

Working mothers

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We asked some well-known working mothers in different age groups to understand how the mother-child bond changes with years.

Payal Sen (in her 20s) says, "My son is two-years old. I always read storybooks to him at night. We bond over the meals. One luxury I have is that I work for myself."

Soumya Khurana (in her 30s), whose daughter is 15 months old, says, "I have lived my life to the fullest. So all my time is hers."

Designer Reynu Tandon (in her 40s) says, "I go with my daughter to a spa for relaxation on Sundays and once in a while I take out my son to a movie."

A mom in her 50s, Ramola Bachchan says, "My kids are grown up. They take out time for me now. We are friends, so we gossip."



JASWINDER SINGH

Classical danseuse Mahua Shankar asks why kids need to be put under pressure of performance at dance reality shows



Double role: Actor Sushmita Sen with daughter Alisah

Meet Mahua Shankar, a new generation classical danseuse who says her motive is to promote classical dancing amongst the new generation and children who, she believes, are the future of India.

A kathak dancer, whose rhythm and movements have won her accolades in India and abroad, is in City for a series of dance performances courtesy SPICMACAY. We ask her why do we need to resuscitate classical dancing?

Mahua started learning classical dancing at the age of five from her father Late Pradeep Shankar and mother Rekha Shankar and is a disciple of Pandit Birju Maharaj from the last 16 years. "Youngsters today are not aware of the rich glory of classical dancing," she begins. "They haven't got a taste of the 'real' dance. For

Hard talk

them, dance is Bollywood and Western dance forms. They are not in touch with their rich dance heritage."

She takes a pregnant pause, and continues, "What they fail to understand is that there is just one Shiamak Davar and one Saroj Khan who emerge out as such. These forms don't allow that much individual liberty in creativity as against classical dance forms."

And she puts the blame on

parents and educational institutes. But organizations like SPICMACAY are doing a great job, she says as she comes to perform in five schools in the region.

On the current spurt of reality shows, she says, "I am against these reality shows where innocent children are being fooled by television channels for the bait of fame and quick money, but later destroying their future. The small kids look so stressed by the need to prove themselves as winners."

Here, Mahua questions the intentions of parents too. "I don't know why parents risk sending their children to such reality shows. They must know that not all can be winners. Why show false dreams to the children and play with their confidence?"

DISNEY BRAR TALWAR

Not all in the genes

Shari Roan

Francisco, conducted the most advanced gene analysis

tal factors cause MS is still unknown. The leading theo-

gested as possible contributors. But, "the results put us a step closer to teasing out the contributions of genetic and environmental factors on MS," said Sergio Baranzini, the lead author of the study. Also, when an