

## Sudha Chandran



For many, Sudha Chandran is an accomplished actor and a Bharatnatyam exponent! However, not many are aware of the tremendous willpower and extraordinary courage that this dusky beauty displayed in realizing her dream of becoming a dancer despite a tragic accident that left her with only one leg! Her story of never-say-die attitude is a tremendous source of inspiration for many, especially young girls.

Born in Mumbai in 1965, Sudha was the only child of her doting parents. She started dancing at a tender age of three. By the time she was 16, Sudha, was hailed as the rising star of the dancing world with 75 stage performances under her belt.

Sudha's dancing graph was moving upwards with several concerts and shows under her belt, when just four months before her 16th birthday, she met with an accident while travelling in a bus in Tamil Nadu. Her right leg was amputated 7.5 inches below the knee. It was not just her leg but her dancing career that was amputated that day. What followed was nothing but sheer hollowness and bitterness!

But, Sudha was not a quitter! She was determined to put her life back into perspective, and in what better way than by dancing. It was her passion for this art-form that made her not only walk again but also dance again with the help of '*Jaipur leg*', a rubber-based artificial limb, and after four month of dogged persistence, she began to walk again without any support.

Just 20 months after the amputation, Chandran gave her first live public stage performance to a full house, - a tribute to all those who had helped her in battle to recover and restart her new life. Her performance was a runaway success and her grit and courage was applauded by one and all.

The huge success of her initial performances after her accident, infused a new lease of life in Sudha! She was flooded with invitations to perform from across the globe. She was also offered a Tamil movie, '*Mayuri*' made on her story in 1985. She herself assayed her character in the movie that won the best feature film award from the State Government. The film was also later released in Hindi '*NaacheMayuri*' which again proved to be a huge hit.

Sudha is today a well-established actress, having acted in numerous films of various languages- Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Gujarati and Kannada. Chandran also runs her own dance school in Mumbai.

The accident that once threatened to destroy this budding dancer, has actually proved to be a blessing in disguise for this great achiever!