

BIO-DATA

PROF. KONJENGBAM SUNITA DEVI

Manipur State Kala Akademi Awardee

Professor in Manipuri Dance

Dept of RSDD, Sangit Bhavana , Visva-Bharati



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Born at Keishampat Mutum Leikai, Imphal, Manipur, on 1st April, 1961, fourth and last daughter of (Late) K. Yaimabi Singh and (Late) K. Tonsija Devi.

Educational Qualification:

Received Primary education from Thokchom Modhu Girl's School, Imphal, Manipur.

Passed Pre-Degree Exam from Imphal College in 1981.

Graduated from Imphal College in 1983 under Manipur University.

Institutional Training achieved in the field of Manipuri Dance:

Passed 3 years Certificate Course in Classical Manipuri Dance with 1st Division from Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal in 1976.

Passed 3 years Diploma course in Manipuri Dance with 1st Division from Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal in 1979.

Attended and participated in 3 Refresher Course conducted by Sangit-Bhavana and Vidya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati in the year 2000, 2003 and 2007 sponsored by UGC. Also attended and participated in an orientation course conducted by Banaras Hindu University sponsored by UGC in the year 2002.

The Teaching of Guru(s), preceptor and Teacher received in the course of extensive training programme:

In classical Manipuri Dance: Guru Thiyam Tarun Kumar Singh, an awardee of Sangit Natak Academy, New Delhi, who upgraded Manipuri dance form to Classical Level.
Guru Amuyaima Singh, Guru Lokeswar Singh, Smt. Thambal Angoubi Devi, Smt. Ngangbi Devi.
In “Lai-Haraoba” Guru Thambal Sharma, Guru R.K.Achoubi Sana.

“In Pala-Cholom” Guru Chaubhal Singh, Guru Nayani Siza and Guru Gambhini Devi, Guru Leipak Lotpi Devi taught Rass songs.

Scholarships awarded for performance related Research programme:

Recipient of “Scholarship To Young workers in different Cultural Field” from Dept. of Culture, Govt. of India for the period of 2 years for conducting performance related research work in Rass under the guidance of Guru Thiyam Tarun Kumar Singh, a sangit Natak Academy awardee.

Participate in the workshop “ All India Creative Theatre Workers’ Workshop” as a specialist organized by Manipur University & Aryan Theatre, Imphal, sponsored by “ Ford Foundation” in October, 1989.

Participate in the “Workshop on Movement” as an artist and organizer, conducted by Miss Sue Weston, organized by Audio-Visual Research Centre, Manipur University and Forum for Laboratory Theatre of Manipur, Sponsored by “The British Council” in March 1993.

Participate in the workshop “ One Month project on Youth work through Performing Art” conducted by the Progressive Artist Laboratory, Imphal sponsored by Directorate of sports, physical Training & Youth services on September, 1981.

Attended an International Workshop as an Instructor on Invitation at Sllhet, Bangladesh, organized by Bangladesh Manipuri Sahitya Samsad on November, 1999.

Participated in an International Seminar-cum- workshop, held as a part of Silver Jubilee Years Celebration of Bangladesh Manipuri Sahitya Samsad, Sylhet, Bangladesh on April 2000. Also joined the festival of Manipuri Classical Dance from 01-02-2008 to 04-02-2008 at Santiniketan Co-organized by Sangit Natak Academy, New Delhi and Manipur State Kala Academy, Imphal.

Workshop attended as a Lecturer cum-demonstrator:

Also attended in the workshop as a resource person and presented lecture cum demonstration on the theme of Manipuri Dance from 20th to 25th May, 2009, organized by “LAMYANBA(Pioneer)”, a socio-cultural Organization, Agartala, Tripura.

Contribution in the field of Workshop & Training as a part of extensive Training programme: Is one of the founder members of “ The progressive Artist Laboratory”, Imphal, served the Academy as an instructor and shared in the field of promoting Manipuri Classical Dance from best level since 1975.

Participated in the seminars: Participated in the seminar on “ Rabindra Nath Tagore and the New Dance forms of Santiniketan” organized by Sangit-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati from 19th to 21st November, 2010. Participated in the Seminar on “ Influence of Indian Dance Forms on Rabindra Nath Tagore’s compositions organized by Sangit-Bhavana, visva-Bharati from 23rd to 25th March, 2012.

Participation in various renowned Dance Festivals in India & abroad:

Participant “National Dance Festival Khajuraho” on 2nd March, 1989 and performed in the festival as a Soloist and duet dancer. Participated and performed in “ National Level Cultural Meet-cumExhibition” of Nehru Yavak Kendra, New Delhi, organized by Ministry of Education and culture, Govt. of India in November, 1981.

