Inspiring Life

Dr. Dileepkumar Krishna Nayak

(For Internal Circulation Only)
Dedicated to...

Paternal Grand Parents.
Pilar Ashwathama Nayak and Smt Netravati A Nayak.

Maternal Grand Parents.
Edmer Gopal Pai and Smt. Radhabai Gopal Pai

Parents.
Sri Krishna A Nayak and Smt Radhabai K Nayak
Inspiring Life

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Modesty Adorns Knowledge

The story which influenced me

He is a Temple priest in a small town in Karnataka. The temple is a smaller one compared to the popular Venkataramana temple nearby. Visitors are very few, mainly family devotees who visited only on special occasions. Bhatmam, which means priest uncle in Konkani, works there without help even to give teerth prasad to visitors, who find more solace in Bhatmam's pleasantsries rather than the Darshan. Bhatmam handles everything alone, right from buying flowers from the local market early in the morning to closing the temple doors at night.

One may think Bhatmam accepted the Job of priest in such a small temple, because he is not qualified enough to become a bank clerk or even a primary school teacher. But, he is a senior professor and head of the department in a famous college. His subject is favourite English literature. Besides teaching, he now handles other duties as well, as he is its Principal. For him no job is superior or inferior, and he excels in all the three P's – Priest, Professor and Principal.

Bhatmam's Postgraduate and Doctoral degree has not been framed for exhibition in the Verandah of his house, which serves as a drawing room. The certificate is perhaps lying somewhere in his old suitcase along with a gold medal he got for standing First in the degree examinations three decades ago after which he joined the college as a lecturer.

Why he continued to serve as temple priest even after getting a college lecturer's job is all about of a love affair- his love for the little Venugopal and the people's love for Bhatmam's role as the priest. Thus, he continued to live in the modest temple quarters without taking up Principal's Bunglow.

While talking to those visiting the temple from Bombay and other cities, Bhatmam doesn't hint at his academic qualifications or position in college, restricting the talks to temple matters. Visitors go away, thinking him as a mere temple priest, without learning about other facets of his personality. While escorting a guest leaving town to the bus stand, he readily carries the visitor's suitcase, if there is no transport available. It's all the same to him whether the guest is a bank clerk in Mumbai or an industrialist in Chennai, closely related to him or distantly related to his wife. If the guest is embarrassed to have a college principal carry his luggage, Bhatmam is not. Completely at ease, he walks comfortably through the market in the glare attention of his numerous acquaintances. What a better example to illustrate the Sanskrit adage Vidya Vinayena Shobhate, which means, Modesty adorns knowledge.

(Original Author : Yashwant Chitthal, Courtesy : TOI)
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Acknowledgment: This autobiography includes story of few persons who immensely influenced the author. Sincere gratitude and thanks to all these noble individuals who found a mention in the book. Part of publication may be published without distortion with an acknowledgment from the author.
Prof. S. S. Mujumdar, Former Principal

It was a great pleasure to read Prof. Dr. D. K. Nayak's autobiography 'Inspiring Life' which traces his journey from humble beginnings in a remote village of Karnataka to highest level in professional education and successfully heading a reputed institution. I had the privilege of a very long association of 30 years with him from 1986 to 2016. He was an able deputy to me and then taking over from me to take the institution to greater heights. Needless to say, we also enjoyed a healthy personal relationship apart from the professional one. I have always admired his multifaceted personality as an excellent teacher, visionary leader and tough administrator keeping the interest of institution above everything. This is a compelling read for all; particularly for students to what can be achieved through sheer dint of sincerity and hard work. This is an inspiring life indeed....

Prof. N. B. Divekar

Simply great. I was only knowing middle part of your life... This book has given complete canvas of beautiful picture of your hardships, devotion and dedication... next generation should learn many things from .. Inspiring life All the best DK

Mrs. Sujata Ravindra Prabhu

Hi Dileep,

Finished reading your inspiring and motivational life story. Appreciate your hard work and sincerity in writing this and also your journey of life with so much struggles. I am also surprised to read about your struggles at every stage of life. Happy to see your countless awards and also very happy to see you very well settled successful highly professional person. My writing will not be sufficient and it will go endless. I also loved beautiful quotes in between the story
It was a strong urge to pen down the life experiences of my own “Rags to Riches” story which took a back seat every time for one or the other reasons. But it was simply an excuse and ample time during the compulsory lockdown motivated me to just make an attempt to recall and note them down. I am not confident whether this will inspire many, but surely serve as an open book for all those who are curious to know about my past and present. I don't know what is in store for future, but the journey had been exemplary and the future would be exciting. The hardships for even basic needs during childhood makes you so strong and determined, that you get prepared to accept success and failures without exaggeration. It's a beautiful journey filled with enough thorns, lost hopes and blissful achievements. I would like to dedicate this memorabilia to my grandparents and parents who in spite of all difficult situations, taught all the children to lead ethical life with cultural upbringing to see the light at the end of the tunnel. There were moments during the childhood, which pushed us to desperation especially when two square meals used to be impossible or frequent reminders from school to pay the pending fees. With no regrets to the hardships of the past, today I stand in that stage of career, when I look back, it appears like a walking down the beautiful memory lane. The personality and whatever I am today is the blessings of my parents and elders. I could have done much more to give happiness to parents, by providing whatever they wanted when they needed them the most.

Here I present my journey so far, for all those who wish to succeed in spite of hurdles and struggle.
Sri Dileep Kumar Krishna Nayak, is associated with Vidya Prasarak Mandal Thane since 1985. Born in a small village of Udupi district in Karnataka, he graduated with Distinction in Engineering from Mysore University before migrating to Thane. While in service of Polytechnic, completed his Masters as well as Research from prestigious VJTI, Mumbai. He has been heading the Polytechnic since 2004, and had taught every batch of students enrolled since 1983. He received ISTE National Awards as Best Teacher (2008) and Best Polytechnic Principal (2014). Under his leadership the institute has emerged as one of the best Polytechnics in the State.

On behalf of Management, I appreciate the initiatives taken by the Polytechnic under Dr. Nayak. The Institute is always receiving accolades from the MSBTE, DTE, AICTE and NBA for maintaining highest quality standards. The Polytechnic is one of the sought after destinations amongst the Diploma and Advance Diploma aspirants. Institute also has a strong Alumni association who are willing to be a part of development.

The Institute programs are accredited by the National Board of Accreditation, New Delhi for three cycles since 2004, and presently the programs are reaccredited up to 2023.

He is a dedicated teacher who has changed gears from Chalk and Duster to Online mode. He is popular with his teaching style and enjoys the company of young generation in the classroom with almost hundred percent results in every subject taught. He is always approachable and deals students and staff issues with compassion. He has encouraged faculty to excel in their fields and many teachers are contributing for various activities of the State Board of Technical Education.

He believes in commitment and its fulfilment and this is visible in all the activities like Academics, National Conferences or any other projects. Due to these initiatives, campus has been visited by many distinguished personalities over the years.
He has been a part of VPM's prestigious projects DrVNBREIMS and VPMMPCOE Velneshwar.

The events penned by him are an example of a person from ordinary background with limited access to facilities can still achieve success. The **E Book** shall be an inspiration to young readers, who wish to attain their goals through hard work, patience and perseverance.

It is my privilege to write Foreword for the Life story authored by him. I wish success in his personal life and professional career and aspire that the Institute scale new heights of performances.

**Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar**  
Chairman  
Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane.

Managing Committee of  
Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane

Standing : Shri D. G. Joshi - *Member*, Shri Aniruddha Joshi - *Member*, Dr. Mahesh Bedekar - *Member*, Smt. A. A. Bapat - *Member*, Dr. A. N. Bapat - *Member*.

Sitting : Shri J. N. Kayal - *Secretary*, Shri U. B. Joshi - *Jt. Secretary*, Dr. V. V. Bedekar - *Chairman*, Shri M. Y. Gokhale - *Member*, Mr. Trivikram Bendre - *Treasurer* (*Not in the Picture*)

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*  
- *Nelson Mandela*
From Nowhere To Now and here - Just an alphabet W moves from No to Now and becomes a Success Story.

You have drawn a step by step guide in narrating a self-portrait. My personal association with you in the last one and half decades, was an interesting journey. Even it enabled me to tap hidden skills in my second innings. If I say, I did enjoy this, it is not an exaggeration.

**A few highlights of your write up are**

- Every adversity has seed of opportunity. Bigger the break down; bigger the break through. How true it is in your case.
- You proved that you are a teacher in the learner's seat. Thus, V.P.M's Polytechnic could organize Conferences, even with overseas speakers.
- What a pleasure to both of us, to bring Ex- Chairman of Infosys - Mr. N. R. Narayan Murthy to our campus.
- One more point that makes our association stronger is my Prof. N. R. Kamath - who hails from your native place Mulki village.
- Inspite of obstacles; you believed in Dreaming Big and extended to your teachers. You embraced challenges and enjoyed it. This proved to be a stepping stone for the success.
- The greatest challenge of yours is riding two horses 1) Principal 2) Ph.D. on Hydrogen - You came out with flying colours.
- Organizational interest scored over your Personal comforts.
- Your strength lies in execution of ideas. You are a Man of Action. Always performed with a purpose.
The journey can be summarized as

🌟 Let your success make all the noise of “Rags to Riches”
🌟 The journey story enabled you to Learn, Earn and make this world a better place. Made the VPM flag to flying high not only in India but even on overseas.
🌟 You are an embodiment of 4S- of Winners Circle - Seek Help, Share your expertise, Serve unconditionally, Success at your doorsteps. - A True Winner.

Let the autobiography be a source of inspiration to GenX, Millenial and GenZee. A few traits mentioned in your journey, if adopted and nurtured can result in good performances.

All the Best!!! Let God bless you and your family.

Prof. V. S. Bhakre
Profile of an Engineering Teacher

Compiled By: Dr. Usha Raghavan

Principal Prof. D. K. Nayak has been awarded the most prestigious “ISTE Rajarambapu Patil National Award” for promising Engineering Teacher (below 50 years of age) for creative work done in Technical education for the year 2008. The Indian Society for Technical education award was presented at the inaugural session of the 38th Annual convention of ISTE on 19th December 2008 at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Bhubaneshwar, Orissa. The award was instituted by the Community College of Engineering & Polytechnic, Rajaramnagar, Sakharale, Maharashtra.

