RESUME

NAME: VIDYA SHANKAR

AGE: 57 YEARS (15.05.65)

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**Websites of organizations:**

<https://relieffoundation.in/> RELIEF FOUNDATION- Founder and Managing Trustee

<https://cascadefls.org/> CASCADE FAMILY LEARNING SERVICES, Founder & Mentor.

<https://awakentolife.in/> AWAKEN TO LIFE, Proprietor

**LIFE MISSION:** To spread Montessori education to the unreached, as a viable economical, noble way of education for the world’s children, setting up and augmenting systems that are magnetic, resource rich, people friendly, transparent and accountable to children.

**PRESENT AREA OF WORK & CONTRIBUTIONS:**

**RELIEF FOUNDATION:**

* Founder and Chairperson of Relief Foundation, an Organization which was set up to find Rehabilitation Solutions for children in distress and in Institutional Care. Since Sep. 1998. Moved to Education and delinquency prevention projects from 2005 onwards.
* Years of research revealed the cause of juvenile delinquency, and since 2008, all efforts are engaged in strengthening rural preprimary and primary education for children as a mode of prevention of delinquency and drop outs. Website : [www.relieffoundation.in](http://www.relieffoundation.in)
* Workshops for youth and adolescents on life skills and offers seed money and training for socio educational entrepreneurship projects. Teaching Fellowships are offered to youth to take up Montessori courses and qualify themselves to become Centre heads in the villages.
* Relief Foundation has started Montessori Rural Resource centres, for children with the help of local parent groups and youth, training them in Montessori way of learning and practice, in the following villages:
  + Jamunamarathur village off Thiruvannamalai (June 2015)
  + Narasingapuram in Thiruvallur Districts (June 2015)
  + Baripada in Mayurbhanj, Odisha (Jan 2021)
  + Thettu (village), in rural Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh (Aug 2021)
  + Varaandrappily (village) in rural Thrissur, Kerala (Oct 2022, coming up)

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

* Former Chairperson of Juvenile Welfare Board, Chennai District, from Aug 2001 to Dec 2003 and an adjudicating Member of Juvenile Justice Board (Juvenile Court) in Chennai from November 02 to Nov 05 adjudicating for rehabilitation of children.
* Has trained over 3000 teachers and Juvenile Justice Professionals on Child Rights and Child psychology besides laws related to children.
* Created public surveys on Child Rights Awareness, and Impact of increased screen time among young children, for parents, offering webinars to over 1000 young parents to empower them with information on conscious parenting practices.
* Continued resource support to Child Rights & Juvenile Justice Professionals, Police Department, National Judicial Academy and Judicial Officers on Laws related and interpreted for children.

**CASCADE FAMILY LEARNING SERVICES:**

* Founder and Principal of this new educational model for families to cooperate and participate in offering world class Montessori learning services to children since 2010. Offers classes from 2.5 year olds to 17 year olds in 3 mixed age classrooms
  + Primary
  + Elementary
  + Adolescent studies

**MONTESSORI ALUMNI GROUP**

* Co founded this Community with senior Montessorian Ms.Priya Rajagopalan, offering support programs to Montessori alumni practitioners from all over the world, with weekly online Q and A sessions and monthly workshops through the year. Conducted so far with more than 30 participants per session,
  + Parent conversations
  + Winning parents
  + Observation Elementary
  + Special needs and inclusion
  + Grace and Courtesy in Elem

**BOOKS AND ARTICLES:**

* Authored
  + Open your Heart and Your Home for Aspiring Adoptive parents
  + Early Child Care and Learning and Development
  + Experiences in the Juvenile Justice System of Tamilnadu called “Justice for children”.
* Written a series of articles on contemporary needs of children, handling children with behavior problems in institutions etc.
* Contributed several articles to Parent Circle Magazine in Chennai.
* Conceived and has implemented a full scale Montessori based Homeschooling program for families, during COVID, that has gained popularity among many parents around the world.
* Published a free tool for parents to assess preprimary schools before admit their children.

**ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIOS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

* President of A C Tech Alumni Association from 2018 to 2022 successfully anchored the 75th Platinum jubilee celebrations of A.C.Tech, Anna University in Dec 2019. Selected as Director of ACCTECH Research Foundation, an arm of the Alumni Association of the college to fund Research projects of students.
* Children’s Laws and Rights and Parenting lectures in National Judicial Academy, National Television channels and Criminology, Psychology Departments, University of Madras.
* Member of the Committee for Internal Complaints Committee on Sexual Harassment in workplaces in 9 Corporate and Govt organisations, establishing rights of women in offices and informal work spaces.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

* B.Tech. M.I.Ch.E 1986 AC Tech Anna University, (First class with Distinction)
* PG Dipl Child Rights Law (National Law School of India Univ, Bangalore) (May 2010)
* AMI Elementary Montessori Diploma – Batch of 2010 – Navadisha Montessori Foundation (Dec 2010)
* AMI Orientation to Adolescent Studies certification Batch of 2020 – Train Montessori (Oct 2020)
* AMI Montessori Sports Fundamentals Certification – Montessori Sports (June 2021)
* Montessori Coach certification , DERS Certification and Child Study certification from NCMPS Colorado (June , July , Sep 2021)