



Shakuntala Devi :- A Human Calculator and Mathematical Prodigy

DR. JAI NANDAN SINGH

H.O.D MATHEMATICS

KOSHI COLLEGE KHAGARIA

MUNGER UNIVERSITY, MUNGER

ABSTRACT :-

Shakuntala Devi, known as the "Human Computer" for her extraordinary mathematical abilities. She was born on November 4, 1929. She passed away on April 21, 2013. She lived for 83 years and gained international fame for her mental calculation skills, setting several records. Shakuntala Devi including one in the 1982 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records. Shakuntala Devi's work contributed significantly to the field of mathematics. She also authored books on various subjects, including mathematics, astrology and puzzles.

Keywords :- Human, Computer, Edition, Guinness, Astrology, Puzzles.

Introduction :-

Shakuntala Devi was a mathematician who cherished to simplify the magic of arithmetic calculations through her extraordinary talent. Her wisdom and gifted personality have inspired millions of students all around the world.

Shakuntala Devi was born in Bangalore, Karnataka, Bharat. She had unparalleled talent in calculating complex mathematical numbers. She proved her exceptional talent in arithmetic Mathematics through her Mathematics shows worldwide at a very tender age. Her excellent skill has brought her a renowned name as "Human- Computer". Shakuntala Devi was also an author and showcased her wisdom through books on astrology, puzzles, and mathematics. She made our country proud throughout the world by securing a place in "The Guinness Book of World Records" for her intellectual mathematical talent. A motivational speaker who enlightened the lives of many individuals towards mathematics.

She married Paritosh Banerjee in 1960 and was blessed with a daughter. Internationally acclaimed mathematician Shakuntala Devi is genuinely a wonder on earth whose life journey needs to be known by students and parents.

Mostly people were astonished by Devi's mathematical excellence. People were always thinking about how Shakuntala Devi calculates such huge numbers randomly assigned to her in an instant. She is an extraordinary human with impeccable calculating skills that brought her the title "Human-Computer".

All of these outstanding accomplishments are achieved without taking any higher degree of education. Her talent for arithmetic calculation has made her famous, and she deserves the magnificent titles given for her talents.

The independent will to achieve the success and enjoyment in the subject of mathematics earned her universal recognition. Our determination to grasp and follow the greater good in our interests makes us a successful person. Embarking on a smart path through difficult situations and assessments can make each of us an excellent student.

She has an immense passion for numbers, and that extended her interest in astrology too. Her strength of numbers was applied to the pursuit of astrological knowledge. She even impressed many with her astrology predictions about them. She has also expressed her passion for writing through books, which made her author of diverse genres.

Her perseverance in aspiring to be famous emerged when she acknowledged her rare supreme talents and utilized them for good. Her presence was an honor to the country, and she will always be remembered as one of the great mathematician prowess.

Her Books are as Follows.

1. One of her talents include her writings such as
2. Figuring The Joy of the Numbers
3. More puzzles to Puzzle You
4. In The Wonderland of Numbers
5. The Book of Numbers
6. Awaken Genius in Your Child
7. Super Mernory - It Can be Yours
8. Perfect Murder
9. Astrology For You
10. System of Education
11. Rural Credits and Agriculture Development
12. Caste System in India
13. Women's Status and Social Change



She has written books on mathematical calculations, memory power, social issues, puzzles, and mysteries. A few books written by Devi have the tricks and tips to improve mathematical ability and enhance memory. She has also written books related to social issues that are inspiring and educational. Devi has added fun into Mathematics and explained it as the most easy-going concepts to learn. It has inspired many students to take forward their mathematical abilities.

World Record Achievements

Shakuntala Devi's career was marked by several world record-breaking feats:

1. 23rd Root Calculation: In 1977, she calculated the 23rd root of a 201-digit number in 50 seconds, achieving the correct answer of 546,372,891. This was faster than a UNIVAC 1101 computer, which took 62 seconds to arrive at the same solution.

2. Multiplication of 13-Digit Numbers: In 1980, at Imperial College London, she multiplied two 13-digit numbers - 7,686,369,774,870 and 2,465,099,745,779 - in just 28 seconds, obtaining the correct 26-digit answer. This remarkable achievement earned her a place in the 1982 Guinness Book of World Records.

3. Cube Root Calculation: In 1988, at Stanford University, she calculated the cube root of 95443993 in 2 seconds, providing the correct answer of 457.

Techniques and Methods

Shakuntala Devi attributed her exceptional mental calculation abilities to a combination of innate talent, practice, and unique techniques. Some of the methods she employed included:

Vedic Mathematics:* Devi utilized ancient Indian mathematical techniques, such as

the Vedic Sutra, to simplify calculations and perform them mentally with ease.

Visualization and Memorization: She possessed a remarkable ability to visualize numbers and memorize patterns, aiding her in complex calculations.

chunks, making calculations more efficient.

* **Chunking:** Devi often broke down large numbers into smaller, more manageable

* **Mental Arithmetic Tricks:** She employed various mental arithmetic tricks and shortcuts, such as doubling and halving, to simplify calculations.

Conclusion

Shakuntala Devi's life and achievements stand as a testament to the human mind's capacity for mathematical brilliance. Her ability to perform complex calculations in her head, often surpassing computers, has earned her the title of "Human Computer." While controversies and criticisms persist, her contributions to mathematics and her enduring legacy as a mathematical prodigy remain unquestionable.

It might never be enough to know the fantastic talents of Shakuntala Devi. Her skills, accuracy, and fastness seem like an unbelievable story, but let me assure you that she was an extremely talented Indian mathematician who made the impossible calculation by humans possible.

If you need to know more about her life journey or are interested in her books, please let us know. Sharing the inspiration and motivational thoughts mentioned by Shakuntala Devi in her speeches and books would be our pleasure.

References: -

1. Shakuntala Devi: Puzzles to puzzle you Orient paperbacks, A Division of vision Books pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, Bombay ISBN-13:978-81- 222-001-0 and ISBN10: 81-222-0014-7. (Ed: 1976).
2. Shakuntala Devi: Astrology for you, Orient paperbacks: A Division of vision Books Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, Bombay, ISBN-81-222-0067-2.
3. Devi, shakuntala (2005) figuring: The Joy of Numbers (<https://books.google.com/books?id=6kFyf299720c>). Orient paperbacks, ISBN - 978-81-222-0038-6.
4. Shakuntala Devi (1977): The world of Homosexuals, Vikas publishing House, ISBN - 9780706904789.
5. Sherry Joseph (2005): Social work practice and Men who have sex with Men, p.64, ISBN – 978071933526.
6. Smith, Steven, Bradly (1983): The Great Mental Calculators: The Psychology, Methods and Lives of Calculating Prodigies, Past and Present. Columbia University Press. ISBN - 0231056400.

