

URVASHI SAHNI

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EDUCATION

PhD in Education, University of California, Berkeley, USA	1994
MA in Education, University of California, Berkeley, USA	1990
MA in Philosophy, University of Lucknow, India	1984
BA in Political Science, University of Pune, India	1976

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Language and literacy, Critical pedagogy, Critical literacy, Drama in education, Technology and education

CURRENT POSITIONS

Founder President And CEO, Study Hall Educational Foundation, India	1986 – Present
• Founder and Academic Director, Prerna School	2003 – Present
• Founder and Academic Director, Vidyasthali Kanar High School	2005 – Present
• Co-Founder and Director, Digital Study Hall	2005 – Present
Non-Resident Fellow, Center Of Universal Education, The Brookings Institution	2013 – Present
Member, Chief Minister's Advisory Council, Govt. of Rajasthan	2015 – Present
• Member of sub group on Education and Skill Development	

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

Lecturer, University Of California, Berkeley, USA	2003 – 04
Taught	
• Language Study for Educators - Masters Students	
• Issues in Literacy in Developing countries - Doctoral students	
• Qualitative Research in Education - Doctoral Students	
• Literacy: Individual and Societal Development - Undergraduate Students	
Honorary Project Director, Computer Assisted Education Program	2001 – 05
Project Director, Strengthening Girls Education in rural UP	1996 – 99
Honorary Director, School reform project funded by EICHER Ltd	1996 – 99
Education Consultant, UNICEF	1995 – 96

OTHER POSITIONS

Founder and President, Sisters in Solidarity

2008 – Present

Founder and President, Suraksha

1983 – Present

PUBLICATIONS

“Reaching for the Sky - Empowering Girls Through Education.” 2017.

“Cultural citizenship and cosmopolitan practice: Global youth communicate online.” (With Hull, G. A., Stornaiuolo, A.).2010. *English Education*,42(4), 331-367.

“From Learning Outcomes to Life Outcomes: What Can You Do and who Can You be: a Case Study in Girls' Education in India.” (2012). Center for Universal Education at Brookings.

“Children appropriating literacy: Empowerment pedagogy from young children’s perspective.” 2001. In *Negotiating critical literacies in classrooms*, 19-35.

“Drama in Education: Finding self, finding home”. 2007. *Caribbean Quarterly*, 37-48.

“Classrooms as radical spaces of possibilities.” *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*. 2016. 21(1), 134-136.

“Cosmopolitan Imaginings of Self and Other: Youth and Social Networking in a Global World.” (With Hull, G. A., Stornaiuolo, A.) In Fisherkeller, J. (2011). *International perspectives on youth media*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

“Son enough”: **Developing girls’ agency through feminist media practice.** (With Hull, Glynda, Jury. M)(2015). In B. Kirschner & E. Middaugh (Eds.), *Becoming political in the digital age*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

“Building circles of mutuality: A socio-cultural analysis of literacy in a rural classroom in India.” (1994). University of California, Berkeley.

“Resources For Composing.” (with Miller, P. J.). In *Child Cultures, Schooling, and Literacy: Global Perspectives on Composing Unique Lives*, 133. (2016).

“The Harry Potter phenomenon.” In *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* 44 (2001), S. 750-752.

“Postcards from India.”*Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, (1999). 43(2), 134-141.

“Needs assessment study of twenty-one schools in Uttar Pradesh.” - (2006). Report commissioned by UNESCO

“Practical considerations for participatory design with rural school children in underdeveloped regions: early reflections from the field.” (With Kam, M., Ramachandran, D., Raghavan, A., Chiu, J., & Canny, J.). (2006, June). In *Proceedings of the 2006 conference on Interaction design and children* (pp. 25-32). ACM.

“Facilitated video instruction in low resource schools.” (With Anderson, R., Robertson, C., Nabi, E., & Setia, T.) (2012, March). In *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development* (pp. 2-12). ACM.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

The Asoka Fellowship	2011
Honorary Membership, Clinton Global Initiative	2013
International Haas Award - by University of California at Berkeley, USA	1999
Global Citizen Award – by United Nations Association, USA	2011
Tech Laureate award by Tech Museum of Innovations, San Jose, USA to Digital Study Hall	2008
Echidna Scholarship for Girls Education at The Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution.	2012
FCCI – 1 st FLO Women Award for outstanding contribution in education.	2016
Hindustan Times Award for Professional Excellence.	2014
Best Paper Award – by American Educational Research Association	2010
David H. Russell Fellowship, University Of California, Berkeley, USA	1992 – 93
Dr. Ned Flanders Scholarship, University Of California, Berkeley, USA	1992 – 93
Myrtle L. Judkins Memorial Scholarship, University Of California, Berkeley, USA	1991 – 92

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Technology in Teacher Training, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC, USA	2014
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Keynote Address at the Women of the World Conference, Derry, UK	2013
Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, New York, USA	2012
School of International and Political Affairs, Columbia University, New York, USA	2012
Keynote Address at University of Plymouth, Plymouth, UK	2010
Keynote Address at National Drama Conference, University of Kingston, Jamaica	2006
Presentation and Panel discussion at the UNIDO conference in Computer Science Department, University of California, Berkeley, USA.	2005
Leap of Faith – The place of technology in rural schools in India. Presentation at National Council of English Teachers, Annual Research assembly, Mid-winter Conference, Berkeley, USA	2004
Panelist for session on “Technology and emerging economies” at the opening of the Berkeley Institute of Design, UC Berkeley, USA	2004
Presentation at Technology Conference, Belfast, UK	2003
Key Note Address at the National Drama Conference, Edinburgh, The Epistemological Heart of the matter: The place of Drama in Education, Canada	2002
Riding the Crest: Bridging the Digital Divide. Second annual initiative in ICT and Development, Baramati, Maharashtra, India.	2002
Presentation of Research findings of the action research phase in the girl’s educational programme in Maharajganj, Rae-Bareilly at the conference of the Comparative and International Education in Buffalo, USA.	1998
Circle of Empowerment: A socio-cultural analysis of the Mahila Samakhya Women’s Educational Programme in Banda, UP at the Annual Conference of American Educational Research Association in Chicago, USA.	1997
Teacher’s Taking Charge: A socio-political analysis of a Teacher-Teach- Teacher training programme in the state of UP, India at the Annual conference of American Educational Research Association, New York, USA.	1996
Building Circles of Mutuality: A socio-cultural analysis of literacy – presented at the Annual Conference of American Educational Research Association in San Francisco, USA.	1995

- Child's Right to Development: Presented at Seminar on Child's Rights organised by UNICEF, Lucknow, UP, India. 1994
- Elementary Education in UP: Co-author and Co-presenter in Directorate of Basic Education, Lucknow, UP, India. 1993
- Literacy for Empowerment: Presented at the International conference on Literacy in Socio-Cultural Contexts, Madrid, Spain. 1991
- Child is a person worthy of respect: Presented at Indian Council of Philosophical Research Lucknow, UP, India. 1988