

# Creative thinking & Design education in schools

Anchor Faculty

**Dr. Gayatri Menon**

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राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

Organized by  
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## Anchor Faculty Profile

**Dr. Gayatri Menon** is a senior faculty at the National Institute of Design, NID with more than 16 years of experience in design education, research and practice. She is the overall coordinator of Design foundation studies at NID and also heads the Design teacher's development program initiated by the government to train design educators at a national level. She did her two-and-a-half-year postgraduate course in Product Design at NID after completing her graduation in engineering and a short stint in the industry. Her interests include Design methods, Designthinking, Creativity, Play and learning, Design research, Visual fundamentals, Design for social concerns, Systems approach and Innovation.

As a design faculty at NID, she has worked as a project head and designer/consultant for several industries, public sector design, institution building, craft heritage and socially relevant projects along with taking responsibility in academic areas such as curriculum development, student evaluation, admission and interview, networking with industries etc.

She likes to constantly explore the boundaries of Design thinking and Creative methods and has carried out extensive research study in this area. She has presented papers and conducted workshops both at a national and international levels. She received her PhD from Indian Institute of Technology, IIT-Bombay on "A conceptual framework for opportunity identification in design innovation". She has been invited as a tutor to International Creativity Workshops held in Italy, UK, Germany and as a visiting faculty at design schools in South Africa and Canada.

## BACKGROUND AND RELEVANCE

Most schools in India today are highly competitive and the emphasis is more on knowledge (often rote learning) than on understanding and creative thinking. We believe that introducing design and creativity module in schools can make a significant difference in the way children learn.

Is design education meant only for students who aspire to be designers at a graduate or post graduate level? What is the role of design thinking and doing for society in general and children in particular? Can design thinking help in the overall development of children? What makes design education relevant for schools? Some of the salient features of design education and pedagogy includes learning through experience, learning by doing, wholistic perspective, questioning, curious attitude, empathy for user, understanding of society and culture, acceptance of technology and media etc. Design for schools needs to be seen both in terms of its content and method.

NCERT as a first step towards this direction has already proposed the introduction of heritage crafts and design in school curriculum. In recognition of the fact that creative thinking is required across all subjects, the BEd curriculum will have creativity as one of the modules for all teachers. This is a welcome step. How should design education be introduced in schools? Should it be a separate course or an integral part of the overall education curriculum? The process of introducing design education for children has been introduced in countries like UK and Singapore.

## WORKSHOP CONTENT

A few modules have been envisaged to intervene for various possible scenarios on introducing design and creativity module in schools:

### Module 1:

Most schools do have art and craft periods but the emphasis is more on developing of skills than on creativity and purposeful expressions. Creativity has to be brought back to the art and craft sessions so that they go far beyond developing skills.

### Module 2:

Introducing design and creativity as part of field visits/engaging with heritage crafts Observation, sensitization to the environment and its connect with design and the man made world, understanding material culture, creative exploration of material, image building & understanding of cultural symbols could happen through this module

### Module 3:

Introducing design and creativity as a separate subject with independent periods This would involve assignments on creative problem solving and opportunity building etc. and could really help in getting the children oriented to lateral thinking. This might also result in a project based integrated educational approach.

### Module 4:

Introducing design and creativity as part of other subjects A creative approach to learning various subjects could be developed. Developing creative teaching-learning methods for science, history, mathematics based on creativity and a learning by doing-learning by thinking approach will be explored. Further this could be develop for the Bed course module.

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## METHODOLOGY

The methodology will include critical inputs being given through presentations-discussions as well as hands on approach towards internalizing the learning.

The workshop will include both individual as well as group work.

## Participants

A maximum of 25-30 teachers can participate in the workshop of 5 days.

## Fee & Registration

Rs. 25,000/- + GST [Non-residential workshop fees includes one set of material, lunch and two refreshments for five days] to be paid by

Demand Draft / Pay Order before one week of the program in favour of

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN**, payable at Ahmadabad.

(for NEFT payment detail please mail to [ipp@nid.edu](mailto:ipp@nid.edu))

**Do register as the number of the participants are limited.**

Kindly send in your nominations on your company letterhead

indicating Name/s, Designation, Address, Phone No, Fax No,

and Email Id of the nominees along with the fee to:



## PLACE

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## For Further Details Contact



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A certificate of participation will be presented to the participants on successful completion of the Workshop.

\* NID reserves the right to cancel the programme and will refund the participants fee in such case. However, if the candidate cancels his/her registration before one week of the workshop commence, then only the registration fee will be refunded. Refund procedure will begin after 20 days of workshop completion and after deduction of 10% Administrative charges + GST as applicable.