shape My Teaching

Education, I have realized, is a journey of transformation—not just for learners, but for facilitators as well. True learning extends beyond delivering content; it nurtures confidence, curiosity, and compassion. At 21K School, I found a philosophy that echoes this belief, emphasizing inquiry, individuality, and emotional intelligence. One memorable moment was when a learner shared that understanding scientific reasoning helped them make better personal decisions—a reminder that education shapes how learners think, feel, and live.

A Unique Approach to Learning

Being a facilitator at 21K excites me because of our shared vision: preparing learners for life, not just exams. The flexible and personalized model allows students to explore strengths, follow interests, and grow at their own pace. We emphasize 21st-century skills—adaptability, creativity, problem-solving, and self-awareness—shaping learners into purpose-driven global citizens ready to face real-world challenges.

Cultivating Curious Minds

In my classes on Indian Culture & Heritage, Social Science, and History, I adopt a learner-centered and interactive approach. Debates develop reasoning and confidence, while discussions nurture listening and perspective-taking. Flipped classrooms encourage learners to explore materials before class, allowing live sessions to focus on deeper analysis. Regular reading and reflection strengthen comprehension and critical thinking. A notable example was a role-play debate on the Indian National Movement, where learners became British administrators and Indian freedom fighters. This activity deepened historical understanding while fostering empathy, communication skills, and perspective-taking.

Nurturing Skills Beyond Academics

Learning at 21K extends beyond textbooks. Project-based and inquiry-led learning helps learners discover hidden talents in leadership, research, and creativity, while building teamwork, presentation skills, and confidence. I see myself as a guide and collaborator, meeting learners where they are and helping them progress meaningfully.

Supporting Every Learner's Journey

A key strength of 21K's model is personalized attention. By observing participation, reviewing assignments, and holding one-on-one sessions, I adapt methods for each learner. Quick learners, or "Sparkles," are challenged with advanced tasks; steady learners, or "Glows," thrive through consistent support; and quiet learners, or "Embers," gradually build confidence through encouragement. This ensures every learner feels valued, supported, and empowered to grow at their own pace.

Building Skills for the Future

My goal is for every learner at 21K to become a resilient, confident, and compassionate individual—academically capable, emotionally intelligent, and socially responsible. Graduates emerge technologically adept, adaptable, and empathetic, ready to contribute meaningfully to their communities. I encourage learners to see challenges as opportunities for growth, connecting classroom knowledge to real-world applications and demonstrating that learning can create impact.

Grateful Reflections

Looking back—from Ooty's misty hills to classrooms across India, and now to 21K—I feel immense gratitude. Each experience and learner has shaped my growth. The classroom, whether physical or virtual, remains

my favourite space, where ideas are exchanged, perspectives broadened, and seeds of change planted. Daily moments, whether a lively debate or a quiet conversation with a determined learner, remind me why I chose this profession.

The Heart of Education

Teaching, at its core, is about relationships—between facilitators and learners, learners and their goals, and knowledge and the world. I am proud to be part of a school that values these connections and nurtures them with care. Together, we are unlocking potential—one question, one discussion, one breakthrough at a time.



Savitha N

A Journey of Rediscovery: Savitha's New Wings at 21K



Educating Is Not Just What I Do — It Is Who I Am

It is my heartbeat, my passion, my purpose. **I am Savitha N, a proud facilitator of Grade 5 at 21K School, a mother of two, and a lifelong learner. My journey has been one of dreams, pauses, rediscoveries, and blessings — shaping me into a true path maker.**

My career as a facilitator began in 2013 at Maharishi International Residential CBSE School, Sriperumbudur, Kanchipuram. Over the years, I grew into leadership roles, serving as Head of Primary, while nurturing young learners with dedication. Those years brought recognition, awards, and heartfelt appreciation from parents — affirming that I was walking the right path.

But life tested me deeply. In 2021, just a week before welcoming my second child, I lost my father to COVID. Balancing grief, motherhood, and professional responsibilities felt overwhelming and I decided to take a pause from my career. We soon moved to Hosur due to family commitments and my husband's job. Yet, **a quiet voice within me kept**

asking, “Is this the end of your journey? Will you pause your passion forever?” For a moment, I wavered. But deep down, I knew the answer. Educating was not just what I did — it was who I was. And I could never let go of that part of me.