He is also the recipient of ISTE Ranganathan Engineering College National Award for Best Polytechnic Principal- 2014. The award was conferred on him at the 44th ISTE National Convention held at the College of Engineering Tiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Prof Nayak has been associated with V.P.M's Polytechnic since 1985. He has passionately grown this organization to its current position. His contribution in building this “Learning Organization” with strong fundamentals is immense. He has taught almost every subject for Electronics, Instrumentation and Computer Engineering students. A believer of hard work, optimism and perseverance, he has contributed in the capacity of Lecturer, In-charge Head, Head, Vice Principal and now as the Principal.

Family Background: Dr. Nayak was born and brought up in a small village in Udupi district of Karnataka. He studied in a government school and passed his SSLC by topping class ranks. His very humble and modest background couldn't deter his spirits to opt for higher studies. Small routine jobs undertaken during schooling not only helped him to manage his studies but also developed an insight to confidently draw conclusions from insufficient premises, thereby, taking life in his own stride.

After completing PUC, he got admission in Electronics and Communication Engineering at Sri Jayachamarajendra College of
Engineering Mysore, one of the most reputed Government aided Colleges in the state of Karnataka. He completed his Bachelors in Engineering with distinction. Subsequently, he completed his Masters in Engineering from Veermata Jijabai Technical Institute (VJTI), Mumbai University in First Class. He was awarded Ph.D (Technology) from VJTI, Mumbai in 2017, for his experimental research on the subject Hydrogen Storage studies and Fuel Cell Power Conditioning.

Prof Nayak has presented number of papers at the National and International Conferences and Journals. He has travelled widely for presenting his papers in conferences. He has been a member of various committees of MSBTE, and contributed for various projects of Curriculum and academic content development. He had an elite career with many achievements. A soft spoken, yet firm leader he motivates the staff to perform their best and the Polytechnic has the distinction of getting accreditation for Diploma Programmes for three cycles.

Dr D.K. Nayak is a strong believer of the quote” Simple Living – High thinking”. He is a thinking administrator who has the ability to work effectively as a group member and to build cooperative effort within the team he leads. His encouraging actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, perform more in their respective field of work. He is meticulous, passionate and committed to all the activities that involves him. It was a pleasure working with him in the last three decades.

Principals of other Polytechnics at Silver Jubilee Exhibition (2008)
Dr. (Mrs.) Ambuja Joshi - Muchala Polytechnic, Prof. S. B. Ganeshari - Thakur Polytechnic, Prof. R. K. Nandgarge - S.S. Jondhale Polytechnic, Prof. A. B. Patil - IT, Ulhasnagar with Dr. Usha Raghavan & Prin. Dr. D. K. Nayak

Well-wishers are like Street lights, they do not shorten distance, but lightens the path to make your journey comfortable and safe
"Strength does not come from only winning. Your struggles develop strengths. When you face hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength."

I was born in a nondescript village **Hejamadi** of erstwhile South Canara and the present Udupi District. I was fifth of the siblings in the family with very limited resources. It was a huge struggle on daily basis for the survival efforts. Father was running a rented Shop with Cutlery items and Bicycle repairing. Village population hardly had any buying potential and the Shop business was just insufficient to take care of bare minimum family needs. Even the basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing were unfulfilled. At times, the frugal living pushed everyone to desperation without any hope of betterment. Best thing parents did was to admit all the Children to the Village Government Model School to get formal Education. We, the six children who are separated by couple of years each, the younger ones had to share the text book purchased for the eldest. When it was my turn, books were in highly fragile/delicate condition which demanded utmost care for handling. While schooling, I seldom referred new text books as it was the luxury the family could ill afford. I envied my other school friends who had new books every year, even though they were poor at studies. My Sister was the eldest and had the responsibility of escorting all kid brothers in the mornings and evenings. She was the manager of all the duties at home and outside and enjoyed few special privileges.

Beyond Sixth Standard, to ensure continuity in Schooling, I decided to take things on own stride. Maternal Grand Parent's home was the annual vacation spot and I was looking forward to spend summer and winter breaks. It was a large Joint Family existed on a small village hotel and a Cutlery/stationary materials shop with fairly good business. Every member in the House shouldered different responsibilities for the smooth running of business as well as household affairs. I gelled well with everyone over there and had enough work for the hands and mind for the entire vacation period. Family members dealt each other with mutual respect and differences of opinion were amicably settled. My uncles and aunties were very generous helped by enough daily stocks to all the extended needy family members. Best part was everyone eating together and happy in
the company of others. I presume, it was a classic example of Living together even with diverse personalities. May be, one of the reason for the coexistence was unaffordability and I was immensely benefitted in the joint family especially during formative years. Even today I miss the fragrance of joint family culture as we are compelled to go nuclear for variety of reasons. My good academic performance in the School was primarily due to the motivation from all these elders who appreciated every small achievement. For me every member of the family was a role model as I liked the nature of all of them. The Silver-lining in the Hand-to-mouth struggle was this God-send opportunity in the Vacations which supplemented my School books, pair of dresses and even pocket money for most essential expenses. I was too focused only on studies and vacation work, as there were hardly any other distractions. In School days, I was helping my immediate family, at the shop for Cycles repairing and making little money as well. It was the first lesson in earning while learning for understanding the value of Money.

The village Government Model Primary School where I studied produced many Rankers at the District level (Seventh Standard was the District Level Public Examination during the years). Felicitations every year during annual social functions were special and encouraged a lot, apart from the prizes and certificates. I topped in almost all the years in the School which developed enough future promise for my parents. My other siblings struggled to make it to higher divisions every year and somehow completed their schooling. In SSLC (1978), I topped in the School and received all the accolades and multiple felicitations.

Due to good grades, parents and close relatives dreamt of making me a Doctor or Engineer as none in the family achieved that distinction before. It was an uphill task to fulfill aspirations to become a successful professional and I had limited guidance and resources including the financial one at that point of time. I was one of the very few who opted for PCMB group, at the pre university level amongst classmates from the high school. After securing PUC admission at Vijaya College Mulki and got a feel of further competition with toppers from nearby schools. I could make many new friends and it was essential to understand and get inputs for the future studies as well as for career. The overall performance at the Junior College turned out to be good and helped me to pursue professional dream.
One must always remember that, we are the highest form of God's creation. We have been bestowed with sense, reason and intellect by God. God created human being “on purpose” and “with purpose”. We shall be driven by this thought. We should ever be thankful to the almighty for giving this life. At the same time, we should always strive to alleviate the miseries of less fortunate ones. We must justify God's trust in us by ensuring that we must never deviate from the moral upright path, he wants us to travel. We must continue to evolve, spirituality to be able to live up to expectations.

“What we are is God's gift to us.
What we become is our gift to God”
- Vijai Pant
My school vacations in the seventies used to be very exciting and eventful at grandparents place. One day in the month of April, a man who was in his early forties came with son of about ten years, to my grandmother. This boy Henry, was one of the six siblings. Family was unable to manage the burden of upbringing and appeared quite worried and decided to put the child to hotel cleaner's job. His wife was ailing and he had five more children back home. By getting this child drop out of school after fifth standard and get employed here at least to arrange for his daily food and shelter. He was an innocent but brilliant boy who took up the job, unknowingly the consequences of dropping out of school. The boy was neat, smart, clean, agile and quite quick in all his assigned tasks. He won the hearts of all members in the family with his dedication. Never lazy, he spent time in reading newspapers and school books during free time. He was much smarter to his age and my grandmother realized it, when his School Class teacher came searching to take him back. He was one of his brilliant pupil and the teacher didn't want the child to drop out of school due to poverty. It was already few weeks into his employment here. With food for stomach, thoughts for mind and affection showered by the family, he was not happy to leave the new found place. The teacher had come prepared to adopt the boy for schooling by providing food and giving him shelter at his home. My uncles and grandmother promised the teacher of taking care of Henry's education while in employment and requested to get his school documents. Boy was provided pair of school cloths, books and got admitted to sixth standard in the local school. He was always early to rise, did all the household work before leaving to school. During lunch break, he was present to clear tables, help in serving, have lunch and go to school again for afternoon session. In the evening he was back in action till the close of hotel at nine. In between, he could squeeze time to complete homework and was quite up-to-date in every assignments. When the results of terminal exams were declared, to the astonishment of all, he top ranked in the class. Due to brilliance, he turned out to be the blue eyed boy of all his teachers, and was appreciated by everyone for extraordinary performance.

My uncles and grandmother were jubilant for having encouraged Henry and he didn't let them down. He valued and respected their
motivation and remained grateful all along. He was my intellectual companion during my vacations as we used to discuss lots of things of mutual interest. From kitchen help to filling water from the well to assisting at the shop, we were very handy to our uncles, especially when there used to be rush of customers. Every year, he topped in school divisions and completed SSLC with flying colors. He then decided to study further with the support from local Church. I salute my grandparent's family for being generous in nurturing and helping the brilliant boy for comfortably completing school despite all odds. He went on to become a research scholar and earned his Ph.D. He made it a point to visit my grandmother and uncles to seek blessings and exchange pleasantries whenever came to meet his parents. I was lucky to have met this scholarly boy with gifted talent during my School days.

“Best Attitude : I will win: not immediately, but definitely”
Manjunatha Master and his Bicycle

Manjaunatha Master was a teacher at our village model school. He had a reasonably large family, anticipating a male child which followed with a bit delay after twelve female descendants. He had taught my elder siblings and at my turn of schooling, he was on the verge of retirement. With such huge family responsibility to shoulder he was looking much older to his age.

He was the resident of neighboring village at about five kilometers from the school. He used to come in a bicycle which had mainly two wheels, a hard seat, carrier, frame and a handle. May be, it was as old as his career and I have a strong intuition that it was gifted by his in-laws during marriage. He couldn't afford a change in the mode of transport as his life was full of challenges to feed fifteen mouths. Penury was visible in his daily acts. Our family had a cycle repairs shop, where I used to work during non-school hours set his bicycle right whenever it was brought for servicing. I was preserving other repaired cycle old parts for his one.

His Bicycle was a regular at our repairs shop at least once in a week for one or the other reason and I was giving free service at school lunch break, to avoid inconvenience to the Master for going back home. I am sure he must have showered blessings on me for making his daily ride possible with my assistance.

The village roads had little mercy for master's bicycle and one of the reasons of his frequent visits to service shop was due to wheel punctures. His cycle tubes had more puncture patches than plain area. While correcting a puncture, he was feeling as if it was a new tube even when it is silver jubilee turn of the puncture. To save his ordeals, I was replacing it with old unused tubes left by some other better off customer so that master's cycle is brought back on the road, and subsequently reduce the frequency of its puncture fixing visits.

