



DEEPAK RANJAN PADHI

EDUCATOR | RESEARCHER | UI/UX DESIGNER

📍 LP-521, Prashanti Vihar, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751024

☎ +91-8454947015

✉ deeprpadhi@gmail.com
dpadhi90@gmail.com

🌐 www.after9to5.in

About Me

I work as an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bhubaneswar, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. I teach courses in User Experience Design, Interaction Design, and Communication Design. I have submitted my PhD thesis at the IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay. I am a passionate HCI (Human-Computer Interaction) researcher and UX Designer. My work primarily focuses on designing human-centred interventions for underserved communities and emergent users, with an emphasis on education, accessibility, multimodal and multisensory interaction, and immersive experiences.

Ph.D. Topic

Framework to create hyperlocal videos to enable parents with less education to engage with their children's education

Research Summary

Parental engagement in their children's education is known to be an important predictor of children's academic success. However, adults with less education (ALEs) in developing countries face several challenges in supporting their children at home, particularly after children reach middle school. This research aims to facilitate parental engagement through interventions in the Indian context. I have conducted qualitative studies to understand the dynamics of parental engagement in the Indian context. It was then followed up with a few interventional studies by designing hyperlocal educational videos to facilitate parental engagement and improve the child's learning. Considering all these learnings, a hyperlocal education framework was designed which contributes majorly to my thesis.

Areas of Specialization

Interaction Design, Human-Computer Interaction, Multimodal Interface Design, Systems Design, Information Design, Education Technology, Action Research for Designers, Sensory and Virtual (AR/VR) Experience Design, Mechatronics for Designing Phygital Products, Trends and Product Styling, Craft Engineering and Research, Hyperlocal Content Creation, Design for Indian Needs, Emergent Users, AI and Madness.

Research Skills

Qualitative Research (Ethnography, Grounded Theory, Thematic Analysis, Cluster Analysis etc.) Quantitative Research (Experiment Design, Statistical Analysis), Research in Design and Education Technology (Action Research, Cognitive Psychology, Information Design, Multimedia etc.)

Design Skills

Contextual inquiry, Affinity mapping, Persona, Work models, Interface Design, Rapid Prototyping, Usability evaluation, Instructional Design, Videography, Storytelling and narratives, Human Cognition theories and Learning Analytics.

Product design principles, SCAMPER, TRIZ, Form studies, Model making and Life cycle assessment.

Tools and software proficiency

Design: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe XD, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, InDesign, After Effects, Figma, Axure, Autodesk 3Ds Max, Blender, MIT app inventor, Android Studio

Collaboration: Miro, Mural, Padlet, Slack, Discord

Data analysis: Atlas.ti, Otter.ai

Simulation: MATLAB, LabVIEW, ANSYS

Others: Audacity, OBS Studio, LATEX

Programming Languages: HTML5, CSS3, Python, C, C++

Hardware tools: Arduino Uno R3, Tiva TM4C123G LaunchPad, Texas MSP430 LaunchPad

EDUCATION

2016 – 2026 (Thesis submitted)	Doctor of Philosophy IIT Bombay, India 8.20 CPI Supervisor: Prof. Anirudha Joshi
2014 - 2016	Master of Design IIITDM, Kancheepuram India 8.79 CGPA
2012 – 2014	Master of Business Administration in HR and Production & Operation Management, Utkal University, India 7.51 CGPA
2007 - 2011	B.Tech in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering Biju Patnaik University of Technology 8.51 CGPA

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Entrepreneurship June 2020 – Jan 2022	Co-founder and Design Head of the design research studio: “theUXWhale”
Business Development Manager Aug 2013 – Aug 2014	The GATE Academy, Bhubaneswar

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sep 2022 – till now	Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Bhubaneswar
July 2021 – Dec 2021	Visiting faculty at Institute of Design, JK Lakshmipat University, Rajasthan
July 2012 – July 2013	Guest lecturer at Government Polytechnic, Berhampur
July 2016 – July 2021	Teaching assistant at IIT Bombay Responsibilities: Assisting the faculty members in teaching, preparing study materials, designing and evaluating assignments etc.
2017 - 2022	Teaching Assistant for the Monsoon Course on HCI, IIT Bombay