A New Chapter at 21K School

The turning point came in May 2022, when I first stepped into 21K School — a space that reignited my purpose and became my life changer. From the day I joined, I felt the blessings of my father and father-in-law, who had always supported my success. After months of self-doubt and grief, 21K became the place where I realised my passion for educating could still shine brightly. I felt alive again, connected to colleagues across different states, inspired by their journeys, and motivated to give my best each day. **Every class, every learner, every smile reminded me: this was where I was meant to be.**

My efforts were soon recognised with **awards like Reverent, Flag Bearer, and Extra Miler** — each a reminder that no matter the storms I faced, my passion for educating always found a way to shine.

Moments That Light Up My Day

A typical day in my life begins like many mothers — preparing lunch, getting my children ready, managing my home. But when the clock strikes 9:12 and I hear my learners joyfully say, “Good morning, Ma’am,” every trace of tiredness fades. Their voices are my energy, my motivation to give my best every day.

Learners I am Proud Of: My True Inspirations

My classroom is where quiet whispers grow into confident voices. I recall a learner with a speech delay, once hesitant to speak, who.

eventually performed a role-play with confidence — what a speech therapist had tried for years to achieve happened in my class, through a small screen. **I still remember the tears in the child's parent's eyes as they said, "This is a miracle we never thought we would witness."** Another learner with physical challenges, initially shy and withdrawn, slowly found her strength. **The parents once told me, "Seeing my daughter, for the first time, feel proud of herself and express who she truly is in your class — what more could I ask for?"** Moments like these remind me — **Yes, I am a true pathmaker!** Helping learners discover courage within and showing parents that their child can bloom against all odds is my greatest reward.

Dreaming Beyond the Classroom: My Aspirations for Learners

I may not go out to chase achievements every day, but I see the world through my learners' eyes and guide the future from where I sit — quietly, purposefully, proudly.

Today, I see myself as a woman who fell, paused, doubted, but stood back up — stronger, braver, and more purposeful. My journey proves a simple truth: **even when life pauses your path, it doesn't end it. With passion, perseverance, and the right opportunities, we can always begin again.** In that journey, we don't just facilitate; we become path makers, shaping lives and futures that inspire the world.

My dream for 21K School is to see its flag fly high across the world! We are the tomorrow that dreams boldly, the future that acts with purpose, and the spirit of 21K that inspires learners everywhere.

Together, we rise — we are 21K!



Shilpa Sharma

The Colourful Wings of Connection



From Traditional Roots to Digital Wings

I'm Shilpa, a pre-primary facilitator based in Delhi, with over thirteen years of experience in education. I find my greatest joy and motivation in my young learners—their smiles are my boost! I spent many years in traditional physical schools, where I honed my pedagogical skills, nurtured my passion, and built lasting connections with learners. I see

my entire journey as continuous learning, eagerly embracing valuable lessons from my peers, learners, and family. I always look forward to new challenges, tackling them with a blend of knowledge and experience. The major shift arrived in 2020 when the pandemic accelerated education's transformation. Embracing this necessity, I made a bold, fulfilling leap into the world of online education, opening an exciting new chapter both professionally and personally.

A New Chapter at 21K School: Inspired by Personalized Vision

Serving as a founding facilitator at 21K School has been an honor and a source of continuous motivation, inspiring me to innovate and grow alongside my learners. The shift from a physical classroom was initially

challenging; I was apprehensive about truly connecting with learners in a virtual space. Yet, my doubts vanished after meeting the founders and hearing their compelling vision for personalized, flexible, and transparent learning. I was immediately inspired by the idea of genuinely tailoring education to each learner's unique pace and style, rather than forcing children into a predetermined mold. This journey began with intense training and collaborative planning—a different but valuable learning process. I started my classes with excitement, and that same energy and smile drive my work today.

The Foundation of Support

The genuine community and mutual respect across facilitators, learners, and management is what truly excites me about this school. I saw the depth of this supportive culture firsthand when I became a mother. The unconditional support I received—including ample time to heal and a flexible transition back to work—deeply solidified my belief in the school's commitment to its facilitators as whole individuals, not just employees. Professionally, this support is matched by my growth; I've been profoundly enriched by extensive training in powerful pedagogical tools like Habits of Mind and Jolly Phonics. We close the circle of support through seamless transparency with parents, fostering the crucial collaborative partnership that ensures every learner's success.

