

Sowmya Chandrasekaran

Design Researcher, Human-Centered Designer

📞 (+91) 9443346707 ✉ sowmyachandrasekaran14@gmail.com 🔗 [Portfolio](#) 📍 Chennai 🌐 [LinkedIn](#)

EXPERIENCE

Program Manager

Chennai, IND

[Lead by Design](#) 🔗

Aug 2025 – Mar 2026

- Designed and developed classroom toolkits for the Creative Learning Lab, including worksheets, activity sheets, and visuals, informed by fieldwork, classroom use, and iterative feedback.
- Collaborated with facilitators to align materials with session plans, supporting coordination, and contributed to communication design content.

Junior Curator

Bengaluru, IND

Param Science Experience Center

Dec 2024 – Apr 2025

- Designed content experience for exhibits and galleries.
- Conceptualized visuals, prototyped, and built an exhibit.

User Researcher – Freelancer

Tamilnadu, IND

Unnamalai Silks

Jul 2024 – Oct 2024

- Conducted user research and competitive analysis to inform business strategy.
- Contributed to planning the transition from B2B to B2C operations.

Student Design Researcher

Bengaluru, IND

ODDE Research Center, SMI Lab

Nov 2022 – Apr 2023

- Conducted field and ethnographic research on sustainability, ecology, and human-centered design with regional communities.
- Used contextual inquiry and visual mapping to uncover insights through practice-based methods.

Programmer Trainee – Developer

Chennai, IND

Cognizant Technology Solutions

May 2018 – Feb 2020

- Worked on system-level communication templates, ensuring consistency and usability across both digital and postal channels.

EDUCATION

Master of Design in Human-Centered Design

Srishi Manipal Institute of Art, Design, and Technology

Bengaluru, IND

Aug 2022 – May 2024

Master of Science in Computer Science

Bharathiar University SDE

Coimbatore, IND

Jun 2020 – Aug 2022

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Ethiraj College for Women

Chennai, IND

Jun 2015 – May 2018

All India Sr. School Certificate, CBSE, in Phy, Chem, Math, CS

DAV BHEL School

Ranipet, IND

May 2015

RECOGNITION

India HCI '23

Oct 2023

International Conference

Presented design research project [“Interactive Storytelling for Children.”](#) 🔗

NAOP (National Academy of Psychology) '23

Mar 2023

National Conference

- Presented the design project “Close-Knit toolkit” and moderated the Symposium “Juxtaposition between Psychology and Technology in Health Communication.”

SKILLS

Design/Research: Contextual, Qualitative, Practice-based, Participatory, User Research, Ethnography, Behavioral Research, Learning Design, Visual Mapping, Workshop Facilitation

Tools: Adobe XD, InDesign, Illustrator, Figma, Canva, Miro

Code/Web: C++, C, JavaScript, COBOL

CERTIFICATES

Introduction to User Experience Principles and Processes

Jun 2023

University of Michigan

Modern Art & Ideas

Nov 2023

The Museum of Modern Art

The Monsoon School – Decolonizing the Anthropocene

Jun 2024

Manipal School of Architecture & Planning, MAHE

Learning Design for Sustainability

Sep 2024

LinkedIn Learning