

Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy

Chairperson and Founder Trustee

GRG Institutions, Coimbatore

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Managing Director

Chandra Group of Companies, Coimbatore



Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy hails from an illustrious entrepreneurial family in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. As the Managing Director of the Chandra Group employing over 1,000 persons, she manages diverse businesses including textiles and automotive. As the Chairperson of the GRG Institutions, she governs over 10 Centres of Excellence in education from primary to doctoral programmes and beyond. As the Chairperson of GRG Institutions, she has been instrumental in women empowerment and providing opportunities for less-privileged sections of the society. The GRG Group of Educational Institutions provide education to over 13,000 girls and boys from nursery and primary level to UG, PG and Doctoral levels. The PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, the flagship unit of GRG Institutions, has been ranked 10 among the colleges in the country by the NIRF2020 of the government of India. It is also a 'College of Excellence', as certified by the UGC.

Besides providing quality education, she has focused on contribution to society by helping over 1,000 women every year through Women Self Help Groups, skill development of rural women, vocational training, support for girls in sports, and geriatric care for senior citizens. Her urge to uplift the socially and economically backward people has led to the establishment of the GRG Memorial Higher Secondary School at Vazhaithottam, a tribal village in the Nilgiris. This school serves over 750 tribal children with free education. She also established a Rural BPO Centre in the area in partnership with a global bank to provide employment opportunities to the tribal girl children.

Over 125,000 girls have so far benefited from education provided by the GRG Institutions in Coimbatore.

Her deep passion and a compassionate eye for the underprivileged and her contribution to improving the academic standards and women empowerment has been an inspiration to many. Besides her active role in business and education, she has been actively involved in rendering laudable service to the society through promotion of human welfare as a philanthropist.

As the Honorary Secretary since 1998 and the Chairperson since 2010 of the Coimbatore Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. Nandini has pioneered many initiatives to help the needy. These include Project DEAF (Detection of Early Deafness and Prevention of Future Dumbness) and *Thalir*, the Community Care Home for 33 children whose parents were infected with HIV/AIDS virus. The District Disaster Management and Response Team, set up in 2011 has rendered yeoman service to people affected adversely by natural disasters. She also established a special school for the speech and hearing impaired children, where about 60 children are imparted education from Pre-KG to Class X.

She is the Honorary Secretary of the Guild of Service (*Seva Samajam*) in Coimbatore focusing on providing service to underprivileged sections of the society. Currently about 35 children in the age group of 5-16 years receive education, medical care, and subsistence free of cost.

As the Joint District Director of the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) in Coimbatore since 2002, Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy has helped in enlisting women volunteers to work for the progress of the poor and marginalised sections of the society. The WVS currently runs and manages a Special School of Mentally Challenged Children and a Vocational Training Unit for them.

She is the Chairperson of the Coimbatore District Welfare Association, focusing on providing care for senior citizens, including a Senior Citizens Day Care Centre.

Dr. Nandini is actively engaged with the Nilgiris Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP), an 80-acre Botanical Garden near Coimbatore, focusing on conservation, education and research of the fauna and flora of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve (NBR).

In recent times, Dr. Nandini has been closely involved in campaigning for awareness among the citizens (particularly the youth) of the need to follow and adhere to traffic rules and regulations and to prevent fatalities due to road accidents. This scheme, called '*Uyir*' (meaning 'life' in Tamil) is an initiative led by a group of concerned eminent people of Coimbatore.

She has been closely associated with the activities of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Council, Chairperson of the Southern Region Education Sub-Committee, Chairperson of the Coimbatore Zone, and Chairperson of Southern Region of CII IWN (Indian Women Network). She is member of the CII Indian Women Network (IWN) and Women Empowerment National Committee.

Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy is a past member of the Board of Governors of NIT, Tiruchirappalli. She is also a director, Magna Electro Castings Limited, a member of the Governing Body of The Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women Society, Chennai, and a member of the Board of Directors of Cognizant Foundation, the CSR arm of Cognizant Technology Solutions.

Recognising her immense contribution to the fields of education and community service, Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy was conferred the Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) degree by the Bharathiar University, Coimbatore in 2011. She is the recipient of the *Kongunadu Sadhanaiyalar* award conferred by Nachimuthu Industrial Association, Pollachi in 2008 for outstanding contribution to industry, education, and social service, Pinnacle of Excellence award conferred by Rotary Club, Coimbatore in 2009 and *Pannmugha Thirumagal* award given by Shri Ramakrishna Dhabhawanti, Thirupuraithurai in 2016.