

Lina Ashar

Founder Emeritus: Dreamtime Learning, Billabong High & Kangaroo Kids

There are educators who build a school, and then there are those who rebuild the very idea of what a school can be, more than once in a lifetime. Lina Ashar belongs firmly to the second kind. For over three decades, she has been one of the most disruptive voices in Indian education, first in 1993, and again in 2023.

A System Built to Move Beyond Rote Learning

She founded Kangaroo Kids and Billabong High with a learner-centric, research-based curriculum built on practical application, growing it into partnerships across 17 cities in India, Dubai, and the Maldives. It was an education system built to move children away from rote learning and score-based measures, toward experiential learning and all-round development, a philosophy that convinced parents across the country to rethink what schooling should feel like.

Disrupting Learning, Again

In 2023, she set out to disrupt learning once again with Dreamtime Learning, an organisation built on Purpose, Growth Mindset, Courage, Transparency, and Sustainability, aimed at making quality education accessible at a demonetised price. Today, Dreamtime Learning School serves over 2,000 active learners, its learning hubs run in Pune and Hyderabad, and its Powered by Dreamtime Learning network spans 80+ partner schools across five countries and growing.

“What would happen if we stopped treating education as the transfer of information and started treating it as the development of human beings?”

That question has quietly expanded beyond the classroom. Lina now works at the intersection of conscious leadership, human capital strategy, and the future of how potential is recognised and developed, not just in schools, but in boardrooms, at policy tables, and inside the organisations shaping what comes next.

Recognition

2014	Lifetime Education Leadership Award, Edu World
2016	The Economic Times Inspiring Business Leaders in India
2017	National Education Excellence Award
2020	The Economic Times Inspiring Business Leaders in India
2021	Innovation in Education Leadership Award; 'People Who Inspire India' Education Iconic Award
2024	Elite Education Magazine, Most Influential Education Leaders
2024	World's Leaders Magazine, Most Visionary Leaders Transforming Education
2024	CIOViews, Top 10 Most Influential Women Leaders Transforming Education
2024	The USA Leaders, 10 Influential Education Leaders

What Comes Next

The next chapter of her work is less about building institutions and more about shifting the conversation: that human potential, not economic output, is the greatest asset of individuals, organisations, and nations.

And that the leaders, educators, and decision-makers who understand this first will define the next century.