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

IndiaHCI 2026 Conference	Co-Chair for Out-Of-India track at IndiaHCI 2026 conference to be held from October 29-31, 2026 at IIT Hyderabad
NIFT Bhubaneswar	SDAC (Student Development Activity Coordinator) Responsibilities: Managing institute student affairs, events, and scholarships
NIFT Bhubaneswar	Institute Nodal Officer for NSP Responsibilities: Verification of student scholarship applications and reporting the ministries
IIT Bombay (2018-19)	General Secretary, Student Council, Hostel-1 .

IIT Bombay (2018-19) General Secretary, Utkala Cultural Association, IIT Bombay

IIITDM, Kancheepuram
(2015-16) PG-PhD Placement Secretary, IIITDM, Kancheepuram

PROJECTS & GRANTS

2025 – till now Setting up the **Augmented and Virtual Reality lab** at NIFT Bhubaneswar under the approved budget of **₹1.13 crore**.

2023 Worked on an Odisha Government-sponsored project titled "**Comprehensive Packaging Solutions for a Natural Fiber Handicraft Cluster in Kendrapara, Odisha, under Sankalp Kendrapara**," funded by the Department of Handlooms, Handicrafts and Textiles, Government of Odisha, with a project budget of approximately **₹10 lakh**.

2019 and 2022 Received **ACM SIGCHI Gary Marsden Student Development Grant** twice

2018 and 2019 Received **IEEE Technical Committee on Learning Technology (TCLT) Student Travel Grant** twice

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

IndiaHCI 2024
Conference, Workshop Educational Film-Making for the “Next Billion Users”

CHI 2023 Conference,
Workshop Advancing HCI Research and Education within and across South Asia

CHI 2022 Conference,
Symposium EduCHI 2022: 4th Annual Symposium on HCI Education

CHI 2021 Conference,
Workshop From the Margins to the Centre: Defining New Mission and Vision for HCI Research in South Asia.

IndiaHCI2020
Conference, Workshop Tools and strategies to teach and learn HCI Online, in the 11th Indian Conference on Human Computer Interaction, IndiaHCI 2020

IndiaHCI2020
Conference, Course Voice Assistants and Voice User Interfaces (VUI), in the 11th Indian Conference on Human Computer Interaction, IndiaHCI 2020

NIFT Bhubaneswar,
Courses taught BFC5MF2 Design-led Research
BFC502M Sensory and virtual experience design (UX)
BFC701M Interface design (UI)
BFC4DS3 Information design
BFD6DS4 Human-centred Systems Thinking for fashion
BFC704M Design Innovation & Leadership
BFC702M AR, VR & AI in Retail Design
BFD601MF Introduction to AR/VR in Fashion
BFC506M Craft Research & Documentation
AD702M Design Studio 4 (Co-creative - Craft Based Design Project)
AD7DS4 Product experience and interface project
FPD206M Integrated Project
FPD205M Digital Design and Communication
BFC6DS1 Moving Images and Editing [Videography]
BFC705M Industry Internship
BFC801M GP Graduation Project