Crafting Joyful Virtual Classrooms

My days as a facilitator at 21K School are dynamic and filled with purpose. They begin with meticulous planning, where I carefully design engaging and effective learning experiences customized for my learners' needs. I also prioritize collaborative, knowledge-sharing sessions with my fellow educators to continuously enhance our teaching. When I'm in the virtual classroom, my focus is on creating a joyful and interactive

learning environment. I use a variety of tools and "attention grabber" activities—from interactive whiteboards and animated visuals to role-playing games—to ensure my learners are not passive listeners, but active and enthusiastic participants. The excitement in their voices and their eagerness to share their ideas is what makes every day so rewarding.

The Ultimate Reward: Witnessing Personalized Growth

The greatest satisfaction in my career is observing the incredible growth of my learners. While I celebrate all progress, the journey of one child, whom we can call Harman, perfectly demonstrates the power of personalized learning. In class, Harman would constantly surprise me with his wide knowledge and eagerly share his artwork and original stories. Years later, seeing him become a published author—harnessing his unique voice and artistic talents—was a moment of immense pride. I truly admire the strong support his parents provided; their dedication deeply motivates me, both as an educator and as a mother. This achievement powerfully reminds me that every child holds a unique, unlocked potential. For any facilitator, seeing a child spread his "colourful wings" and reach such heights is the ultimate success, passionately reinforcing my commitment to empowering every single learner.

The Profound Dream

For every learner at 21K School, my dream is simple yet profound: that they will become not only better scholars but better human beings. I aspire for them to use this personalized and flexible environment to gain knowledge, and to also develop the critical thinking, creativity, and resilience they will need to thrive in the future. As I've watched this school grow, I feel truly blessed and proud to be a part of its journey and

to contribute to a legacy of personalized learning. I look forward to growing with the school for many more years, and my greatest wish is for my learners to graduate as curious, compassionate, and capable individuals, ready to confidently take on the world.



Shubhada S. Parte

Brick by Brick: My Path with 21K The Pillars-Sharing My Journey of Growth at 21K



Beginnings Amid Change

When I look back at my journey with 21K School, completing three fulfilling years, I see a story shaped by passion, resilience, and growth. I joined in July 2022, at a time when returning to a traditional classroom wasn't possible. Health challenges in the family prompted a move from Bangalore back to Mumbai, and the sudden change was overwhelming. Yet, my love for teaching remained steadfast. By Bappa's grace, 21K found me. From the interview to the warm welcome from the enrollment and HR teams, I felt less like a newcomer and more like I was rejoining a family.

Seamless Onboarding and Global Classrooms

The onboarding process was smooth and professional. Orientation and training from the Head of Training and Development provided clarity about the school's pedagogy, while the tech team guided me through the portal, timetable, and resources. Though I had taught online during COVID, 21K opened a new dimension. My Hindi learners now come from

countries like Japan, Singapore, and Abu Dhabi, each bringing unique perspectives. Adapting examples for such a diverse classroom became both a challenge and a joy.

Mastering Lesson Planning

One of my biggest professional learnings has been refining lesson planning. At 21K, the emphasis on clarity—setting objectives, mapping actions, recapping, and assessing—combined with tools like “Habits of Mind,” has encouraged critical thinking, persistence, creativity, and reflection. These approaches help me craft lessons that are not just educational but nurturing, instilling lifelong skills in my learners.

Innovating for Engagement

Innovation drives my teaching. To meet Cambridge curriculum goals in speaking, comprehension, and grammar, I created debate forums, quiz days, impromptu speaking sessions, picture-based storytelling, and interactive Hindi worksheets. I designed a three-book system for Grades 9 and 10: a Q&A book, a vocabulary book for daily Hindi and English words, and a creative writing & grammar book. Weekly presentations included five positive news stories, a self-made quote, a “song of the week,” and reflections. Fridays became “Shukra Hai Shukrwaar”—joyful reverse-role classes with games, riddles, debates, and storytelling. These sessions made learning collaborative, fun, and alive.

Leading Events and Building Connections

Though I had no official designation, our principal, Ms. Amita, entrusted me with managing events for the British Senior School segment. Over three years, I organized assemblies, mega events, orientations, and council elections, proving that online events can be as vibrant as physical

ones. With the school's expansion, I also coordinated ISSO activities, guest sessions, Sports Day, Art Festival, field trips, and other offline events, strengthening my organisational skills and ability to collaborate across teams.

