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SREELAKSHMI SURESH

**THE
YOUNGEST
C.E.O. IN
THE
WORLD**



AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

Sreelakshmi Suresh is a web designer from Kozhikode, Kerala, India. She is mainly known for her work designing websites in India which gained her media coverage as early as 2006. Sources have named other individuals as holding the titles of World's Youngest CEO and World's Youngest Web Designer.

Wikipedia

Born: 5 February 1998 (age 23 years),
Kozhikode

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

Sreelakshmi Suresh was born in 1998 in Kozhikade, Kerala. She started using computers at the age of three, and designed a fully functioning website for her school at the age of eight. her skill gained her worldwide recognition and a number of domestic and international awards while she was still very young. In 2009, she launched her own start-up called eDesign, thereby becoming one of the youngest CEO's in the country at the age of eleven.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

Sreelakshmi's Parents, Suresh Menon and Viju Suresh, lived in Kerala and worked as a lawyer and schoolteacher respectively. They owned a computer and saw the advantage of teaching their young daughter how to use it. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, computers and the internet were not yet essential components of a household, though Bill Gates was revered by many in the IT industry and his story and success was one young admirers dreamed of emulating. At the time, Notepad and MS Paint were basic applications available for design. Sreelakshmi used Notepad to type letters and learn the English alphabet; she used MS Paint to draw and colour pictures.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

These early experiences helped Sreelakshmi become familiar with computer programmes. She grew curious to see what more could be done with a computer, and her parents actively encouraged this interest. Suresh would often tell her to try out something new and different. He began showing her websites designed by young children that were roughly her age or older. One thing he noticed was that most of the young web designers were boys. He believed his daughter was just as capable as these boys, and sure enough, when Sreelakshmi tried her hand at web design, she proved to be a quick learner. Using MS Word and other design applications, she developed her own unique website designs.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

For the next few years, Sreelakshmi spent every free moment after school teaching herself how to design websites. After finishing her homework, she would spend work on the computer for as long as her parents allowed. While her parents did worry about the consequences of spending so much time on the computer, especially the strain on her eyes, they also knew she was not just playing around. Their daughter was working hard, and they were confident she would benefit from the experience.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

Sure enough, Sreelakshmi proved them right when, at the age of eight, she designed a complete, sophisticated and fully operational website for her school. She had taken it upon herself to design an official website for the school after realizing it did not have one. The result was far better than the school could have ever imagined. The website she created had information about admissions and curriculum, the history of the school, its faculty members, students, headmistress and staff, as well as a section allowing parents to ask for and view their children's school reports.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

The School website ushered Sreelakshmi onto the international stage. Over the next few years, she was the recipient of nearly thirty awards. These include the Golden Web Award, the Art Space's World Web Award of Excellence 2006-07 and the Global Internet Directories Gold Award, to name a few.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

Two honours deserve special mention. The first of these was Sreelakshmi's enrolment in the American Webmasters Association. The American Webmasters Association is a professional group that was founded in 2003. Its mission is to connect and support those individuals responsible for creating innovative websites through design, management or marketing. The Association is an organization committed to the development of individuals within the web profession and industry. At the time of her enrolment in the American Webmasters Association in 2007, Sreelakshmi, commending her on her work for the school's website.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

The second award that stands out from the rest was conferred upon Sreelakshmi on 5th February 2009 – which also happened to be her eleventh birthday. This was the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, given by the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare in New Delhi. Receiving a national award at the age of eleven is not something many can boast of, but Sreelakshmi certainly deserved such an honor. By this point she had also launched her own start-up, eDesign, which was a web-designing company.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

Sreelakshmi was very proud of her efforts, and had big plans for eDesign. She was well aware of the expectations people had. Starting a web-design company would only increase the pressure on her to live up to and exceed these expectations, but she was ready for the task. Instead of trying to secure top foreign clients, Sreelakshmi chose to start small and work her way up. She knew she had a lot to learn as well.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

Technology is constantly changing; what is trending today can become obsolete by the end of the week. So in order to maintain her standards, the quality of her work and the growth of her venture, Sreelakshmi kept studying new and developing technologies. She kept searching for more to learn. Her dream was to make her company one of the top IT companies in the world, and to be the master in my field. I have to work hard and study more and more to achieve this'. She wanted to become a software engineer and work on developing new user-friendly operating systems. All of that was going to require a lot of hard work.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

In 2012, Sreelakshmi gave a TEDx Talk about her journey to becoming one of the world's youngest CEOs. She talked about her dream of becoming a world-class web designer, and about the struggles of launching a start-up as a minor. Today Sreelakshmi is finishing college. She has big dreams for her future.

LESSON-SREELAKSHMI SURESH

When we talk about how 'age is just a number', we often refer to how growing older does not mean you should give up on your dreams. Sreelakshmi Suresh has turned this expression on its head and reminded the world that being young does not mean you cannot dream big as well- 'Don't' think that something is impossible for children. We can achieve whatever elders can do, if we have the will.' She firmly believes that 'if you are confident that you are competent and prepared to work hard, nothing is impossible.'

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