



RADHIKA A J

ARTISAN & FOUNDER - AGE : 24

QUEENBEE PAPER CRAFTS & CREATIVE ARTS

Coimbatore , Tamilnadu, India

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Qualification - 12th Pass (Homeschool)

LEADING NEWSPAPER DOLL MAKER IN INDIA HAS CRAFTED OVER 3000+ DOLLS

Radhika AJ was born in 1999 to parents R Jaya and C Arumugam, and her elder brother C A Rajmohan. As a family, they settle in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.

Radhika was very active and good health at birth but it did not stay that way for long. When she was five years old she had a unbearable pain and could not even lift her leg for walk. That's when they went to the hospital and discovered that there is a fracture in her left thing and was immediately advice for surgery by the doctors.

After surgery, she underwent a 3-month bed rest after she went for a checkup and it was discovered that she had a fracture near the operated place. It was then that the doctors suggested some more tests related to bone and later diagnosed that **she suffered from a rare bone disease similar to the brittle bone disease**. It took her seven surgeries on her both legs till 2011; however, she was again instructed to go into surgery for her spinal cord that had a curvature in it. The doctors recommended after thorough examination and considering her condition that it would be very difficult to operate hence her family decided to put it on hold and now she walks with stick. In this 15 years Radhika has spent most of her life at home only because of continuous surgery and bed rest.

She was not able to go to school and continue her studies and so she had to drop out of school from 1st standard itself, however that did not deter her spirit and as she had an interest in in drawing, painting and crafts she was encouraged to pursue it. She was mentally very much disturbed as she had no friends and nobody spend time with her, however her parents always supported her, despite the challenges with time as they too had to work round the clock to maintain the family expenses and also her brothers education.

In those tough times, her arts and crafts, which she was so committed to, helped her overcome loneliness and stress. In 2016, she started to make wall hangings with used newspapers, which showed promise and received very positive responses and feedback. One of her neighbours purchased a wall hanging for Rs. 300, and for the first time, that was **"the day her hobby turned into a business."** She sold more than 18 wall hangings in two months. It gave her an immense boost to sell these crafts, and her brother started supporting her too, promoting her business online with the help of social media platforms and sourcing materials for making these crafts.

One day her brother's friend mentioned having an African doll that was made up of used newspapers. She tried making it, and it came out very well. She tried her own designs in it. Initially, there were no expected sales, but she didn't get tired. Again, she started to make 20 dolls in a week with different designs and colours to show her uniqueness and creativity. Then she posted on social media and got more inquiries. Gradually, she mastered it, and because it was the most colourful and creative in design, people around the world started appreciating it.

Her newspaper dolls are very unique because the faces of the dolls look black and do not have any facial features like eyes, noses, mouths, or ears; however, her creative use of colour and her designs appealed to all, and she started selling them across India. **She has sold more than 500 dolls during the lockdown period,** and in the last four years **she has sold more than 2650 dolls till February 2023** (globally, she has the most collections), shipping to the USA, Canada, Australia, Dubai, Andaman, Srilanka and other countries.

Now it's leading her to convert her enterprise into a successful business venture under the brand name **"Queenbee Paper Crafts and Creative Arts."** Over the years, she had also been recognised with numerous awards, as she also inspired students with her story in schools, colleges, and among company employees. She is conducting workshops for making these crafts.

As she faces life triumphantly and finishes her 12th grade homeschooling, she strongly believes that black, her colour of choice for the skintone of her dolls, is a very beautiful colour and a symbol of human equality.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

@radhikaja99



@queenbeecraftz

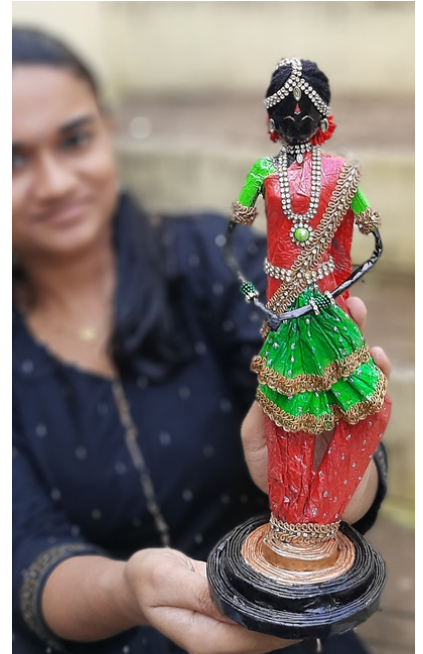


Click on the icons to view the accounts

RADHIKA JA - WORKS



RADHIKA JA - WORKS



RADHIKA JA - WORKS & MOMENTS



MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES & WORKSHOPS

- KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 500+ Students
- Avinashilingam College of Home Science and Higher Education, Coimbatore - 300+ Girls Students
- Sri Sakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 500+ Girls Students
- KPR Mills Pvt Ltd, Coimbatore - 2500+ Women workers
- SNS College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 150+ Students
- CIT College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 100+ Engineering Students
- M Kumarasamy College of Engineering, Karur -60+ MBA Students
- KPR College of Arts and Science and Research - Coimbatore - 50+ MBA Students (Workshop)
- Kongunadu Arts and Science College - Coimbatore-100+ Students (Workshop)
- SDNB Vaishnav College for Women ,Chennai -400+ Students (Workshop)
- Brindhavan Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore -100+ Students (Workshop)
- Nirmala College of Arts and Science , Coimbatore - 100 Students (Workshop)
- VLB Janakiammal College of Arts and Science , Coimbatore - 80 Students (Workshop)
- Sree Ayyappa College for Women , Nagercoil - 100 students (Workshop)
- AAA College of Engineering & Technology, Sivakasi - 80 Students (Motivation Talk)
- SSN College of Engineering , Chennai - 100+ students (Motivation Talk)
- CIT College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore - 50+ MCA Students (Motivation Talk)
- PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore - 100+ students (Motivation talk)

AWARDS & HONOURS

- Thangapenne Award 2022 - DAR Jewelry - August 2022
- Pudhumai Pen Award 2022 - Tanishq Jewelry - September 2022
- Dindigul District HR Foundation - Thalavi 2022 - Youth Excellence Award - 11.03.2022
- Felicitated By Chief Minister M.K Stalin on 19.02.2021
- Felicitated By MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi Member of the Lok Sabha on 2021
- Kovai wonder Woman Award 2021
- Suryadatta Group of Institutions, Maharashtra -Suryadatta National Award -2021 -07.02.2021
- Dindukul Thalappakatti Biriyan - Superwoman Award -2020 :06.03.2020
- Real Women Award - 08.03.2020
- Singapenne Award - 29.02.2020
- Coimbatore Differently Able Association Presents - The Ability Achievers Award - 08.12.2019
- KPRIET Women Empowerment Cell - Flyingbee Award 2019 - 22.11.2019
- Somanur Lions Club - Awarded to made up for Recycled Newspapers Crafts - 31.12.2018

NEWS & INTERVIEWS



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