

No Ceiling Stories



Radha Basu
Founder & CEO,
iMerit Technology

Redefined what leadership in tech looks like — human-first.

- ✓ Gave rural and small-town talent a place in global technology.
- ✓ Created 5,000+ jobs for youth and women from underserved communities.
- ✓ Brought thousands of women into the AI workforce.

This is the story of how Radha Basu built  **iMerit** - a company where profit & purpose grow together.





A Kalaari Capital Initiative

Early Roots (1960s)

She grew up in Chennai, in a time when few girls dreamed of engineering.

At 16, she secretly took the entrance exam and topped it. When the newspaper announced her photo, she hid it from her parents first.

That quiet act of rebellion set the tone for everything she'd go on to build.



Breaking Conventions

Her father encouraged education, but doubted engineering was “right” for girls.

Still, Radha joined the College of Engineering, Guindy (early 1970s) — one girl among 2,500 boys.

She studied Electrical and Communications Engineering, driven purely by curiosity.



A World Opens Up (Late 1970s)

After graduation, she left for the US with just \$8 in her pocket — the only foreign exchange allowed at the time.

At Stanford, she learned to stretch every dollar, every idea.

She discovered what it meant to be entrepreneurial — to innovate, to improvise, to survive.



Building Tech Legacies (1979–1999)

Radha began her career at Hewlett-Packard in the late 1970s.

In 1987, she founded HP India, establishing the country's first software centre by any multinational in Bengaluru.

Over two decades, she scaled HP's eBusiness Software Group into a \$1.2 billion global business.

Her work helped shape India's early technology landscape.

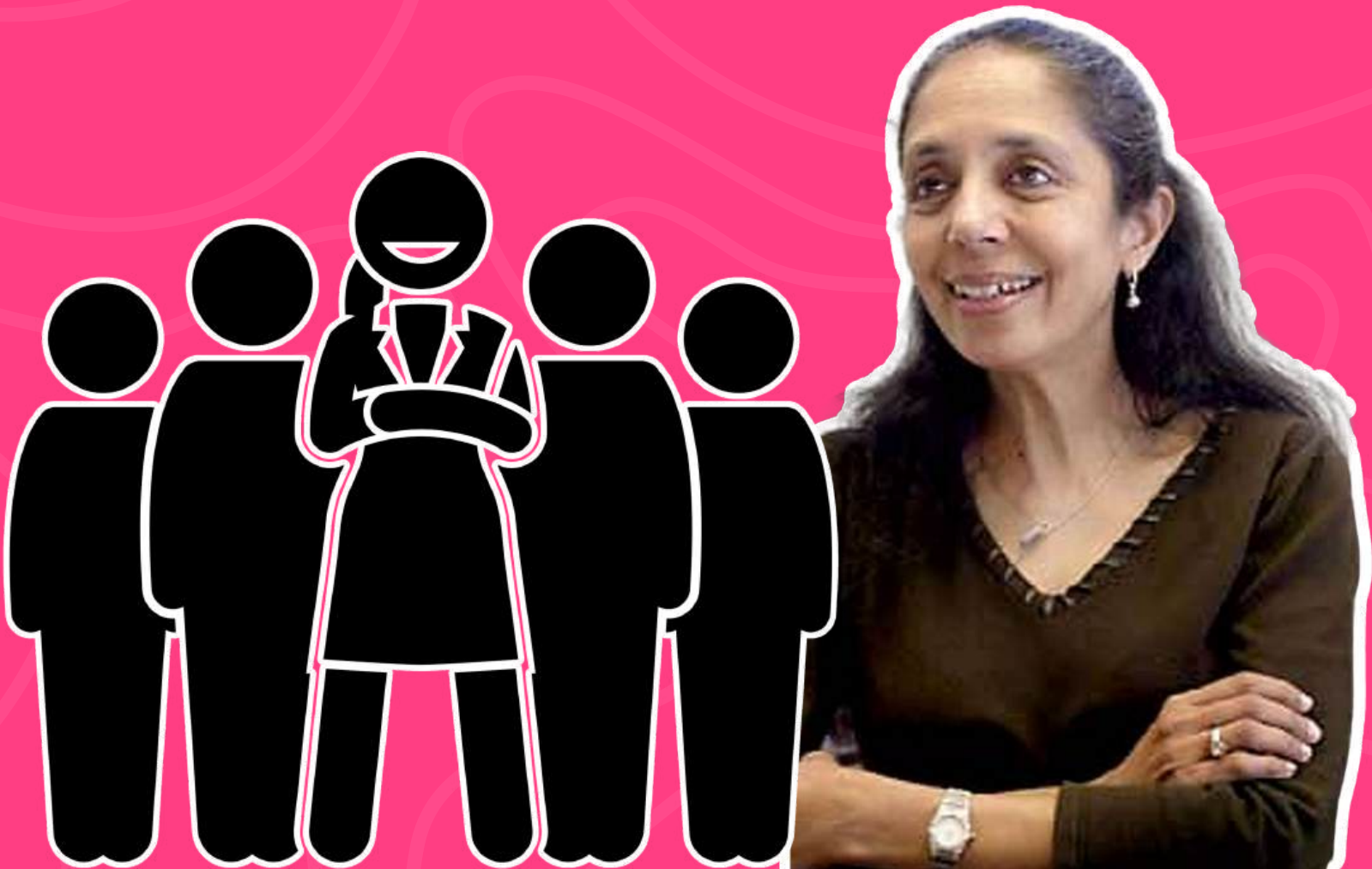


Leading on the Global Stage (2000–2006)

After HP, Radha became Chairman & CEO of SupportSoft, a support automation company.