Celebrating Togetherness

In 2024, I joined the HR Events team, celebrating the entire 21K community through monthly birthdays, Rising Icons, R&R Awards, Women's Day, Teachers' Day, and the Gala Event. These projects deepened my connections with Principals, Coordinators, and fellow facilitators while sharpening my event management skills. The most beautiful part was the human connection these events fostered—sharing birthday songs, games, and photographs or collaborating with colleagues always highlighted togetherness and shared purpose.

Learners and Their Families

My deepest rewards come from learners and their families. Online teaching allows parents to witness lessons in real time. Many have shared heartfelt feedback—one said that if they had a Hindi teacher like me, they would never have skipped the subject; another suggested I write a book on "How to Teach Hindi Globally." Once, a parent joined hands in gratitude for how their child had begun to love Hindi. Such moments humble me and fuel my commitment to continually improve.

Gratitude and Growth

Balancing personal responsibilities with professional commitments hasn't always been easy, yet the solidarity among facilitators at 21K is remarkable. We share resources, support one another, and continuously learn together. Every experience, from refining lesson plans to designing

creative events and teaching an international classroom, has strengthened my belief that empathy, resilience, innovation, and learner-centred planning are the pillars of Education.

Learning Without Boundaries

21K School is more than an online school—it is a gateway to global learning. Learners connect with diverse cultures and essential skills, discovering their own paths while building a strong foundation for the future. As a facilitator, I have witnessed the power of togetherness, innovation, and dedication in shaping new-age learning. It is not just education; it is a universe where every learner finds their path. I am deeply grateful for this journey and look forward to continuing to build more pillars of learning, brick by brick, alongside my learners and colleagues.

Thank you, 21K School.



Sohini Roy Biswas

From Chalk to Clicks



Losing Touch, Finding Distance

COVID was the black swan that turned classrooms dark and pushed us into the unknown. One day, I was writing on a whiteboard, and the next, I was staring at a laptop screen, unsure where to even begin. Like many facilitators, I was deeply attached to my in-person teaching tools and routines, and completely out of my depth in the

digital world. I asked myself, “How do you teach effectively without holding that piece of chalk firmly, writing everything clearly and underlining the keywords? How do you not walk between the rows dotted with expectant faces, check if they are indeed paying heed and gauge their cognition?” There need to be roaring birthday celebrations, a gentle tap, an encouraging pat and an occasional rebuke. In essence, they form the very thread that binds the connection with learning. I spent hours glancing at the ceiling glumly, missing the joy of forging real connections and feared it was lost forever.

Pixels, Coffee Mugs, and Possibilities

Then came an unexpected opportunity: to join 21K School, an entirely virtual learning space. I hesitated. Me, in a tech-based environment? I wasn't exactly known for my comfort with gadgets. But something told me to give it a shot, and that decision changed everything. The most comforting aspect is that at 21K, from the very first day, I was gently nudged into exploring a treasure chest of educational technology, the kind that doesn't overwhelm, but leaves you feeling unexpectedly empowered. LMS? Automated Proctoring Tool? Canva? It felt like I had landed in a parallel universe where everyone spoke fluent tech, but somehow, I wanted in. My eureka moment came when I created a virtual background for a Zoom meeting (sounds boorish, right?). I added a coffee mug, a bookshelf, and even a tiny plant. I proudly showed it off like I'd just painted the Sistine Chapel. My family had no idea what I was talking about, but I glowed anyway. I found myself feeling excited like a child in a candy store: so much to explore, to savour, and get a feel of, and so much to add to my growing coffer.

The cherry on top is the way tech has helped me make those connections again. Distance fades and miles melt away the moment I unite with the spirited yet quirky young adults from across the globe. "Hey, what was there for breakfast? Ah, appams are my favourite too."

"Boys and girls, let's have a glass of water before we tackle the next assignment." "Time for our stretches! Come on, shall we get those muscles moving?"

I see their faces bloom with delight, sensing the genuine affection hidden in the nudge.

My Virtual Renaissance

In a world where boardroom politics often reign supreme, 21K is a refreshing retreat, a place where peer sharing isn't just encouraged, it's a way of life. It isn't just helpful, it's heartwarming. There's always someone saying, "Want me to show you a shortcut?" or "Been there, I messed that up too!" We laugh through tech hiccups, celebrate small wins, and swap tools like children trading stickers. Jamboard, Padlet, Wakelet, names that once felt like digital tongue-twisters now roll off my tongue like old friends. I have officially joined the club, and yes, we were growing together.

