FEATURE / INTERVIEW — CIO VIEWS

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Shamini Dhana: Aspiring to Influence the Next Digital Fashion Generation

Shamini Dhana is the founder and CEO of Dhana Inc., a California-based Certified B Corp. In 2008, she launched this award-winning sustainable fashion brand specializing in organic cotton and denim clothing for children ages 0-16 years.

Dhana Inc. pioneered children's and youth sustainable fashion, operating both online and in retail locations globally. The company gained recognition through numerous fashion show invitations and industry awards for its practices and commitment to developing future leaders.

BACKGROUND AND CAREER

Following college graduation, Shamini transitioned from academia—where she worked as a research analyst at Singapore's Department of Economics on a World Bank project—into consulting, government, banking, and entrepreneurship.

In 1999, she joined Silicon Valley Bank as senior vice president, overseeing India operations, private equity partnerships, and cross-border technology clients for seven years. She is credited with organizing the historic 2002 Silicon Valley VC trip to India, which catalyzed foreign venture capital investment in the country.

DHANA INC.'S MISSION

Dhana Inc. participates in industry associations including Textile Exchange, Common Objective, and the American Sustainable Business Network, advancing circular fashion and sustainability. The company's campaign states: "Our children are an inspiration and a promise for a sustainable future."

MOTIVATION AND CHALLENGES

Shamini describes a defining moment when, as a senior vice president at a technology bank, she witnessed child exploitation and environmental abuse in India. She resolved to advance social justice and environmental integrity through fashion.

Her biggest professional challenge involved understanding the complex fashion and apparel industry without formal fashion training. It required three years of hands-on experience—learning global supply chains, ethical sourcing, and working directly with garment workers—to develop expertise.

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

Shamini believes women possess the ability to recognize interconnections between actions and their impact on people and the planet. She advocates for transparency in garment production and accountability for textile waste.

> *"Every day we place a piece of clothing on ourselves that has the power to connect us to people and the planet."*
> *— Shamini Dhana*

FUTURE DIRECTION: D/SPHERE

Launching in November 2021, D/Sphere represents a new creative fashion platform enabling people to create and share fashion stories using secondhand materials while reducing social and environmental impacts.

> *"D/Sphere is Fashion ReCreated and it is the new medium of storytelling. We get people reimagining and recreating fashion by asking people 'What is your fashion story?'"*
> *— Shamini Dhana*

MESSAGE TO WOMEN AND YOUTH

> *"Never underestimate the power of our minds, hearts and presence to work in tandem, to make change happen for the betterment of the world."*
> *— Shamini Dhana*