**Module 4**

**Life Events**

What is your understanding of Life events?

1. Education
2. Career/Getting a job
3. Marriage
4. Family
5. Old Age
6. Death

This is a natural order or “supposed to be” a natural order for most of us. But life is not a straight line and occasionally it throws a curve ball and things go haywire. Let’s examine from your perspective:

**Education**: Do you have the right stuff to excel in your job?

**Career/Getting a job:** You have a job and that’s why you’re here. The question is; do you have a career? If you want to move up the ladder, you have to enhance your skill set, get more education, take courses relevant to your industry or where you want to be and what you would enjoy in your job. In short, education doesn’t stop after college or university. Learning never stops in your job. Learn what your employer has to offer to help you advance. Take full advantage of these resources. It helps your employer and it makes you an important and valuable part of your organization. Also, a positive and right attitude goes a long way. Advancing in your career means more financial reward or job satisfaction or both. More satisfied you are, more productive and happy you will be. You should always be looking for opportunities within your organization to move up. This clearly demonstrates to your employer your willingness to excel in your position.

**Action: Discuss some of the opportunities and resources available with your employer as a group**.

Remember it’s all about you and not others.

**Tips: Beware of the following C’s**:

1. **Competition**: Compete with yourself and not others
2. **Compare**: Do not compare yourself to others
3. **Criticize**: Stay away from criticizing or gossiping about others
4. **Comfort Zone**: If you are in a comfort zone in your job then you’re not progressing. Hence always hone or work on your skill level.
5. **Complaining**: This never helps. Be a part of the solution and not a problem. By complaining, you’re not solving a problem but creating another problem for yourself. It shows displeasure, sends out negative energy.

**Marriage or starting a Family:**

Some of you may be contemplating marriage or starting a family. These are important decisions and should always be carefully weighed out. Doing a financial plan ahead is always a good idea. Talk to an accredited financial planner/advisor and seek qualified advice. Getting into a debt to get married, how much money to spend are some of the decisions that may need to be addressed.

Starting a family, financial impacts and costs: Consult a financial planner; learn about cost of raising a child, day care costs and how to plan for it. Learn about savings for education, grants available etc. Little bit of financial planning goes a long way and easier on your bank balance. Are you able to work from home while your child is young?

Questions?

**Old age and Retirement**:

We all hope in the natural order of life events to get to the old age and retire. For these golden years and to really enjoy your life much financial planning is required. Always take maximum advantage of the resources your employer provides you with such as stock options, matching contributions, company pension plans and also having your own savings and retirement plan. Sit with a professional and discuss your individual goals for old age.

**Death:**

**The ultimate reality:**

The tragedy of life is not death but what we let die inside of us while we live.

-*Norman Cousins*