He was a dedicated teacher who must have nurtured thousands of young minds. On the day of retirement, I had the opportunity of farewell speech at the ceremony to wish him a happy retired life. As the school pupil leader, it was a million dollar moment for me, as I knew every pulse of his life and that of the bicycle. It was bidding good bye to Manjunatha Master as well as to his old bicycle. My mind started wondering what this poor master would do from the following
day with his meager pension. He lived a life of sage, may be thought of the destiny which is in store and his wrinkled forehead and tears indicating ordeal to follow post retirement.

**Manjunatha Master was one of the representative teachers of our times, who led a Herculean task of living life by giving a lot, without gaining much in return from the noble profession**

“In our economic structure, the people who work the hardest often make the least. -Michael Tubbs”

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*I never did anything worth by accident; nor did any of my inventions came by accident; they were the result of extreme hard work. Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.*

*Thomas Edison*

---

**Mr. Shashikant Shenoy, Mulund**

*Congratulations...*

Going through your Inspiring life (Prema- Strot), I find a great story of a village boy with an ambition well chalked, defined and determined to achieve something he desires. Quite an illustrious documentary for aspiring engineers and teachers. A sheer example of sacrifice and hard work of a brilliant boy from a joint family. Finally, once reaching top add doctorate degree to the cap. You have never stopped learning and winning. A Book worth a crowned place on the shelf should make any library feel proud. I salute your commendable feats. May you always be Blesses by God & Guruvarya.

---

**Mr. Jayesh Patel**

I know Shri D. K. Nayak Sir since 1990. He is a simple person who supported all my activities here. For me the Project of “Inspiring Life” during Lockdown was a soothing experience. I express my gratitude for being a strong support system for my enterprise.
The hamlet of about few thousand population is one of the backward villages of our state. The name of the village is Belle, my summer and winter spot i.e. home of maternal grandparents. It had hardly any affluent houses with almost every household striving to make both the ends meet. People of all races and cultures lived here without anyone being distinguished. The only Christian school was the educational institution providing primary and secondary education with just enough teachers to cater to mind storming of young generations. The school had basic infrastructure to educate minds of children with mostly semi filled bellies. School uniforms took a back seat compulsorily as families could hardly cover young bodies with any pair of available clothes. Foot wares were only luxury items, which majority could never even dream to possess. However there wasn't any inferiority complex as entire generation was reeling through similar conditions. School teachers were real ‘acharyas’ for the pupil, who were willing to give everything without expecting any gurudakshina in return. The only ray of hope for all the children was the education - treasure, which most were to get at the end of schooling to shape their lives in future and to take care of their poor and aging parents. Poverty was way of life and villagers were contented to live with it.

The incident I am narrating dates back to over forty years when I was in third standard. Freddy, the only son of schizophrenic parents, was trying to do his schooling in spite of all odds. Both parents at times use to become so hysterical that they were fighting for days together. All his scarce study belongings used to get torn off in the process of fight. He had to take shelter under trees with empty stomach to save his books to complete the studies. The life was a horror story as he had hardly any good things to remember when he
was due to prepare and appear for S.S.C. exams. He started spending most of his time in school building and nearby grounds to gear up for the exams. When the exams got over, heaved a sigh of relief as the fifteen year old could join the village hotel to do cleaner's job.

The results were declared as usual like every year and the hero of my story topped the state merit list. There were no coaching class owners or no ministers to congratulate him and to credit away from him. The school headmaster upon receiving the news of stupendous achievement personally went on a manhunt for the boy who was clearing the table at the village hotel. He had no special preparations to receive the accolades and was dumb folded once the news broke to him. He didn't have any costume for the occasion and was just bodily lifted for the procession through village roads for the success the school received for the first time in the history. He didn't have any photographs at store to be handed over to the newspapers or no overjoyed parents to feed him sweets. The boy was still in the state of shock and was paraded though the village as a proud achiever. I feel he had only acknowledged his fate for the hardships faced, which brought him crowning glory. I remember him as natural genius and an ideal example of sheer grit, hard work of which, the memories are still fresh in my mind.

“A lamp doesn't speak. It introduces itself through its light. Achievers never expose themselves; but their achievements expose them.”
The village Hejamadi had meager infrastructural facilities. During early 1970s, there were few shops, a bank branch, Govt model primary and a secondary school and small houses of villagers. Farming and fishing were the major activities and there were many families of farm laborers and fishermen. In addition to all these, there was a factory named UMA TILE COMPANY, making bricks and tiles for house construction. The tiles were popularly called Mangalore tiles. Incidentally our house was situated close to the factory. As a part of daily routine, I used to observe the activities of this Unit, which was the economic epicenter of the village. It had given opportunities to a Canteen and good business for many transporters. I am not sure of the year of inception of this factory, but definitely knew that it provided the means of living for many families in the village round the year. For most of the farm laborers and fishermen, whose works used to be seasonal, this was an alternate employment opportunity for remaining part of the year.

The factory was owned by a graceful personality Kundapur Vishwanath Kamath. He was the messiah for the poor people in the village. He was one of the few persons who owned an ambassador car in the early sixties. Majority of village activities centered on this factory and incidentally I got the early practical lessons of Entrepreneurship from this place. I hardly heard of any problems in the factory and the full credit goes to the owner, who was a visionary. I don't know whether he had attended any Management Institute, but could manage everything meticulously. The gentleman was matured, confident and knew his Business well.

As time progressed, the owner handed over the company affairs to his second son Mohan Kamath. He happened to be another gem of a person and the company legacy prospered. He was yet another inspiration for me. Today the company is in the hands of third generation of the family, who are using advanced technology for the current needs.

Eldest son of the entrepreneur, Vaman's life began in a small village in Mangalore, under the supervision of his grandmother and his mother who had been strict during the upbringing. In his own admission he grew up in a much simpler world, in a village where his well respected father who had a post graduate degree from UK in the
1940s. At a time when it was quite uncommon for the people to be well educated his father use to quote “Your true wealth is your education and this is the only thing, I can leave with you and not money, will carry you anywhere in the world”

Both his grandmother and mother had a huge influence to teach him the value of money and dignity. Due to academic brilliance, he secured admission to Mechanical Engineering at KREC Suratkal. His mother, a housewife, who spent her entire life in the little town didn’t chastise her son when she saw him smoking cigarette during his college days. Instead she taught him a simple lesson about money that he adopted as his mantra for the rest of the life. She sternly told him “Do you know the principal sum of a person could have in his bank to generate the interest that you blow away in smoke? For every box of cigarette that you buy, somebody has to work hard to invest that money to get the paltry return that you are blowing away in smoke rings, she told her son who later went on to architect what is today's largest private sector bank ICICI.

After completing Engineering, when he sought admission for Post Diploma in Business Management from IIM Ahmedabad his family knew of his ambition of leadership. In IIMA he changed his gears from Engineering to Finance. He started career in Industrial credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) in the Project Finance Division. He joined Asian development Bank Manila in 1988, worked for projects in India, china, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Philippines. He also worked as a representative of ADB on the Boards of various companies. He returned to ICICI in 1996 as its MD and CEO. Expanded the services to retail customers and launched a series of acquisitions during 1996 which led to the formation of India's lead largest private sector ICICI Bank which initiated the digital revolution in Banking. Being from an enterprising family he must have inherited the qualities of leadership. He attributes his success to mentor at ICICI Sri S S Nadkarni, from whom he mastered the art of Finance management. In the year 2007, he was one of the nominees for the Business leader by Economic Times. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in the year 2008 for his contribution to the Banking sector. Through Intrapreneurship skills, he single handedly mentored many most admired leaders like Shikha Sharma, Kalpana Morparia and Lalita Gupte. He became the Non Executive Chairman of ICICI in 2009.
He also served as the Chairman of Infosys. Presently he is the President of New Development Bank of BRICS countries.

Having witnessed the business family since childhood has been an inspiration. It was a classic example of entrepreneurship and a motivation through my career.

“Healthy and wise citizens are greatest asset of any nation can have. - Winston Churchill”

Sri. K.V. Kamath former MD and CEO of ICICI Bank

Polytechnic Staff on visit to Uma Tile Company in 2009

Patience with others is respect. Patience with family is love. Patience with self is confidence. Patience with God is faith
In March 1980, after completing the Pre University Exams and the board results declaration, the real struggle started. I had reasonably good marks and was preparing for admission of either Medicine or Engineering, through the centralized application process. Unlike today's online system, admissions activity was manual one and was too complex due to lack of communications facilities. After multiple rounds, I couldn't make it to any Government Medical College in the State and had to forego and give up the doctoral dream.

Trying my luck in Engineering and waiting for my turn which was inordinately delayed till September month end due to administrative problems. The mental agony which I had to undergo during these few months was quite painful and unbearable.

While waiting for the engineering admission, I committed another blunder by applying to defence. Being an NCC student in High School, Uniformed Service was another choice and I responded to an advertisement in the newspapers of Indian Air Force (IAF), for the Airman's post. One of the reason was to get into learning with training and reduce financial burden on parents for the studies. I travelled with my father to Bangalore and stayed with a cousin's (Sri B. Ratnakar Kamath who was DGM of Canara Bank) family for a week to complete the selection process.

I completed all the formalities of written test & interview successfully and then got rejected in the medical examinations. This was another early setback in the career and I had to return home dejected. I was required to give explanation to everyone who knew about my unexpected initiative. While some expressed regret and others sympathized for me. Few felt I had behaved too smart, not to get selected and in turn became the subject of village debate. This made my position still worse to get upset further. Negative thoughts, depression made rounds and I continued daily routine with sad mood. But I decided to take revenge for the selection in defence employment after graduation and waited desperately for the call of engineering admission.

Our family was going through worst financial phase and couldn't afford any expenses either of College or Hostel Fees. I was profusely
praying for admissions at KREC (Present NITK) Surathkal, which was close to my home, and it could have helped me to save Hostel expenses. Destiny had a different plan and I got admission allotted at SJCE Mysore. This almost brought curtains down to my studies and drew black-out in front of my eyes. The opportunity was clearly unsustainable for my family to send the hostel fees every month and I could see their body language discouraging me from this adventure.

With never-say-die spirit, intuition led me to the nearest Canara Bank to apply for an Educational loan. The branch manager was a Samaritan, deserves the due credit for financially supporting my Engineering Education. Within a week of application, I received confirmation of loan sanction and every month Hostel received payment from Bank on my behalf towards Mess and Rental Charges. I was relieved to a great extent and my financial worries were temporarily put to rest for the next four years. This was the best support received for completing my otherwise impossible Mission. I am equally grateful to the loan Scholarships received from Syndicate Bank, GSB Seva Mandal Wadala, A.S.R.Pai Memorial Fund Mangalore and SVT Mulki Poor Student's Fund and free scholarships from K H Kabbur Education Trust Mumbai and GSB Sabha T.Nagar Madras. All these noble Institutions did a great community service by providing financial support to large number of deserving students every year. Most of the successful professionals from our fraternity will surely echo my feelings.