She led it to a successful NASDAQ IPO in 2000, and a secondary offering in 2003.

SupportSoft became a global market leader — A rare feat for a woman tech CEO in that era.





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The Spark of Change

After decades in Silicon Valley, Radha began asking a bigger question — Can technology do more for people?

She observed how India's digital revolution was leaving women and small-town youth behind.

The next chapter of her life would change that story.



The Anudip Foundation (2007)

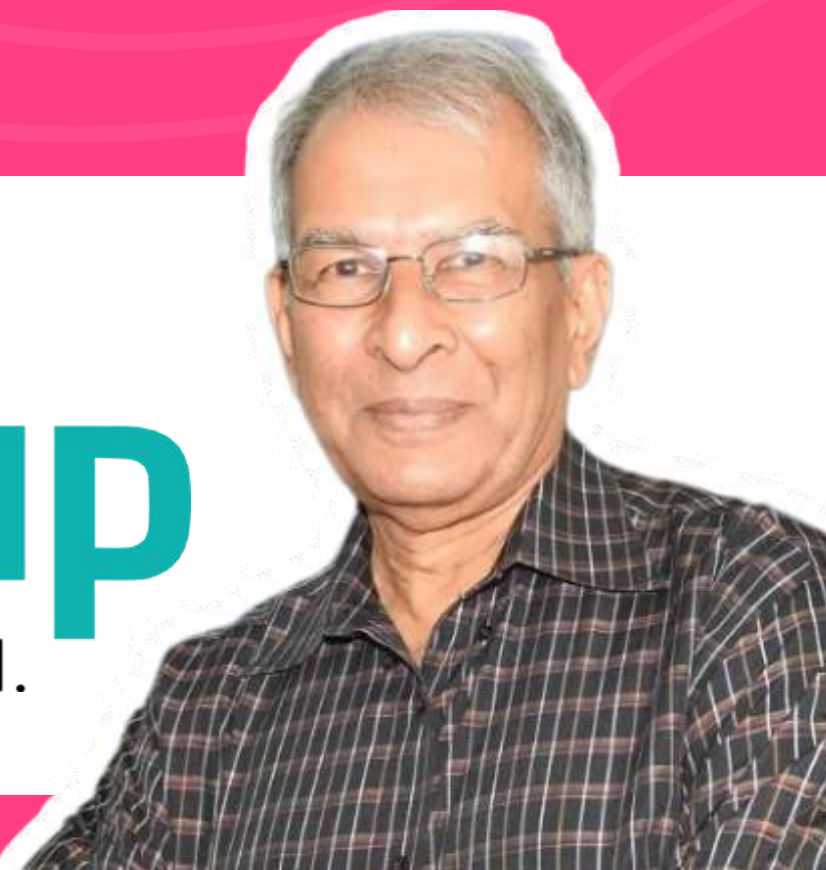
Along with her husband Dipak, she co-founded Anudip Foundation.

Goal: Skill and empower rural & marginalised communities through digital jobs.

From the Sundarbans to small-town Bengal, Anudip has trained over 4.5 lakh people in digital and workplace skills.

It became the talent pipeline for a bigger idea that was about to take shape.

anudip
Life. Transformed.



The iMerit Spark (2010 - 2012)

At Anudip, Radha saw rural youth mastering digital skills.

In Metiabruz, Kolkata, women trained in fine embroidery showed pixel-perfect precision in AI data tasks.

That experiment proved: the same hands that craft art can train machines.

In 2012, iMerit took shape — a company where human skill meets artificial intelligence.



The iMerit Difference (2012–2024)

- ✓ From one Kolkata centre to 10+ global hubs across India, the U.S., and Bhutan.
- ✓ 5000+ employees, over 50% women, 70% from underserved communities.
- ✓ Serving 200+ global clients in mobility, healthcare, and agriculture.

iMerit has delivered 500M+ AI data annotations with precision, with inclusion at its competitive advantage.



Honours & Recognition

Radha's impact has been celebrated across the world.

- 🏆 UN Women–ITU GEM-TECH Award (2014) – for advancing gender equality in tech.
- 🏆 Business Leader of the Year (2020) – World Leadership Congress & Awards.
- 🏆 India's Best Leaders in Times of Crisis (2021) – Great Place to Work.
- 🏆 CEO of the Year (2022) – Entrepreneur India Awards.



The Future Vision

Radha's mission now goes beyond technology — it's about who gets to shape it.

She's championing a future where women and underserved communities lead the AI revolution.



Her focus: Generative AI, Data Ethics, and Responsible Innovation — built on inclusion.

“Real breakthroughs do not come from algorithms alone, but from people who bring judgment, context, and care to technology... The more perspectives you bring to a problem, the more robust answers you'll get.”





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Celebrating women
who break barriers
and redefine
possibilities.

Because if she can do it,
so can you.