Participated in the “Classical Manipuri Solo Dance Festival” organized by Manipur State Kala Academy, Imphal in 1986 and presented “Kunja Rass” under the keen direction of Guru Thiyam Tarun Kumar Singh.

Participated in the “Cultural Integration Camp of Youths” organized by Directorate of sports, Physical Education & Youth Service, Govt. of Manipur in 1982.

Participated in the State Youth Festival organized by District Sports Office Govt. of Manipur in Jan.1985 and presented the “Lai-Haraoba” dance item in the festival.

Participated in the State Youth Festival organized by Directorate of sports, Physical Education & Youth Service, Govt. of Manipur in Jan. 1985 and presented the “Lai-Haraoba” dance item in the festival.

Participated in the State Youth Festival organized by Directorate of sports, Physical Education & Youth Service, Govt. of Manipur in 1985.

Also Participated and performed in the dance festival as a part of “Guwahati Winter Festival in 1988” organized by Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Calcutta & Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Assam and National Cultural Festival (Apna Utsab) at New Delhi in 1986.

Being an ardent disciple and keen follower of Guru Thiyam Tarun Kumar Singh, conducted many other workshops as a visiting instructor, and throughout the whole artist career visited many other places in India as a performer and instructor, also visited other countries like Greece, Italy, USSR, Bangladesh, etc. in connection with Indian Festival & Cultural Exchange Programme.

Past Teaching Experience:

Served as an Assistant Teacher from June, 1981 – Dec. 1986 in Guru Atomba Institute of Dance & Music, Imphal. Also served as a Dance Teacher in “National Theatre Studies”, Imphal from 1989.

As an Appointmentee at Visva-Bharati University:

Appointed as a Guest Lecturer in Manipuri Dance at Sangit – Bhavana in March, 1993. Received the permanent appointment in the post of Lecturer in Manipuri Dance in Sangit Bhavana on 16th August, 1994.

Now professor in Manipuri Dance, Dept of RSDD, Sangit-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.

Contribution and fulfilled responsibilities as a part of service tenure:

In course of extensive service tenure, conducted various department class ranging from certificate course to post-Graduate course. In connection with the extensive teaching area, composed various dance items on “Rabindra Sangit” & “Rabindra Nritya Natya” based on various Classical Manipuri Dance styles. also undertaken the compositional works of the two prime dance based festivals of Visva-Bharati – “Basanta Utsab” & “Barsha Mangal” along with the other regular departmental programmes also fulfils the responsibilities in the field of costume, stage design, ornamentation, Make-Up, etc.

In course of regular departmental classes on Manipuri Dance, applied various “Bhangis” gestures “Taals”, “Bools” music of original Manipuri Dance form, in composition of dance to enrich the Manipuri Dance course of the Department. Also undertaken the responsibilities of upgrading the syllabus of department course by implicating famous item of Manipuri Dance from the land of its origin. Also feels proud of various students and disciple who shined well in their dance career, most of whom conducted socio programme in various place in India and abroad and also won National scholarships.

Other activities other than service duty in Visva Bharati: Organised and involved in the programme “Lai Haraoba” held on March, 2001 a Gour Pragan conducted by Kalabati Devi of “Manipuri Nartanashram”, Calcutta conducted T.V. programme as an Assistant Director, costume Designer in company with Prof. K. Jatindra Singh on 2001. Conducted various programme by invitation at “SRIJANI”, Eastern Zonal cultural centre, Santiniketan, National Integration Programme of Visva-Bharti and other place of Culcutta, Delhi, Guwahati, Silchar, North Bengal, Midnapur as a part of cultural Exchange between various cultural Institutions & Cultural faculties of various universities.

Future plan in training & Research:

Has a plan to conduct extensive research programme on the various dance items of pure Manipuri Dance styles which are at present going to extinct.

Special Award:

**In the year 2021, Received an award of
'Manipur State Kala Akademi Award'**

In the year 2010, Received an award of Gold Medal from "Guru Tarun Kumar Memorial Gold Medal", Imphal, Manipur for valuable contribution to promote and propogate of Manipuri Performing Arts outside Manipur.

Awarded Devdasi National Award from Puri in 2017.

Awarded Rajkumar Budhimanta Singh Memorial Award, 2019 from Tripura.

Awarded B.R.Ambedkar National Award, 2019 from Dalit-Sahitya Academy , Manipur, Imphal.