Till then, Engineering Degree Course was offered in the Five year duration scheme. From the Academic year 1980-81, Government decided to convert this into Four Year scheme. Ours was the first batch, fortunate to save one year than the predecessors. We had the joy of completing the entire course in lesser duration compared to our previous batches, but were required to face new Curriculum every Semester. There were no previous references or sample papers and it was a huge challenge and chaos before every Semester examination and we had to face the additional stress during the results.

The First semester results were crucial to find out whether I can really sustain the pressure of Professional Studies. All it turned out well and I got the anticipated results every Semester.

Each Semester began with non-availability of curriculum and we were always taught by junior teachers who could not do much justice
to the subjects. It was a nightmarish experience when some of the senior faculty used to remain present as internal examiners and make our life miserable in practical exams. After managing this in the initial four semesters, our own classmates decided to start **Self Directed Learning**. We distributed topics from the subjects chapter-wise and started learning independently, took notes and discussed in the classrooms. Some of our friends were so good that they managed the practical of Communications and Microprocessors. Learning became so intensive that six of our classmates featured in the University Rankers list with Mr. Raghu Hudli topping the chart. The kind of bond we developed is still continuing. We meet occasionally even now and are in touch at present through social media.

I was fortunate to learn Computer Programming in FORTRAN and COBOL languages as these were introduced in the revised Curriculum. We had the guidance of Prof. Dr. K. Chidananda Gowda, Head of the Department for the Software project Library Automation System in COBOL. The project got selected for presentation at the State level to receive the appreciation by the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST). Every Semester I could face and resolve new challenges and the Four Years spent at Mysore developed adequate self-confidence, and helped me to get ready for the professional life. Due to delay in Curriculum arrival, each semester got extended by few months. With the accumulated delays, we finished final semester examinations in Mid December 1984, instead of May. I was shortlisted by Wipro in the Campus interviews, but the job offer was yet to come. After completing final exams, we had to vacate hostel rooms as they were allotted to the juniors. I was back at my native place in the third week of December. Even though I was keen to pursue Masters, it appeared difficult as I had to start repaying the Educational loan soon after the completion of degree as per their terms and conditions.

“Thinking is Progress. Thinking leads to action. Knowledge without action is useless and irrelevant. Knowledge with action converts adversity into prosperity.”

**Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**
Group photo with Classmates (1983)

Final Year Group photo with faculty (1984)

Alumni Silver Jubilee Reunion (2009)

Alumni Group Photo (2019) with Mr. Satish Rao, Chief Business Analytics Engineer at IBM, USA during Bangalore visit.
After confirming the admission at SJCE Mysore, the academic session started soon. For the First Semester, I couldn't secure Campus Hostel admission and was guided to stay in the lodging arrangements at the Paying Guest rooms in Premier Studios. This was at around two kilometers distance from College premises. Accommodation was bit expensive from the point of view of rent and I had to depend daily on outside food.

Premier studios was one of the popular Kannada Movie Shooting places at that time with multiple Dubbing Halls for simultaneous projects. I enjoyed the opportunity to see many popular film personalities from a close distance, as they were present there for most of the times for shooting. This included popular stars like Rajkumar, Vishnuvardhan, Jaijagadish, Ananthnag, Shankarnag, Ambareesh, Dwarkaesh, Laxmi, Arati, Jayanthi, Manjula to name a few. However, it was an inconvenient arrangement as I had limited access to Library for studies after the College hours. I was looking forward to get Hostel desperately, and succeeded within five months.

I was overwhelmed to go to the hostel and soon shifted to the allotted room. Some of my classmates hinted and cautioned about the traditional ragging from seniors. It could have ranged from swimming in a handful of water to washing heaps of dirty linen of seniors. Within few days of entry into hostel, I had a close encounter to some of the items of ragging, even though it didn't affect my confidence and morale. It turned out to my advantage as some of the seniors became my lifelong friends thereon.

The joy of hostel admission was short-lived. The Block in which I got allotment was a eight member cottage, which was named as Moonlight block. It was a cramped room with limited ventilation and very poor illumination. I indirectly realized the reason for naming the room as Moonlight block. Apart from this, the eight different characters gave the terrific experience of community living with every individual having strange habits. It was a huge task to balance daily schedule and get adequate sleep and study time amongst other members.

I was happy with the hostel Mess, which was close by and the
problem of breakfast and food got sorted out. The Mess expenses were quite reasonable and I could plan my time for Studies, Sports, Library and Mess systematically. The First year was a challenge as it was the lone occasion of staying away from home for professional studies, till I got used to it. I was fully aware of my responsibilities and kept focus only on studies and control on unwanted expenses.

Good results in the First Semester made my life bit easier, and at the end of First year, I got transferred to a Four Member Hostel Block. Our standard of living here was better and the block was named as ATKT Block. In fact, by the time students got transferred here, many had multiple KT’s. Majority acquired hostel habits such as Smoking, drinking, going to movies, bunking lectures etc. Many of the students who are from better off families used to run short of funds sent by parents and we had to pitch in to take care of their month end situations. By adjusting to the circumstances I successfully completed Second Year as well and it helped to build my morale and self-confidence further.

In the Third year, we got promoted to three member hostel block and the standard of living further improved. The Block was named Poultry Farm, even though humans used to stay there. Out of curiosity, I could gather following information from unreliable sources, for the naming of the block. Few years prior to my admission, a wealthy person's son got accommodation there. The rooms were in bad shape. When the father came to visit the son after few months, he got furious and abused the authorities by asking whether it is a hostel room or poultry farm? As such the name continued thereafter in the office records.

The final phase of Hostel life was quite comfortable with accommodation in nice twin sharing rooms of Queen’s Block. The name was such, that the Building was donated to the College by the Royal family of old province. I could breathe a sigh of relief from the past experiences which developed my personality. The values and experience gained here, helped me to develop confidence to survive in any part of the world without sensing any inconvenience.
With all gratitude to the beautiful garden city of Mysore, where I spent four best years of my life, it was the time to bid goodbye. After completing the Final Semester examinations, I packed up my Hostel belongings and reached home. The financial situation had become much worse than it was when I left few years ago.

Parents had grown older and they had expectations that I should supplement their monthly expenses by taking up a job immediately. Everyone at home felt that I am the solution for their financial problems. This put a sudden break on my ambition of higher studies and spending even few days waiting for the results, became unbearable in such a situation.

I wanted to pursue my Higher education at IITs, but by considering the dismal home affairs, I opted out for the Job. It wasn't too easy to get a job in Mysore/Bangalore and I decided to migrate to Bombay even though I did not have any offer in hand. I neither knew anybody at Bombay to help for a job nor had given any job interviews. My grand uncle Sri Mohandas Shenoy was working in the Civil Engineering department of MIT Manipal and helped me to meet his Head of the department Prof. M. A. Pai. I got a letter of recommendation to his industrialist friend Mr. K. K. Bhargava, Owner of M/S Bee Electronics Pvt Ltd, at Bombay. With few hundred rupees left in my pocket, I reached the dream destination on 31st December 1984. I was fortunate enough to get selected for the Job on the very next day (1st January 1985) after reaching Mumbai, which provided the much needed relief. My cousin sister was the only local support in the already crowded Bombay city. She stayed in a
One Room kitchen Flat at Ghatkopar with her husband and two children. While working, I realized that my hard-earned Engineering Degree has hardly taught any skills required for the Job. With the help of few seniors in the company, I tried to acquire the necessary skills but the job satisfaction was missing.

During February 1985, our final results were declared indicating successful completion of graduation in First Class with Distinction. Even though this news brought relief, stress of Bombay life had already started taking its toll. Regularly suffering from fever and cold, I lost considerable weight in the subsequent four months. With the onset of summer, train travel in rush morning and evening hours, surviving in the city appeared tough.

Job at M/S Bee Electronics Pvt. Ltd, was becoming a tough task mainly due to mismatch in expectations vs skills possessed. By learning the essential skills to work on Photocopier Machine, radios and tape recorders, few months were spent. I tried to acquire as much experience as possible with the help of other engineers. Changing job was the appropriate option and I started applying for multiple vacancies to the advertisements appeared in newspapers. My present job involved local travel to different companies every alternate day to procure components, product testing and this enabled me to attend few interviews even when I was on duty. It was a great challenge and somehow finished seven months of working over there before I joined my next assignment.

“Mistakes, Failures, Insult, Frustration and Rejections are part of Progress and Growth. Nobody ever achieved anything worthwhile without facing these five attributes.”

First Job friends Radhakrishna Nayak and Ramaraya Shenoy
Career at V.P.M’s Polytechnic, Thane

Joining as Lecturer in the Electronics Department.

During my desperate job hunt in Bombay, I appeared for an interview for the post of lecturer, even though it wasn't a profession of my choice. There was no forthcoming industry offer and I was keen to switch over from my existing Job. By chance, against multiple applications at different organizations, I received the first call for this towards the end of May 1985. The interviews were arranged at the office of V.P.M's B.N.Bandodkar Science College. The panel consisted of Dr. V. N. Bedekar, President, Sri R. K. Gokhale, Project Coordinator / Chairman, Sri K. D. Desai DTE nominee, Sri K. G. Vaze, Incharge Principal and Sri S. K. Apte, Principal of Science College. It was a great experience and I was offered the post to join from 1st August 1985. Being a new Institution, the Management appraised me about the expected dedication for the development of infrastructure. Being very young and badly in need of job, I was well prepared to take up the challenge. Polytechnic was temporarily functioning from Science College in the initial two years since its inception in 1983 and students had to face hardships to get classrooms, lab and workshop facilities and even teachers. I sensed the amount of difficulties likely to be faced while doing my duties. In the third year of Polytechnic (1985-86), Management decided to shift activities to the Law College Building as their sessions were held in the evenings between 6 pm to 9 pm. For me it was the maiden experience, a tough task as the first batch had entered into Final year and their fundamentals were unclear due to lack of facilities and faculty in the earlier years.

V.P.M's Polytechnic Thane, was the brainchild of Sri R. K. Gokhale, who himself was an Electrical Engineer. After his retirement from Tata Consultancy Engineers (TCE), he became an active member in the team led by Dr.V.N.Bedekar. He prepared the initial project report to be submitted to State Govt to receive permission to start a Polytechnic in 1983, which went on to become the Jewel in the crown of Thane city. He himself took care of all the administrative responsibilities and the faculty of Science College helped in engaging the lectures and practical during the First year. Few teachers from Science College viz, Sri N. D. Mandge, Sri D. R. Chowdhary, Mr. Phegde and lab staff were full of support in the
formative years.

