



Girija P. Siddi

Education:

- (SSLC) from Rajarajeshwari Vidhya samsthe, Manchikeri (1997-98)(secondary education)
- Bachelor diploma in Theatre Arts from Ninasam Theatre Institute, Heggodu (1999-2003)(higher education)
- Special Bachelor diploma in Hindustani Vocal from Bharathiya Vidhya Bhavan, Bengaluru (2015)(highly qualified certificate[vidvat])(higher education)

Work experience:

- Participated in conference of ` Telling Our Stories of Home: A Celebration of African and African Diaspora Women Artists March 31 - April 2 & April 7-8, 2016 in North Carolina USA
- Participated in a conference of Reimagining Mobilities/ Immobility's in the Indian Ocean December 15-16, 2022 Sharjah Dubai. Awareness about Africans in Indian Ocean
- Started a African quilt workshop in Manchikeri, Uttara Kannada. Which provided work for Siddi (African decedents are called as Siddis in India) Women in Uttara Kannada.
- Started a NGO named Siddi Chittaraa which we Provided Education to Siddi Kids through Art education and gave an opportunity to tell the stories of Siddi People in Karnataka.
- Worked as an Art teacher at National School of Drama for 3 years.
- Worked under various Art and theater Scholars and implemented those teachings in bringing the Siddi's Life Stories to the world.
- Directed a few Plays portraying the Stories of Siddi's life and enacted a play called "Nimilita- The story of the closed eye Girl"

Social Civil Society Work Experience:

- Established an NGO with the mission of preserving Siddi history and art.
- Helped a group of women to manufacture traditional Siddi quilts, which served as an income source for the women in the Siddi community.

- A play named Nimilita that raised awareness about Siddis in India through music and art abroad.
- Siddi Kids received educational scholarships through sponsorships for underprivileged African descendants living in Karnataka. Through art and music from the NGO Siddi Chittaraa

Competency's:

- Music and Art
- Conflict resolution
- A good Learner
- Good connections throughout India.
- Encouragement provider
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Impartiality
- Emotional Intelligence

Languages Known:

- Kannada
- Hindi
- Marathi
- Urdu
- English [not fluent]
- Konkani

Short about the Afro descent connection:

My ethnic group, the Siddi, is an African diaspora population in India with a rich and varied history spanning the Indian Ocean trading networks. They were documented in historical documents as slaves, sailors, merchants, and soldiers going all the way back to the Arab and Portuguese slave

trades in the Middle Ages. They are originally from South-East Africa, and for centuries they have been moving throughout South Asia and the Middle East. Some of them have settled along the western coasts of Pakistan and India, adding to the cultural richness of the area. These regions' histories and cultures have been profoundly influenced over the ages by the diverse experiences and cultural legacies of their people.

The term “Sidi” or “Siddi” or “Habsi” has been used since the 16th century, originally a title of nobility for African aristocrats. By the 17th century, it referred to all people of African descent in India. Some, like the Sidi rulers of Janjira and Sachin, even established their own kingdoms, which lasted until India’s independence in 1947. Today, an estimated 300,000 people of African origin live in India, contributing significantly to the region’s culture and history.