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**“A healthcare leader needs to identify the purpose of his work. If the purpose is to earn money or get promotions, then he is in the wrong profession.”**

My Story

**“We had a very restricted childhood. We didn't have enough money. We didn't have enough resources. My father was in government service”.**

Succeeding in life became a focus. It was important to have a career. My upbringing was in a small town. An early restricted childhood in a small town helped me to understand the struggle of life and that value system is still with me. That's the primary reason why I want to help others. At that point in time it was important to understand the value of the family, the people around you, how it was important for everybody to be together in order to survive. Those values have got diluted over a period of time in the current generation. I think that those values should be shared with them.

At every step of my life, each time, every turn, there was somebody who helped me. Initially, it was my father, my mother, then my teacher, and later my colleagues and my classmates. *Whatever I am today is not just because of one or two persons. It's a host of people whom I have met at various points of my life, and each of them has added something to my thought process, to my value system, to myself, both good and bad*. I followed those that were good. Those who were negative also taught me what I should not do with others. So there are hundreds who have influenced me in various ways.

When we are growing up, it was a kind of a mandate from the parents on what career path to choose. My father asked me to become a doctor. My mother always maintained that as a child, I was interested in treating imaginary patients and playing doctor.

Growing up in a large family had its own set of challenges. One had to compete with cousins in studies and play. One had to compete with the world as it felt, for a place. Today's children have their own room and own study table. *We never had our own room or table till we went to Medical College. So one would sleep in whichever co*rner of the house one could find and lay claim to. Wherever you found a corner to study, you studied. Nobody would ask you what or how much you were studying. It was completely your responsibility. If the exam results were unfavourable, there would be many critics, however, no pat on the back if you did well. Challenges of growing up in a big family were circumstantial and almost every day. To top it all, I was dyslexic, so for me understanding things in the right perspective was questionable from day one. I never passed an exam till class 8 and I even failed in class 12. How much more challenging can it get!

**“I have suffered so many setbacks in my life. My failing in Class 12 was a huge setback. But I realized over a period of time that failing is normal.”**

 People get stressed and give up after a failure. I do not judge anybody. *If one fails, he should get up and walk again.* I do not focus on anybody’s shortcomings. I look at what his strengths are, and whether those can be groomed and developed. Can I make him better at his work is what I ask myself. One’s strengths and weaknesses may be at the same level today. But if his strength is built, his weaknesses will become small in comparison. *No one is complete, everybody has some or the other shortcoming. So you need to recognize people’s strengths and promote those.*

**We did not have access to many books when we were growing up.**

It was mostly cartoon comics. *Phantom comics were huge, and influenced me with the way he thought and the way he took care of people.* Later, we had Panchtantra. Mahabharat left a lasting impression. These books really helped in shaping one’s outlook.