Today, my virtual classroom is buzzing with life. I use Edpuzzle to embed questions into videos, Padlet for post-session reflections, and Canva to create unforgettable lesson content. I have even become used to hopping in and out of breakout rooms for everything, from intense group discussions to full-blown brainstorming battles. Our Lit Fest? Oh, that was a virtual extravaganza. With panel discussions, quizzes, storytelling sessions, dramatic enactments, and more, the grand celebration was powered by digital tools. Honestly, our learners navigate tech so effortlessly, it sometimes feels like they were born with a stylus. I am no longer the old-school teacher who would swoon upon hearing 'spreadsheet'. I've gone from stumbling upon unfamiliar tabs to confidently running polls, assigning interactive tasks, and exploring applications with zeal. I'm not just using technology; I'm building the best possible classroom experience with it. Somewhere between my first ill-designed digital background and my latest learner-led breakout room session, I discovered a new version of myself: curious, capable, and confident to take on any challenge that comes my way.



Sushma Rani

The Power of Belief



A Mentor's Impact on a Young Learner

I come from a background rooted in curiosity, community, and a deep respect for the power of education. Growing up in New Delhi, India, I was fortunate to have teachers who did more than deliver lessons—they inspired a lifelong love for learning. Their influence shaped my values and

set the foundation for my journey as an educator.

Professionally, I hold an M. Com and a B.Ed degree and have worked with some of the top private institutions in India. Over the years, I have taught Accountancy to learners from diverse backgrounds, and every experience has deepened my commitment to supporting students academically and personally. My decision to become an educator stems from a firm belief in the transformative power of education.

The Origins of My Passion for Teaching

One of the earliest experiences that shaped my passion for teaching was tutoring classmates during high school. I lost my father when I was four

years old, and those early challenges taught me resilience and empathy. Helping peers understand difficult concepts made me realise how much joy I found in breaking down complex topics into simple, engaging lessons. It also taught me patience, compassion, and the importance of active listening—skills that continue to guide me today.

Reasons for Choosing 21K School

I chose to join 21K School because of its innovative and future-ready approach to education. Unlike traditional systems, 21K offers learners the freedom to study at their own pace, access quality instruction from anywhere, and learn alongside peers from across the globe. I was especially drawn to its emphasis on personalised learning, technology integration, and global exposure—all within a supportive and balanced environment.

Behind the Scenes: How I Facilitate Learning

As a facilitator, my day begins long before the session starts. I review my lesson plans and ensure that materials and resources are ready. When the learners join, I begin with a warm greeting and often an icebreaker to set a comfortable tone. Throughout the session, I guide them through discussions, activities, and problem-solving exercises, adjusting my methods to suit their engagement levels. After each session, I reflect on what went well and where I can improve. Every day is unique, but my constant goal is to create a safe, engaging, and inspiring learning space.

Learning Without Boundaries

Working with online learners has been an incredible experience. Many of them balance academics with work, family, and personal commitments. Their dedication and resilience continually inspire me. At 21K School, every learner experiences the joy of discovery, the empowerment of

choice, and the confidence that comes from learning in ways aligned with their unique strengths. Personalised learning helps learners explore their passions and take ownership of their education. Flexible learning allows them to learn anytime, anywhere—breaking the limitations of traditional classrooms. It nurtures creativity, real-world application, and self-paced mastery. In such an environment, learning becomes meaningful and transformative. Whether a student aspires to be a scientist or an artist, personalised learning equips them with essential life skills—critical thinking, adaptability, and communication. My vision is to see every learner empowered by an education that truly understands and supports them. I believe personalised and flexible learning can unlock hidden talents and prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

Turning Struggles into Strengths

One of my most rewarding experiences as a facilitator was mentoring a Grade 9 learner whom I will call Ishu here. He initially struggled with Accountancy. He often hesitated to participate, stumbled while reading or writing, and feared making mistakes. The complexity of accounting concepts left him discouraged and self-conscious.

I decided to make learning relatable by connecting lessons to his daily life. For example, we treated his pocket money as capital and recorded his expenses as transactions. This practical approach captured his interest. I also introduced short quizzes and interactive activities to make the sessions engaging and less intimidating.

Gradually, Ishu's confidence grew. He began asking questions, completing assignments independently, and even helping his peers understand journal entries and trial balances. Within a few months, his

grades improved significantly—from barely passing to scoring above 75%. More importantly, he started believing in himself.

Later, I met Ishu and his parents in person. His mother expressed how he had become more active in class and had developed better writing skills. Hearing this was deeply fulfilling. Witnessing his transformation reminded me why I chose this profession—because education, at its best, is about nurturing belief, potential, and perseverance.

