

# THE EDUCAFE TIMES



## IN THIS ISSUE

### WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A DANCER?

### MEET THE PROFESSIONAL: MS DURGA TILAK (THE BHARATNATAYAM PRODIGY)

### CAREER QUERIES ?

### LEARNING WITH FUN

## What does it take to be a dancer?

One of the most beautiful forms of performing Art is Dance. Dancing is a way of life in India. For almost all happy occasions – be it festivals or parties, celebratory functions or weddings, we find people expressing their joy and verve through dancing.

A dancer uses movement, expressions, gestures and body language to portray a character, situation or abstract concept to the audience in accompaniment of music. Grace, flexibility and rhythm are the cornerstones of a good dance.

Dance as an art form and a career has existed since ancient times, but till recently it wasn't quite accepted as a mainstream career. While the Indian culture and heritage has always celebrated and appreciated dance, the progress in the acceptability of dance as a career in recent times has truly been exceptional.

#### The career path

In India, today, there are three categories under which students learn dancing – classical [such as Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Odissi etc], modern [such as hip-hop, free style, fusion, ballet, tap dance etc.] and fitness [Zumba etc]. These, especially the classical forms are taught in

or through private coaching or in dance schools established by professional dancers.

Training in dance should start as early as 6 years and training is lifelong. One should have an inborn talent for dance; training and guidance can only hone these skills.

The basic requirement for training in dance in an educational institution is 10 + 2. However, one can also do a **Graduation in dance** and then pursue a **Post-Graduation in Performing Arts**. There are also **certificate and Diploma courses** available. Dance cannot be learnt forcibly; **passion is the most important tool for success**. If one focuses on training and is willing to put in hours of dedicated hard work, finds one's area of specialty and creates an original style that is unique, one can surely turn their passion into a successful Career. However, **only if you're truly passionate about dance will you be able to make it a successful profession**.

## Career Opportunities

- **Performer – on stage, for weddings etc.**
- **Choreography – for stage, movies, T.V. shows, Weddings etc.**
- **Dance instructor**
- **Story telling**
- **Dance Therapist**
- **Fitness Trainer**
- **Dance teacher at a school**

## Meet the Bharatnatyam prodigy - Durga Tilak

*24 year old dancer and engineer hailing from Pune. She has been learning Bharatnatyam since 16 years. Excerpts from an interview with this dedicated dancer who is planning on doing masters in mechanical engineering from Germany.*

### **Growing up how did you manage studies and dance together ?**

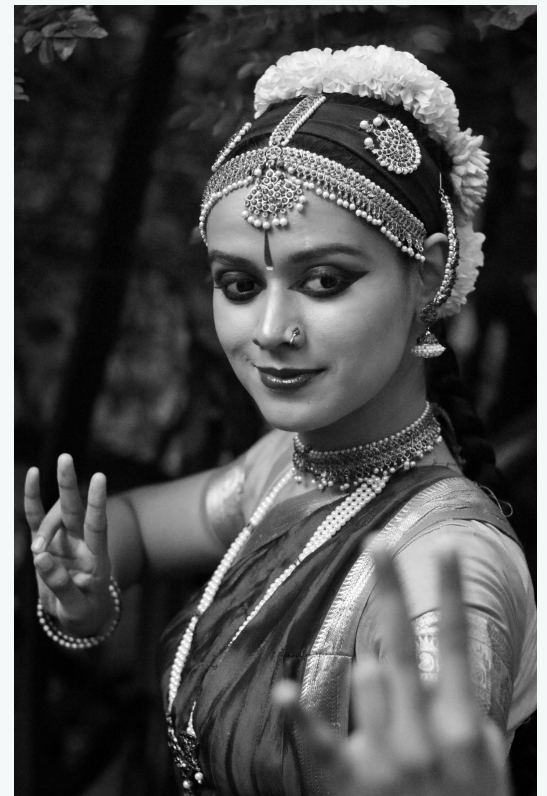
It never felt like 'managing' or choosing between the two. I had very supportive parents and school who never separated the two things and everything happened so organically and fell into place. Now when I look back, I think time management played an important role. I had priorities set up for example if i had my exams i knew that for one month my focus should be that. So instead of practising the choreo for 3 hours i would do it for 1. More than that there was no pressure from anywhere, and that helped me to focus on both the things.

### **When did you decide that you had to pursue dancing?**

More than a decision it was a realization that I had around 8th std when I had my **Arangetram**. I realized how much I loved performing on stage and practicing dance. Dance is like a different space for me, like an escape where I forget everything. It takes me into a whole different world. Dance is my happy place. Since then there is no stopping.

### **Please tell us something about your mentor(s) and their role in your life.**

I have been trained by Dr. Parimal Fadke , and he's my inspiration. He's played many roles like a father, a friend , a critique and a mentor, and guided me. Along with him my parents and grandparents have played a very important role. My mother always says never leave anything you love doing. That still keeps me going .





### Any message for the budding dancers who want to pursue dance as a career?

I think when one decides for a career, he/she needs to look at things very practically. Career in the field of performance arts may look vibrant and alluring but it has its own challenges. So plan ahead in advance as to why you are choosing this as a career, is it because of the shine you see or are you ready to face the challenges. I say it's challenging because your body and mind both come into play. Dance demands practice and hard work and there will be people constantly telling you to think over your decision. So you should be convinced with your decision. You wouldn't want to start disliking the passion you loved before.

# Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle



**I am doing my 12th now, and I am very interested in research in biotechnology. Should I opt for B.E. [Biotech] or B.Sc. Biotech? Will I have a bright future in this field?**

Biotechnology is a field of applied biology that involves the use of living organisms and bioprocesses in engineering, technology, medicine and other fields requiring bioproducts.

Biotechnology has applications in four major industrial areas, including health care (medical), crop production and agriculture, non-food (industrial) uses of crops and other products (e.g. biodegradable plastics, vegetable oil, biofuels), and environmental uses. (source: Wikipedia) There are some differences as well as some similarities between a B.E. Biotech and B.Sc. Biotech. B.E stands for Bachelor of Engineering while B.Sc. stands for the Bachelor of Science degree. B. E is a four year, technical course while B.Sc. is a three year, science course.

Due to this difference in duration, more emphasis is given on practical training in the B.Tech courses, as compared to the same subject in B.Sc. In B.Sc., the whole course work is designed such that the candidate is given thorough theoretical knowledge. Due to all these difference, B.Tech has greater employability as compared to B.Sc. in the field of work. However, if you are interested in research, then a B.Sc. and later post-graduation and a Ph.D. will give you ample scope. The field in general has tremendous scope at the present times. However, how well you do in this field would depend on your interests, abilities, personality, commitment and work ethics.

## LEARNING WITH FUN

### Riddles

1. A barrel of water weighs 20 pounds. What must you add to it to make it weigh 12 pounds?
2. Big as a biscuit, deep as a cup, Even a river can't fill it up. What is it?
3. You answer me, although I never ask you questions. What am I?

answers: 1. Holes, 2. a strainer, 3. a phone call

*"We cannot solve problems with same thinking we used when we created them"*

*Albert Einstein*