In the Second Year, Prof K.G. Vaze who was a retired textile faculty from VJTI, joined in 1984 as Part-time Principal. I accepted my job as lecturer in of Electronics Engineering on 1st August 1985. It was a great opportunity for me to showcase talent as the institute was in its infancy stage. I joined the institute along with Mr. N. B. Divekar who took charge of Chemical Engineering Department on the same day. Though I got into teaching by chance, I started liking it with the acceptance from students. In addition I taught the subject Data Processing at the Department of Management Studies, for over fifteen years.

Lecturer and Incharge of Department

The Diploma classes were to begin later in the month of August and I started preparing notes of theory subjects as well as for practical setups. We were also required to help in the office for Admission process. The Office had few staff members viz… Head clerk Mrs. M. V. Dani and Clerks, Mrs. A. A. Chapekhar, Mrs. Jayshree Kelkar, Mr. Hemant Puranik, Miss Pratima Murkute and Mr. Sadashiv Koli. Mr. Koli used to manage all the external duties, of Bank, Office of DTE, BTE and Suppliers. It was a dedicated team with people of different nature. They had joined the New Institute and quite good at their assigned tasks. It was all manual system, and with a good number of new people having joined, there was quite a huge generation gap in our working and their thought process. For me, I had a language barrier as well. Most them were fluent in Marathi, where as I could communicate only in Hindi or English. Polytechnic had hired services of few retired teachers. Mr. Bhagwan Sutavane, Mr. Karve, Mr. D. N. Inamdar, who tried their level best to teach the students without much success. Mr. Inamdar, was managing the theory and practical examinations in addition to engaging few lectures. Unfortunately after completing the last day of summer examinations activity, he went home and passed away in sleep. The influence of young teachers dominated in the students and within couple of years, the retired faculty were discontinued. There were new faculty joining every year but only to leave within few months after getting better opportunities. Electronics and Instrumentation Departments were not getting enough teachers as they were in good demand in Industries, Government and Public sector undertaking Jobs.
In the Electronics Department there were two excellent technicians Mr. Jacob and Mr. Devadatt Yadav. Dedication of theirs in preparing laboratory set up, keeping everything ready on time was of great help as I took care of theory subjects. Team became very popular amongst the students due to commitment and ability to convince them. Last two years there was dearth of good teachers and students were very desperate to learn when we took over. We filled the void with the help of many visiting teachers who engaged the students on Saturdays and Sundays.

I was the only full time teaching staff in the Electronics Department for managing two Diploma Programs. There were few guest faculties for other subjects who were only engaging lectures on Saturdays and Sundays. I had been busy for the entire day in preparing for the theory subjects as well as practical. By looking at the amount of work load, Project Coordinator Sri R.K.Gokhale did not hesitate in sanctioning me additional incentive for the extra effort I was doing in the Institute. I was busy throughout the week with regular and extra assignments which helped me to repay my debts and send some money every month to my parents.

After joining VPM, I shifted to a PG accommodation at Saraswati Lodge within a walking distance from the Institute. It was affordable but had different types of people around. It was only a place to rest during night as most of the daytime was spent at the work place. I had to be very conservative for my personal expenses as there was acute need of monetary support back home. My first year at the Polytechnic, which incidentally was the Final year of the First Batch of students. They were satisfied with the inputs given for Theory, Practical and Projects. The Farewell turned out to be emotional one, with most of the students expressing their gratitude to teachers for helping their studies at a crucial juncture. As God could wish the Industrial Electronics batch got 100% results. In the Instrumentation batch only one student failed out of the eleven appeared for the exams. This pleased every stake holder i.e. Students, Parents, members of management and the newly admitted candidates. Management was too happy to acknowledge the academic success. Myself and Mr. Divekar were appreciated for our role in the institutional development.

Sri K.G.Vaze, after two years stint as the Part Time Principal, expressed his desire to be relieved as he found the job of managing a
new institute is becoming stressful for him. VPM started its hunt for a new Principal in May 1986. Polytechnic had many guest faculty from Industry as well as from different Institutes. **Mr. S. S. Mujumdar**, who stayed in Dombivli was travelling daily to SBM Polytechnic at Vileparle. He was one of the guest faculty in Chemical Engineering, well accepted by the Students for his unique style of teaching. Sri. R.K.Gokhale, was looking for a young person, convinced him to take up the responsibility. Mr. Mujumdar gave up his job as a lecturer in a Govt Aided system to join as the Principal of a private institution. His earlier experience helped to delegate the responsibilities and developing a new Institution. Polytechnic had few teachers, but everyone dedicatedly contributed for the academic and co-curricular activities by keeping students interest in mind. By this time Polytechnic had few more teachers in **Mr. S. V. Mohite**, **Mrs. N. V. Vader for Electrical Power Systems**, **Dr. Mrs. R.K. Jambochar, Mrs S.M. Gupte** for Mathematics, **Mrs. A.A. Vairagkar** for English, **Mr. A.R. Patwardhan** for Applied Mechanics and Engineering Drawing.

**APLAB Scholarships:**

While studying at SJCE Mysore, I was fascinated to work with equipments such as Oscilloscopes, Function generators, Power Supplies, Digital Multimeters, etc mostly from APLAB. Now that I worked geographically close this industry and had a long cherished dream of visiting the company. Sri. R.K. Gokhale knew the MD of this company **Sri Subhash V. Joshi** and this helped us to procure many APLAB equipments to the Department. As these instruments were very rugged and my familiarity with their handling, it helped us to prepare large number of experiments for the benefit of students. **Sri Subhash Joshi** along with his actress wife **Mrs. Suhas Joshi**, were the **Chief Guests** at the Annual Social Gathering Organized at Gadkari Rangayatan in 1986. The Chief Guest announced four annual scholarships (Two toppers each from First and Second Year) of Rs 3500 each which was the Tuition Fees of students and choice to join APLAB after completion of Diploma. Company also gave preference to other Diploma holders from the institute in employment and appreciated the talents. The APLAB Schorships continued till 1997 and over forty students were benefitted with this recognition.
With the joining of new staff, punctuality of academics improved. The backbone and the Project Coordinator of Polytechnic Sri R. K. Gokhale was guiding the Principal and other faculty working in the Institute. He was quite conservative in his approach and supported only the essential needs of departments. Due to age related issues, he was using a Hearing Aid. For the departments need, I was meeting him daily to appraise on activities and to get his guidance. He had supreme confidence in me after going through the year's performance. Once his Hearing aid turned faulty, he thought I could repair it being an engineer. Scarily I opened it, replaced a faulty component and made it functional. He was too happy to acknowledge as he could hear others and this brought a smile on his face.

Sri R.K. Gokhale was a native of a village called Dhaulvalli, in Rajapur Taluka of Ratnagiri District. It was a backward place with no schooling facility. As a part his service, he started a Primary School in the name of his mother. The school didn't get govt. grant in the initial few years, and he paid the salary of School staff from the meagre contribution from villagers and spending from his own savings. He was visiting the village travelling by the night ST bus regularly to oversee the functioning. During rains, journey used to be very cumbersome. He was on a visit to the School for the Independence Day celebrations, he fell ill suddenly. Somehow he reached the village home, but could not recover. He passed away on 16th August 1987 leading to sudden grief and sorrow. It was an unexpected blow for Polytechnic, VPM and the village School as he was the pillar of strength of all these units. It was a big personal loss to me, as all my activities received his appreciation and guidance.

Polytechnic decisions regarding faculty, development etc were taken regularly on the recommendation of Sri R.K. Gokhale. Post his death, for the smooth functioning, Management decided to form a Polytechnic Committee to guide the Principal for the day to day functioning and implementing policy decisions. Polytechnic was functioning in the shared premises of Law College during 1985 - 90.

Government norms compelled the Institute to have its independent building and other facilities. Management laid the Foundation stone for the independent buildings of Polytechnic in the year 1987. With Sri Vasantrao Pansare as the Architect and Sri Pendse as the developer. In the Thane College campus, Polytechnic has the credit of establishing First Computer Laboratory with three PCs in the year
1987, for offering Certificate Courses in Wordstar, Lotus, dBase etc. The investment made were recovered within two years through the Certificate Courses which became very popular amongst the Campus students. The Centre was inaugurated by Sri M. G. Nayak, I.A.S, Deputy Secretary, Technical and Higher Education department in July 1987.

Polytechnic was active in curricular and co-curricular activities and it was decided to publish annual magazine every year from 1987. Mr. A. R. Patwardhan, Faculty for Engineering Drawing suggested the name POLYZINE to the annual miscellany.

On personal front, I was still thinking of a better industrial career as it was the destination focus I considered while studying engineering. Whenever I saw appropriate opportunity, I was applying to appear for interviews. Regular, part time opportunities and the affection shown by the management, often discouraged me from leaving the organization. The career in Uniform was in the back of my mind as I wanted to take a revenge against setback faced in IAF after PUC. In September 1987, I saw an opportunity in Indian Coast Guard as an Assistant Commandant in technical cadre. After clearing entrance test, Interviews and medical examinations, I was asked to report to join the defense career in January 1988. But the destiny had other plans. Management thought of my role as an indispensable part of the institute, requested me to continue and gave up the opportunity.

Lab technician Mr. Jacob left for greener pastures in the Gulf after three years of working. The department saw addition of Mr. Shankar Shetty, a retired Army Signal of Corps technician. He was an asset to the department. He knew the servicing of every electrical or electronic gadget and highly disciplined. He was a self-motivated individual who never waited for any instructions. His table was neat and clean and he was always busy doing one or the other task. There were no non-working equipments in the laboratory managed by him and he always respected the duties.

I was keen to pursue my higher education by all means and at any cost. In the last three years, I cleared all my bank loans and other liabilities. After consistent efforts and with great difficulty, I secured admission for M.E. in Computer Engineering at VJTI Mumbai in September 1989, and the struggle further intensified. I had just shifted to a Row House near Airoli and it was a tough task to manage,
Job, additional work and the Travel. Two years of perseverance at VJTI helped me to upgrade academically as well as intellectually. I used to attend lectures at VJTI in the mornings, have lunch at Rama Nayaks at Matunga and engage students in the afternoon till late evenings. I completed my Master's degree within One and half years including a month's successful Internship at Siemens and conferred the post-graduation with First Class in 1991. In the meantime, I got promoted to the post of Head of the department from 1st August 1989.