Helping Ishu find his voice reaffirmed my belief that with patience, empathy, and encouragement, every learner can thrive. For me, teaching is not just a profession—it's a path of purpose, and each learner's success is a milestone in that journey.



Uma Venkataraman

The Classroom Odyssey : A Personal Journey



Humble beginnings....

I am Uma Venkataraman working in the education field for over 25 years. In spite of several challenges that I faced during my school years, I now possess a Master's degree in History, Master's in Education, and bachelor's degree in Economics, Business Administration, Cambridge AS&A Level educator, and also hold a Diploma in Human Rights.

I started as a mentor and guide for several learners. I have successfully navigated diverse engagements in various fields of academic journey as well as extra-curricular activities. This extensive trajectory converted my experiences and challenges into opportunities with a clear vision.

Myriad approaches....

As an educator of history, I have relied a great deal on the storytelling method, transforming facts into captivating stories, fostering interest and imagination in the learners.

Starting my journey as a Middle School mentor to the current role of Senior Secondary Facilitator for History, every milestone I achieved did

connect the dots – ICSE and ISC facilitator for history, Faculty Advisor for Model United Nations, Teach SDG Ambassador, Human Rights activist, National Stock Exchange financial instructor and TED-ED educator.

I once encouraged a class of Grade 8 learners to use the Project-Based Learning (PBL) method. The project created fun and enthusiasm as the learners themselves sketched, designed and shaped the entire project. Freedom of expression without any deadlines can bring out the best in every learner.

Exploring new frontiers....

What attracted me to 21K school was the unique approach to learning. The values and ethos of 21K definitely resonated with me. I have embarked on a journey of self-discovery with 21K's vision of 'the creation of happiest classrooms'.

Unwavering belief in every child's potential helps me in aligning with my core conviction of transforming education into a most powerful catalyst for positive change.

State of the art innovations

1. Anytime Anywhere learning:

With self-paced learning in 21K, learners can learn at their pace 24x7. This invokes responsibility and ownership in learners.

2. Time management:

When learners manage their own schedules, they develop and hone skills that are essential for current day's success scenario.

3. Self-discipline:

Self-discipline is the critical success factor of a successful online learning environment.

4. High quality education:

Online schools like 21K reduce the financial burden of education but at the same time allow learners to access high quality affordable education.

5. Three Cs:

Collaboration, communication and critical thinking are considered the keys which prepare the learners for the real-world challenges.

6. Extra-curricular activities:

Online schools like 21K allow learners to work around activities rather than sticking to a rigid school day. This flexibility allows them to excel in both academic and outside fields.

7. Digital literacy

It is a powerful tool that aids in the growth of online learners. Schools like 21K make technology a non-negotiable part of daily school life.

Classroom experience....

A typical day in my life as a facilitator is a healthy blend of preparation, communication and instruction. I try to create a strong bond between the learner and the facilitator by making my classroom a safe and enjoyable place, where they can share their ideas without fear of judgment.

I also focus on addressing learner behaviour and bringing in a positive learning environment. I celebrate success, whether it is big or small to motivate my learners.

Mastering the art of teaching is an ongoing process. There is no final chapter.

Pedagogical journey....

When I joined 21K, I had a learner in my AS Level class. I have seen how she changed from a shy and socially isolated youngster to a confident and assertive young adult. Her ability to express herself through debates and speeches in history made me understand the potential in her. It is tantamount that our young learners express themselves to shape a better future for society.

There was another learner in my IGCSE Year 2 class. I immediately noticed him as a learner with exceptional abilities and took him under my wings. His transformation from a silent learner to a brilliant achiever was through his dedication and hard work.

Pioneering solutions....

Many learners become disinterested, perplexed, or invisible as a result of the conventional one-size-fits-all method of instruction.

With personalized learning, education has become more flexible, and grades and marks are not all that matter but the knowledge and comprehending ability of every learner does. I believe that this is an evolution in education.

Educational endeavours....

Being an effective facilitator requires a combination of passion and dedication. By incorporating a conducive learning environment, facilitators can make a lasting impact on their learners' lives. A facilitator should foster a love of learning and guide learners towards academic pinnacle.



Now write your Success Story for the next edition of the book.

[illegible]



***“Teaching is the art of leaving an imprint
on a future we cannot yet see.”***

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21K School
Where Every Learner
Finds Their Path