JK Lakshmipat
University, Rajasthan

Design Project: Human-Machine Interface
Usability Fundamentals and Evaluation

Govt. Polytechnic,
Berhampur

Basic Electronics Engineering
Basic Electrical Engineering

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- 2026
- Padhi D.R** and Das B. (2026). From Craft to Carton: An Experimental Workshop Model to teach packaging Design to Golden-Grass Artisans. In Emerge 2026 with the theme of Product Design and Innovation. In Proceeding of Springer Series
(Full paper is accepted for publication in the conference proceedings).
- Panda S and **Padhi D.R.** (2026). The Bell Jar of the Mind: Sylvia Plath and the Dissection of Clinical versus Social Madness in Women's Lives. International Journal For Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR), vol.8 (1)
(Journal Paper).
- Panda S and **Padhi D.R.** (2026). The Madwoman's Mirror: Clinical Diagnoses and Social Constructs in Feminist Literature. The International Journal of English Language, Literature and Culture, Literary Enigma, vol.3 (1), 40-47
(Journal Paper).
- 2025
- Panda S, Padhi P.K., **Padhi D.R.** (2025). Fragments of the Self: Trauma, Memory, and Identity in Sylvia Plath's Narrative. In Journal of Reimagining Existence: Emerging Perspectives in World Literature and Language, Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd.
(Book Chapter).
- 2024
- Saha, I., **Padhi, D.R.**, Jain, R. (2026). Exploring Indian Millennials' Motivations for Using Wearable Activity Trackers (WATs) Through the Lens of Self-Determination Theory (SDT). In Designing for Tomorrow: Innovation and Equity in Global Interaction Design. IDID 2024. IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology, vol 747. Springer, Cham.
(Conference Paper).
- 2023
- Gamage D., Wani A.S., Jain P., **Padhi D.R.**, Borah P.P., Menon A.R., Mishra W., Ahmad M., Ahmed N., Sarcar S., Shahid S., Balkrishan D.K. (2023). Advancing HCI Research and Education within and across South Asia. In the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '23). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 328, 1–6.
(Conference Extended Abstract).
- 2022
- MacDonald C.M., St-Cyr O., Gray C.M., Potter L.E., Lallemand C., Vasilchenko A., Sin J., Carter A.R.L., Pitt C., Sari E., **Padhi D.R.**, Pillai A.G. (2022). EduCHI 2022: 4th Annual Symposium on HCI Education. In the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '22). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 118, 1–5.
(Conference Extended Abstract).
- 2021
- D Souza J.N., Sarkar S., Hungund R., **Padhi D.R.** (2021). Challenges and design opportunities for online schooling in India. In 12th Indian Conference on Human Computer Interaction, Nov 19-21, 2021
(Conference Paper).
- Sharma S., Iivari N., Kinnula M., Eden G., Ballav A., Fatas R., Kar R., **Padhi D.R.**, Sadeghie V., Sarkar P., Sinha R., Tulaskar R., Valluri N. (2021). From Mild to Wild: Reimagining Friendships and Romance in the Time of Pandemic Using Design Fiction. In ACM Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) conference, June 28 – July 2, 2021
(Conference Paper).

Padhi D.R., Katoch S. (2021) How Real is Virtual reality—An Immersion, Interaction and Embodiedness Study. In: 8th International Conference on Research into Design, Design for Tomorrow—Volume 2. Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies, vol 222. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-0119-4_65 (Book Chapter).

Jain P.,Ibtasam S.,Sharma S.,Bhattacharya N., Tuli A.,Gamage D.,Jain D.,Tulaskar R.,Chandra P.,Razaq L.,Rony R.J.,**Padhi D.R.**,Jain M.,Shahid S.,Ahmed N.,Balkrishan D.K., Singh P. (2021). From the Margins to the Centre: Defining New Mission and Vision for HCI Research in South Asia. In Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-6). (Conference Extended Abstract).

2020

Padhi, D. R., Jhunja, R., & Joshi, A. (2020). Enabling adults with less education to support their child's education through hyperlocal educational videos. In 32nd Australian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (pp. 210-219). (Conference Paper).

Balakrishan D. K., Jain P., **Padhi D. R.**, Shukla S., & Singh P. (2020). Pandemic Reconstructions: Recreating University Classrooms Online in Indian Households. In the conference on Building the Post-Pandemic University, University of Cambridge. (Position Paper)

2019

Padhi, D. R., & Joshi, A. (2019). A Correlational Study between the Parent and the Teacher's Self-Reported Assessments on the Child's Performance. In 2019 IEEE Tenth International Conference on Technology for Education (T4E) (pp. 280-281). (Conference Paper).