I met Mr. C. S. Limaye, an Instrumentation Engineer from Herdillia Chemicals in 1986. He was one of the committed guest faculty to teach Instrumentation subjects on Saturdays morning sessions. Students used to eagerly wait for weekends and the 9am-12noon session was very popular and it benefitted them immensely. Some of his friends like Mr. B. K. Godbole and few others came together and in 1989, we formed the India Chapter of Instrument Society of America (ISA). I became the Chapter Secretary and we organised many guest faculty activities and conferences.

In the year 1989, Directorate of Technical Education, Maharashtra State, constituted committees to inspect the functioning of Self financed Institutions started from the year 1983. There were over hundred Polytechnics in the State. Teams with subject experts visited Polytechnics to verify the infrastructure, laboratory equipments, library, teaching learning activities etc. It was the first instance of external committee visit and everyone was worried about the outcome. The quality focus, team work and the excellent student performance, won the appreciation of the visiting team. Polytechnic promptly received the A grade from the State Govt, based on the recommendation of the DTE.

Initial two buildings and a spacious thousand sq.m Workshop was ready for use by the end of 1989. The Academic year 1990-91, commenced from this new building. This year also saw few more faculty addition in the form of Mrs. Usha Raghavan, Mrs. Kirti Agashe, Mrs. Vaishali Joshi, Mr. T. V. Mohite Patil and few more. This helped me further to focus on planning of new programmes and developmental activities. The teachers had acquired adequate expertise in teaching their respective subjects within a short span and the Institute could delegate department responsibilities on them independently.
In the year 1991, Polytechnic applied for **Advance Diploma in Computer Software, System Analysis and Applications** affiliated to MSBTE Mumbai as well as **Certificate Courses** affiliated to Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET). This was a major milestone to optimize the facility utilization as these initiatives helped in generation of substantial additional revenue generation. Six months courses such as **Certificate in Computer Operations, Certificate in Computer Programming, Certificate Course in Web Page Design** etc were offered to students as value addition programs.

Prof. S.S.Mujumdar, using his earlier contacts at the Vocational Board put in efforts to start Industry affiliated trainings. The Attendant Operator Chemical Plant (AOCPP) and Maintenance Mechanic Chemical Plant (MMCP) activities were started in the Chemical Engineering Dept. The Basic Training Centre (BTC), started in the year 1994 for **NOCIL, BAYER, PIL, Herdillia, NRC, Savita Chemicals, Gharda Chemicals** and many other nearby Chemical industries. Many trainees employed by the companies successfully completed their Basic training in the Workshop and laboratories of Institute. Many staff members who were a part of this activity earned additional income as well as the Polytechnic generated healthy surplus every year till 2004.

I was too motivated to present papers and organize conferences due to my exposure to ISA and proximity to many Industrial experts. On **9th and 10th March 1990**, Polytechnic organized a two days National Conference on the topic Process Control Instrumentation. The Chief Guest was **Sri C. S. Joshi, MD and CEO of M/S Ornate Chemicals Ltd**, who incidentally was a member of our Management. The Conference had delegates from well known industries, and students were enriched with the inputs from experts. As there was no auditorium available, the event was organized at **Brahman Sabha hall**, which asserted our Industry Institute Interaction efforts. Till now most of the students used to get employment in industry with the able efforts of Mrs. A. A. Vairagkar, an English teacher who also looked after the placement of students. It was one of the brilliant-never-before efforts and all the committee members, staff and students enjoyed this technology festival thoroughly.

During the year 1991, Polytechnic decided to organize a National Conference **Techno Fair** in the newly occupied building. The
Workshop was converted into a Conference hall, to seat all the students, staff and delegates. Polytechnic decided to felicitate Sri Prabhatkar Shankar Deodhar, President of APLAB, at the Inaugural session, for his contribution as the Chairman of State Electronics Commission of Govt. of India under the Prime Minister Sri Rajiv Gandhi. The Instrument Society of America (ISA), promptly acknowledged and appreciated the initiatives of the Polytechnic in their Newsletter.

Polytechnic formed its ISTE Chapter in the year 1992, with all the teachers becoming its Life members. The membership of professional society enabled the teachers to attend ISTE Annual conventions and Faculty Development Programs at different states, and it was a good opportunity to interact with fellow teachers. The Polytechnic ISTE Chapter was inaugurated by Prof. B. B. Chopane, Director of Technical Education (DTE) Maharashtra State.

Due to mushrooming of Professional education institutions throughout the country, MHRD GOI, decided to give powers to regulating body All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), with its Head Quartz at New Delhi. All the existing Institutes were asked to apply to this regulating body for approval, addition of new courses, Increase/decrease in intake capacity etc. Principal bestowed all the regulating body related activities to me and I got the opportunity to visit New Delhi every year for one or the other reason. As mandated by the State Govt., our Polytechnic too got its First AICTE approval in the year 1994.

The Institute in the last decade showed steady progress with all it's seats filled as per intake capacity. The tuition fees were fixed at Rs 3500 per annum got increased to Rs. 6000. With the Institute having more staff, the Salary and other expenses started mounting. It reached a stage where the Polytechnic started facing deficit. Management started introspection of starting a Self-financed Institution. The turbulence gradually receded and with the upward revision of fees, institution survived, the tide for next few years. Polytechnic Non-Teaching Staff from the permanent category formed a Union and their attitude posed enough trouble in organizing different activities. To control the expenses, Management decided to recruit future faculty only on contractual basis. Tough decision was implemented and this resulted in the attrition of few good faculty.

Mr. N. B. Divekar and Prof. S. S. Mujumdar, were very popular
amongst the Chemical Engineering students and the diploma holders did well in the Industry. They had also designed few training programs for Industry personnel at BAYER, Gharda Chemicals and few more companies. During one such trainings, I was lucky to meet my PUC friend Mr. Diwakar Shenoy, who did his BE in Chemical Engineering from MIT Manipal. After graduation, he joined Gharda Chemicals Ltd. at Lote Parshuram. Presently he is the CEO of Gharda Industries Ltd.

Prof. N. B. Divekar had special interest in guiding students for IIT and other entrance exams. As there was change in focus, he decided to give up Polytechnic Job in 1996. It was a big set back to the department, as he was an indispensible and popular teacher and his absence was felt severely.

Principal was finding it difficult to manage unpleasant administrative activities for various reasons. He was a teacher at heart and found little pleasure in doing other than academic activities. On the other hand I was enjoying networking and other administrative activities by giving due credit to him. In fact most of the meetings with Management, he used to take me for getting the better feel of policy matters. He recommended my name to be considered for the Post of Vice Principal, so that the work doesn't suffer in his absence. This helped me to understand the system better and include many more activities for the Institution. Management promoted me to the Post of Vice Principal in 1st January 1996, which widened my horizon.

Polytechnic received AICTE permission for the increase in intake capacity of Electrical Power Systems in the year 1997, and for Instrumentation in the year 1998 from 30 to 60. With this rise annual intake of First year increased to 240.

All the four diploma programs, BTC, Certificate Courses and Advanced Diploma programs doing very well, Polytechnic showed all round progress.

Polytechnic added more and more computers and other equipments to develop better facilities. Faculty take to take up a big event Everyone was worried about Y2K towards the end of 1999 and onset of 2000. Polytechnic also hosted its website www.polytechnic.org which was later merged into www.vpmthane.org The third and fourth Academic buildings got
added to the existing structure by the start of academic year 2000-01.

The Millenium IT Exhibition. (13th – 15th October 2000)

The team of Electronics and Instrumentation Dept finalized a program of IT Exhibition, as there were many Computer vendors who wanted to showcase their systems. None of us had any past experience of such mega event management. 13th -15th October 2000, were finalized as the dates of exhibition. Over 35 exhibitors confirmed their participation and we converted all the class rooms into Exhibition stalls. Mrs. Kirti Agashe succeeded in getting Mr. Pramod Mahajan, the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and Parliamentary affairs as the Chief Guest for the Inaugural session at 10am on 13th October 2000. It was a dream program for the campus to host a union minister, and he was looking forward to visit the campus of his Ambejogai School teacher Principal Nadkarni. The inaugural session started at sharp 10am and the chief guest mesmerized the gathering with his oratory skills for over an hour. We had to prepare a special venue of over 1000 capacity to accommodate delegates and VIPs apart from the exhibitors. The event was too grand one probably in the history of VPM, got extensive press coverage. The event gave me the highest amount of satisfaction of my career.

First Alumni Meet (26th March 2001)

Polytechnic had completed over seventeen years of functioning and Alumni often visited to meet their teachers. The senior faculty seriously thought of arranging a get-together of the past students and to have an interaction with them. The office pitched in by giving the available contact addresses of most of the passed out students. Over five hundred students right from the first batch attended the grand reunion and were happy to seek the blessings of their favourite teachers and meet them after a gap. Many showed interest to do their bit for enrichment of institutional activities. Since then every department utilizes Alumni connection for guest lectures, Industrial visits, sponsorships and many more student related activities.

Diploma aspiring students and parents started inclination towards Computer related courses. Institute received AICTE permission to Start Diploma in Information Technology in August 2001. The Course began from Academic year 2001-02. Polytechnic also received AICTE permission to start Diploma in Computer
Engineering from the year 2002-03. The total intake capacity of Polytechnic now increased to 360. Polytechnic also received State Government approval to start Advance Diploma in Industrial Safety with a intake of 30 in the year 2002-03, which got increased to 60 in the next year.

NBA Accreditation to Diploma Programmes (2004-2007)

For ascertaining quality in the AICTE approved institutions, NBA New Delhi, invited proposals from established institutions of credibility. National Board of Accreditation, New Delhi, was formed as a part of AICTE to prepare and implement system to provide certification of accreditation. With all the motivated faculty in place, it was decided to apply for accreditation of four eligible programmes, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Power Systems, Industrial Electronics and Instrumentation. The documentation started in early 2003, and the peer team of nine experts including the Chairman, visited the Institute on 30th, 31st Jan and 1st Feb 2004. Ours was the first Self-financed Polytechnic in the Mumbai, sub region to go for this exercise and succeeded in the efforts. All the four programs received accreditation for a period of three years i.e. 2004-2007. For the Polytechnic this was an additional feather in the achievements of the institution.

