

Dr. Uma Kannan

Director

📍 Madurai

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SUMMARY

Dr. Uma Kannan has dedicated her career to education, cultural preservation, women's empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. She has led numerous philanthropic and community initiatives focused on capacity building, income generation, and social welfare. Her work includes establishing programs for women's development, mentoring artisans and young professionals, and supporting traditional arts and crafts through documentation and revitalisation. With over three decades of experience working with rural craftspeople, she has contributed extensively to natural dye research, textile design, and the advancement of traditional skills for contemporary markets.

She is the author of Madurai Malligai - Madurai and its Jasmine - A Celebration (2012), Radha Thiagarajan - Remembered (2014), Thiagarajar College of Engineering - A Journey into the Founding Vision (2021), Thiagarajar College - Opening the Doors to Education (2023), and An Anchored Vision - Karumuttu T.Kannan (2024)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Dr. Uma Kannan's core areas of expertise include:

- Natural dye application and textile design
- Design development and packaging
- Mentoring and capacity - building for artisans and young professionals
- Curating heritage, craft, and cultural initiatives
- Research writing and publication
- Social development programs, especially for women and rural communities

Her professional and philanthropic work reflects a longstanding commitment to education, women's empowerment, cultural preservation, and sustainable livelihoods.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

From 2025 - Whole-time Director of Thiagarajar Mills Private Limited

2023 - 2025 - Chairperson & Managing Director of Thiagarajar Mills Private Limited

2019 - 2023 - Director of Thiagarajar Mills Private Limited

From 2023 - President of Thiagarajar College (Arts & Science)

2015 - 2023 - Vice President of Thiagarajar College (Arts & Science)

2007 - 2015 - Secretary of Thiagarajar College (Arts & Science)

From 2010 - Chairperson of Women's Studies Centre (UGC Recognized), Thiagarajar College

From 2009 - Governing Council Member of Thiagarajar College of Engineering

From 2015 - Director of VTM Limited

From 1990 - Director of Colour Yarns Private Limited

From 2020 - Director of Karumuttu Farms Private Limited

From 2010 - Director of Thiagarajar Telekom Solutions Private Limited

From 2018 - Designated Partner of Thiagarajar Leasing LLP

From 2023 - Founder and Designated Partner of Madurai Malli Fragrances LLP

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Ph.D. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology (2008) and an educational background in Sociology and Psychology.

Her academic background is complemented by extensive independent research and writing across culture, heritage, crafts and women's empowerment.