2018

Padhi, D. R., Chavan, P., & Mitra, R. (2018). Understanding systems thinking from the perspectives of experience and diversity. In 2018 IEEE Tenth International Conference on Technology for Education (T4E) (pp. 122-125). (Conference Paper).

Padhi, D. R., Joshi, A., Shrivastava, A., & Tulaskar, R. (2018). Hierarchy or List? Comparing Menu Navigation by Emergent Users. In Proceedings of the 9th Indian Conference on Human Computer Interaction (pp. 29-34). (Conference Paper).

2017

Padhi, D. R., & Gupta, R. (2017). IVR Wizard of OZ field experiment with less-literate telecom customers. In 16th IFIP TC.13 International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (INTERACT 2017) (pp. 492-495). Springer, Cham. (Book Chapter).

Padhi, D. R., Mellita RA.& Sreekumar M. (2017) "A Novel Frame Work of Design Realization Course at IIITDM Kancheepuram: Critical Evaluation." International Conference on Research into Design. Springer, Singapore, 2017. (Conference Paper).

Symposium

Padhi D.R., Jain P. (2019). How to choose a child's career? - Aspirations between the upper middle class and lower class families in India. In the HCI Across Borders Symposium at the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

Doctoral Consortium

Padhi D.R., Joshi A. (2019). Parental Engagement in Child Education – Creating engagement framework for design interventions. In 17th IFIP TC 13 International Conference on Human Computer Interaction (INTERACT 2019), Paphos, Cyprus, September 2–6, 2019.

VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

2017 - Present	Program Committee member/Reviewer for Journals and conferences: TOCHI, JCSS, CHI, DRS, ICTD, IndiaHCI etc.
2016 - Present	Student Volunteer for conferences: IndiaHCI 2016, INTERACT 2017, IndiaHCI 2018, IndiaHCI2020, CHI 2021
2019 - 2020	Treasurer, IIT Bombay ACM SIGCHI Student Chapter Responsible for finance and accounting of activities of the chapter
2018 - Present	Counsellor for parenting issues and child development
2015	Founded "Teach and Learn" Club at IIITDM, Kancheepuram
2015 - 2016	Organized food and clothes distribution camp to help migrant workers during Chennai flood 2015, Tamil Nadu

Memberships	• IIT Bombay ACM SIGCHI Student Chapter, Mumbai, India • Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and SIGCHI • Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) • Interaction Design Foundation (IDF) • HCI for South Asia (HCI4SA) • Human Factors & Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA)
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ACHIEVEMENTS

2020	An M.Des student's project, mentored by me, won second place in Student Research Competition at 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Student Name: Prachi Tank Project name: Helping low literate parents engage with their children's learning
2019	Special contribution award in the institute cultural, PG Cult, IIT Bombay
2016	Awarded as Mr. Fresher by UCA, IIT Bombay
2015	The drone designed by me and my teammates was used to hoist the National flag on 15th August 2015 at IIITDM and it was also published in The Hindu newspaper.
2015	Best Design and Fabrication Award by Aerotrix in 'RC Aircraft Design' workshop at Bengaluru, Jan 16 - 22, 2015.
2011	Best Student and All Rounder award during B.Tech

HOBBIES

- Playing Guitar (Certified by Berklee College of Music) and Sitar
- Singing and music composition
- Organizing and participating in social events
- Practicing Yoga and Cooking

REFERENCES

Prof. Anirudha Joshi
(Ph.D. Supervisor)

Professor in IDC School of Design,
IIT Bombay, India.

Director, HCI Professionals
Association of India

Email: anirudha@iitb.ac.in
Phone: +91 9820345569

Dr. Pankaj Chavan
(Research Collaborator)

Assistant Professor at the Center for
Education Technology (CET),
IIT Jodhpur, India

Email: pankajchavan@iitj.ac.in
Phone: +91 9028016919

Mr. A Balasubramaniam

Founding Director of the Institute of
Design at JK Lakshmipat University,
Rajasthan

President of ADI (Association of
Designers of India) 2022-24

Email: director.id@jklu.edu.in
Phone: +91 9811128908