Demise of President of VPM Dr. V. N. Bedekar (14th April 2004)

Our President Dr. V. N. Bedekar, was dedicated to his medical profession and education. His dream of establishing quality schools and colleges were realized and every unit performing with excellence. The School and Campus enrolments had already catering to over 13000 students, it was a sense of satisfaction to this Shikshan Maharshi of Thane. The campus itself was known as Bedekar College, a landmark tribute to this noble person. Even at the age of eighty-six he was particular about his patients and commitments to attend each and every college events. Punctuality was his trademark and he was a man of few words. His presence itself was creating aura around in all the events organized. The dedicated selfless down-to-earth leader, was always supporting in every activities with his insightful inputs. He passed away following brief illness on 14th April 2004, and entire campus student and staff fraternity mourned the death. I had the fortune of meeting him on many occasions and felt loss of a fatherly figure & guiding force.
Polytechnic
Bhoomi Poojan by President
Dr. V. N. Bedekar
(1988)

In One of the Annual Social Gatherings
Sri L. G. Deo,
Dr. V. N. Bedekar,
Sri S. V. Karandikar and
Sri V. N. Marathe

With Prof. N. B. Divekar and
Prof. S. S. Mujumdar

S V Karandikar,
Sri C. S. Joshi
Janakavi P. Salvaram,
Dr. V N Bedekar,
Dr R T Kulkarni and Prof. N B Divekar
Staff Picnic at Alibaug (1988)

Staff picnic at Murud.  
Mr. R V Nene,  
Mr N V Vinze,  
Mr. Divekar and  
Mr. A D Patwardhan

Murud Picnic Group Photo  
(1989)

Staff Group photo  
(1996)
Polytechnic ISA Chapter (1989)
Sri S. S. Mujumdar,
Sri V. N. Marathe,
Sri S. V. Karandikar,
Dr. V. N. Bedekar,
Sri D. B. Kharde and
Sri S. K. Apte

Welcoming Chief Guest
Sri Pramod Mahajan and
Guest of Honour
Sri Ullhas Pagey for
Millennium IT Exhibition
13th October 2000

With
Sri Pramod Mahajan
at Inaugural Session

As HOD of Electronics Dept
(1991)
Present
BJP Vice President
Vinay Sahasrabudhe
in the Audience for
Millennium IT Exhibition

With
former union minister
Sri Suresh Prabhu

With
Sri M N Chaini, VP RIL,
Sri Achyut Godbole,
Sri B P Tale Director
MSBTE and other
dignatories

With
Prof R K Shevgaonkar,
Former Director
IIT Delhi
My career took off after becoming the Head of the department and focus shifted more towards the institutional development and revenue generating activities.

I was very keen on having more activities such as value addition certificate programs to generate surplus revenue to the Polytechnic. The development of First Computer Centre in the Campus for students in 1987, offering certificate courses gave impetus as large number of students registered to the programs offered.

During 1991, Polytechnic received DTE permission to offer Advance Diploma in Computer Software System Analysis and Applications. In the same year DVET granted permission to offer Certificate courses of Six months duration for Computer Programming, Computer operations, Web Page Designing etc. The Courses were of part time duration and soon became very popular amongst the Campus students as well as outsiders.

More Industry training programs, Certificate courses and other activities which added value as well as serve for additional revenue generation became my priority. The efforts since 1990, showed excellent results, but with additional earning for staff willing to work for extra hours. The activity generated adequate surplus which came quite helpful at the time of extension of Buildings and to add new utilities to various departments.

By looking at the overall activities and prospects of revenue generation, it was decided to form an independent unit, Information Technology i.e. I T Centre for offering all the Courses not coming under the Purview of AICTE NewDelhi.

The Information Technology Centre was inaugurated by Prof. C.Y.Mowade Director MSBTE Mumbai on 5th October 2000, and it created a new era for various activities. With independent team of staff, the center remained open from 8am to 8 pm daily, which helped many working students complete value addition programs of their choice.

In addition to Advance Diploma Programs, the Institute received permission to start MSCIT by the MKCL in the year 2002. In the first year itself, Institute trained over 600 candidates and felicitated for one of the best performing units of MKCL in Thane.
Since inception, this unit proved to be a great support system for the Polytechnic due to variety of activities and regular on going programs.

Management transferred the responsibility of Computer Training of Students of Dr Bedekar Vidya Mandir Primary and Secondary Section to IT Centre. The State of the art separate facilities were developed to both sections and the centre staff helping the School administration in their IT and Examination related activities. Presently IT centre offers three Advance Diploma Courses affiliated to MSBTE Mumbai. The Advance Diploma in Industrial Safety program has become a flagship activity and its alumni since 2003 are successful in renowned industries and contributing hugely to the institutional development. They are actively supporting the National Conferences organized and helping the future batch students in getting placements.

Every year, over 300 students enroll for various programs and it is a one stop facility. Presently Centre with an overall annual fees collection of above Rs 50 Lakhs, generating healthy surplus. It is a great satisfaction that we could convert the available opportunity/facility into a revenue model which is supporting the Polytechnic and Management immensely.

The Centre is efficiently managed by two dedicated coordinators, Ms. Hemangi Sawant and Ms. Rupali Kane who are the alumni as well. Over ten staff members manage IT centre and School activities to the satisfaction of all the stakeholders.
IT Centre Lab

IT Centre Staff
Ms. Priyanka Khambe,
Mrs. Sheela,
Mrs. Rupali Kane,
Mrs. Hemangi Sawant,
Mr. Vinayak Ghevde,
Mr. Tanmay Bhoir

IOSH Accreditation
Mrs. V. A. Joshi - HOD,
Mrs. S. D. Khandagale - Lecturer, IS Dept.,
Mrs. Rupali Kane & Mrs. Hemangi Sawant,
Co-ordinators, IT Centre with executives of the IOSH.
(2013)

Receiving award for best performance from Dr. Vivek Sawant
CEO, MKCL.
(2019)
Taking over as Principal  
from 1st June 2004

“A good leader does not think that he is better than everybody else. He just sees himself as a part of the group. A sense of belongingness makes him to interact with the ones he leads. Developing good human relationship skills is a necessary quality in a successful Leader.

- Sri Sri Ravi Shankar”

It was my privilege to take over as the Principal of the Polytechnic with effect from 1st June 2004. Prof. S. S. Mujumdar, who worked as Principal since 1st July 1986, superannuated on 31st May 2004. He had conveyed his desire to get relieved after completing the services. Management started looking for a candidate and advertised for the post in the month of March. Even though there were few external applicants, to continue the progressive activities, VPM was looking for an internal candidate. Interviews were scheduled on 3rd April 2004, and I was selected for the post by following all the statutory processes. I was already handling multiple responsibilities since 1996, in the capacity of Vice Principal, and automatic choice for the responsibility. As I was familiar with most of the administrative procedures, it was an easy transition of responsibility. Only difference was I was popular as a Task master while my predecessor was a people oriented administrator. The selection committee recommendation was communicated to the Joint Director's office for the DTE approval. Former Principal was given a grand Fare-well on 31st May 2004 for his dedicated services of over eighteen years and I took over the reins after his retirement. Even though he retired from the post of Principal, continued for another fourteen years as Emeritus Professor in Chemical Engineering dept.

Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar takes over as the Chairman of VPM Thane

Passing away of Dr. V. N. Bedekar, was a big blow to VPM of which he was one of the founders and important member for more than fifty years. His worthy son, and an active member, Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar, took over the affairs of Vidya Prasarak Mandal. He is a task master and has many innovative ideas for aggressive implementation. A widely travelled and well-read scholar, he tried to balance his medical profession as well as guiding the heads of various
institutions. He is quite progressive, and always thinks ahead of time. Having visited great campuses of Oxford and Cambridge, he wanted excellent academic infrastructure for all the institutions. Owing to his initiatives, Campus got a Central Server Room, the fiber optic backbone laid across all the buildings and Internet connection in the year 2000. College campuses were the early ones to implement the online admission process as well as the Student Database Management System. Polytechnic tactfully introduced Dress Code for the students to bring better discipline in the Institute. Monthly meetings of heads of the Institutes with the Management members were scheduled to discuss progressive initiatives and proper communication amongst colleges for the effective management of resources. Each College was mandated to arrange at least one National Conference per year on emerging areas with the participation of faculty and students of other institutes.

**National Conferences** : Polytechnic organized its First National Conference on 8th August 2004, on the subject *Pollution of Water Bodies in Urban Areas*. The event received excellent response from speakers and delegates. The Conference received AICTE grant of Rs 1 lakh, in addition to other sponsorships. The Conferences were announced at least in a year in advance for the proper preparations and to get best possible outcome.

Polytechnic received AICTE permission to start Diploma in Medical Electronics with 60 intake in the month of August 2004. Due to delayed permission, course commenced from the next year 2005-06. The total intake of the Polytechnic increased to 420. However spurt in Computer branches indicated decline in admissions to Chemical Engineering. Hence Institute applied to AICTE to reduce the Intake of Chemical Engineering to 30. From the Academic year 2005-06 the annual intake stood at 390, with seven Diploma programs offered.

The accreditation of Diploma programmes motivated departments to apply for various grant schemes of AICTE. The Electrical Power Systems Dept received a MODROBS grant of Rs. 5 lakh in the year 2005-06.

**Visit of Union Minister Suresh Prabhu** :

In the year 2005, Prof. V. S. Bhakre, was invited to join Polytechnic along with Prof S. S. Mujumdar, as Emeritus Professor.
He always had the dream of bringing Industry experts to the Campus amongst his Corporate friends. He was a motivator, and an inspiration to his students especially of Marketing fraternity. He was a visiting faculty for DMS as well while working for Hindustan Ciba Geigy (Syngenta) and even later. His sessions used to be fun-filled with full of energy and exercises. After the formation of BRIMS, he decided to be a part of Polytechnic team to guide final year students on Management topics as well as to help in getting Industry support to National Conferences. He organized Conferences such as Can India be the Asian Tiger by 2020. At the Make-shift Conference Hall in the First Floor of Polytechnic Building. The Program was graced by Prof. M. M. Sharma, of ICT Mumbai, Sri Rajendra Singh, Sri Suresh Prabhu MP, Sri Prakash Paranjape MP and many other VIPs.

Visit of Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy:

The Thorale Bajirao Peshaware Hall was under renovation and was ready by the end of 2005-06. Mr. Bhakre thought of a theme for Conference Challenges to Indian Multinationals. This was an extensive subject and had started efforts to get Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy as the Key note speaker for the Program. He was following up with Infosys for over six months to ensure the presence for this Conference. I had the privilege along with Prof. V.S. Bhakre, to receive him from the Infosys Guest House at Vileparle. The program was presided over by Sri. P. S. Deodhar, President Aplab Thane. It was one of my life time experiences to escort this Indian IT giant, who wore his billions best.

First International Conference Paper Presentation

I had already developed my interest in the renewable energies and wanted to choose this as my research area. I had read about scope of Hydrogen as a future automobile fuel. A paper authored by me along with Mrs. Usha Raghavan on the topic “Storage of Hydrogen in Carbon Nanotubes” was selected for oral presentation in an International Hydrogen Energy Congress 2005, organised at Istanbul Turkey during 13-16th July 2005. It was my first foreign visit and provided me extensive inputs for research with interaction of large number of experts.

Polytechnic organized Second Two days national conference on Alternative Energy Sources on 27th-28th August 2005. The
Conference received grant from the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) New Delhi, Pitambari Products and many other industries. Hon. Member of Parliament Sri Prakash Paranjape, was the Chief Guest along with Dr. Rangan Banerjee Dean of IIT Bombay as the Key note Speaker at the inaugural function. Sri Ravindra Prabhudesai, MD and CEO of Pitambari Products inaugurated the exhibition along with Mr. Sanjay Sethi IAS, Municipal Commissioner Thane.

The MNES also sanctioned a grant of Rs 5 Lakh for the development of District Level Energy Park to be established in the Campus. Due to certain operational delays at the nodal agency MEDA, the Energy Park was finally established in the year 2009.

By this time Polytechnic had established credibility at MSBTE and DTE with many of faculty involved in various support activities. Polytechnic worked as Project Institute for Curriculum, Lab Manual, Model Solutions development.

**National Awards to Polytechnic and the ISTE Chapter (2009)**

Institute's ISTE Chapter was very active and faculty members were deputed to attend ISTE annual conventions every year. With allround activities and good academic performances, Institute applied for National awards. For the year 2009, VPM's Polytechnic Thane, was adjudged as the winner of the ISTE- Narsee Monjee Award for Polytechnic having Best Overall Performance in Maharashtra State. Polytechnic also received the Best ISTE Chapter Award in Maharashtra and Goa. Both the awards were presented at the 39th ISTE Annual Convention on 18th December 2009, at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal. It was a great moment for the Institute to celebrate its success for being recognized as one of the best institutes in the State.

Polytechnic annual miscellany was renamed as INNOVISION from the year 2011-12 and the name was suggested by Dr. Usha Raghavan. First Issue of INNOVISION magazine was released at the hands of Dr. S. M. S. Shashidhara, Dy. Secretary MSBTE Mumbai. I was nominated as a member of Special Committee, Constituted for the Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education, wide order no MSBTE/D-10/2011/328 dated 25th November 2011. The committee was an advisory body to the Director on specific issues of the MSBTE for a period of five years.
Formation of Entrepreneurship Development (ED) Cell:
Under the leadership of Mrs. Usha Raghavan, the ED cell is formed to encourage the students to start their own ventures.

Excellence in MSBTE Institute Monitoring
MSBTE started Academic Monitoring of the Polytechnic Diploma programmes on the basis of Key Performance Indicators from the academic Year 2011-12. The Programmes scoring over 85% score were awarded Excellent Grade. All the Polytechnic programmes received letter of appreciation from MSBTE for securing Excellent Grade for all the Diploma and Advance Diploma Courses.

Polytechnic Programmes Reaccreditation by NBA New Delhi:
Institute applied for reaccreditation with the necessary processing fees of all the programmes in 2007, before the completion of validity duration. Inspite of regular follow ups, NBA didn't send the peer team for visit. The laxity continued till 2015, and as per Washington Accord, NBA changed the accreditation process to Outcome Based System compared to earlier Process Based System. Dr.Usha took responsibility of studying the SAR document and trained almost all the departments to prepare the reports simultaneously. It was almost more than a year's hardwork resulted in the sophisticated document preparation and we uploaded all the essential information by November 2016. The Peer team visited the campus on 24-26th March 2017, and all the five eligible programs were granted provisional Accreditation for a period of two years ie. Upto 30th June 2019. In the meantime the Industrial Electronics and Instrumentation branches admissions got reduced significantly as a result of which the Accreditation of Computer Engineering, Information Technology and Electrical Power Systems branches got extended upto 30th June 2020. The Deficiency Compliance Visit by the NBA was scheduled on 9th February 2020 for the three programmes. Institute is fortunate enough to receive the extension for a further period of three years. The Polytechnic has accreditation of three programs upto 30th June 2023. Presently Polytechnic Office is efficiently managed by a young team consisting of Ms. Sunanda Dabhade, Mr. Vinayak Ghevde and Mrs. Vaishali Sutar and other support staff.

Maturity is not about speaking big concepts. It's about understanding the little realities of life.
Principal since 1st June 2004

Visit of Prof. Anil Andhare
Former Principal, Govt. Polytechnic, Mumbai (2004)

With Padmashri Sri Rajendra Singh (2005)

With NRN Murthy, Ashang Desai, CEO Mastek
Sri P S Deodhar, Sri A C Joshi (2006)
With Dr P.M. Kamath and merit rankers at VPM Kannada School Mulund (2007)


Addressing at a function organised by Pravin Patil Polytechnic, Bhayander with Sri Vasant Davkhare, Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra and Mrs Ranjana Patil, Principal (2007)

VPM Office bearers with Heads of Institutes during Convocation with Chief guest Commissioner of Police Sri B. Shivanandan IPS (2007)
Polytechnic Governing Body Meeting (2008)

Alumni Sachin Jakatdar of Sachin Travels (2008)

Governing Body Members Visiting the Silver Jubilee exhibition (2008)

With former VC Prof Rajan Welukar of Mumbai University and other dignitaries during a National Conference
Musical Mastro
Anup Jalota,
G R Kinimam,
Ashok Prabhu and
Sri Rasal

Kids Deepa,
Divya, Saurabh
with Anup Jalota

With
Pandit Upendra Bhat
Sri Suresh Bapat, and
Sri Dilip Joshi

Prof D.S. Meshram,
Joint Director and
Prof V R Jadhav
Former Head G P
Mumbai and Presently
the Secretary, MSBTE
Mumbai
Blood Donation Camp sponsored by HDFC Bank on 5th December 2014. Seen in the photo Asst. Vice President Mr. Sudesh Shenoy

Former colleague and friend
Sri S V Mohite IPS
DIG Police, Nashik

Felicitating
Dr. P. M. Khodke
Director MSBTE

With Alumni Association
Office bearers
Mrs S. D. Khandagale
Mrs Dipti Chowdhary
Mrs. Kirti Agashe
Mr Rajesh Solanki
Mr Suyash Kulkarni
Mr Santosh Patil
(2019)
Sri Shyam Gokhale explaining role of his father Late Sri R K Gokhale in the Polytechnic development 15th Sept. 2019

With the NBA peer Team Members 1st Feb 2004

With the NBA peer Team Members (2017)

NBA Committee Members along with Faculty on 9th February 2020
The establishment of Vidya Prasarak Mandal's Dr. V.N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies (2005) and Maharishi Parshuram College of Engineering Velneshwar (2012)

I feel privileged to be a part of two premier projects, in the initial stages to get the approval from the All India Council for Technical Education New Delhi. I express gratitude to the Management as it was an enriching experience to plan and execute activities for new institutes and subsequently become a part of their history.

Both the institutions have gained popularity and credibility within a very short span and catering to the skill development initiatives by following the quality standards established by Vidya Prasarak Mandal Thane in particular.

AICTE Approval To VNBRIMS (2005-2006)

Role of guest faculty at Institute of Management Studies

VPM’s another unit, the Department of Management Studies started in the year 1973, section of Arts and Commerce College, was offering evening Management courses. When I joined Polytechnic in August 1985, its Director Mr. Ashok K. Govande, was desperately looking for a faculty to engage the subject Data Processing for the Post Graduate program, Diploma in Management Studies affiliated to the Mumbai University. Somehow he came to know through sources that a faculty with Computer knowledge had joined the Polytechnic. The Office Superintendent Sri Nirgudkar, came looking for me with the permission from Sri R.K. Gokhale. The sessions were scheduled between 6 pm to 8 pm, which was well after the Polytechnic timings. The Subject hardly had any experts in the Campus at that point of time as the Computers had been newly introduced. I grabbed this chance and taught subjects to the post graduate students. It gave me an opportunity to hone my teaching skills even before I started with diploma lectures. I continued this assignment for over a decade and half when this program started losing luster against MBA programs offered by other Management institutions.
Founder President Dr. V. N. Bedekar, had an unfulfilled dream of MBA program at the Institution of Management Studies. The response to the existing certificate courses were dwindling. The Management decided to introduce AICTE approved MMS program. This was a befitting tribute to the former President and the new Institute named as Dr. V.N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies (VNBRIMS).

Responsibility of preparing the Project Report till getting the AICTE approval was assigned to me in September 2004. Prof. V.S. Bhakre, who retired from Hindustan Ciba Geigy, was the Director, managing the affairs of IMS with few administrative and visiting faculty. By fulfilling all the AICTE norms, VNBRIMS received its AICTE permission to start MMS program with 60 Intake capacity on 30th June 2005 with affiliation to Mumbai University.

V.P.M's Maharshi Parashuram College of Engineering (VPMMPCOE) Velenshwar

Our former President Dr. V. N. Bedekar, was closely connected to the village Velenshwar in Ratnagiri district and he had desire of doing some developmental activity. Having successfully started the Management institute in the year 2005, Dr. V.V. Bedekar, present Chairman started working on an ambitious project of having State-of-the-art Engineering College at this village. The initial project plan, AICTE proposal and implementation responsibility was entrusted to Polytechnic team. The quiet village is located on the shores of Arabian Sea. Adjoining beach is very clean and natural fringed with Mango, Coconut and cashew nut farms. The village is also a popular tourist spot. The calculations of area requirements, architectural plans, need analysis as per AICTE norms were worked out in the next couple of months. After procuring over 30 Acres of land, the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony was performed in a grand manner in the presence of large number of
special invitees which included all the heads of VPM institutions. In the next three years, all the construction activities progressed and the requirements to start with the First Year of the Engineering College were fulfilled. Many Polytechnic staff helped in developing the technical infrastructure and to keep everything ready, before the arrival of AICTE, DTE and Mumbai University Expert Committees.

VPM Thane, submitted its proposal to start the Engineering College from the Academic Year 2012-13. The Expert Committee visited the VPMMPCOE Campus on 17th February 2012, and the AICTE New Delhi accorded permission to start the First year, for Five Engineering courses, Mechanical, Electrical, Computer, Instrumentation and Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering affiliated to Mumbai University. Dr. A. V. Chincholkar and Dr. K. D. Desai were appointed as the Principal and Director of the newly formed Engineering College with faculty of First Year and other departments. Today the Engineering College has excellent infrastructure and one of the State of the art facilities of Mumbai University, recently accredited by NAAC.

![Principals, other heads and members of VPM along with Chairman during a visit to VPMMPCOE in 2018](image)

**Satkarma Prathistan**

Founder President Dr. V.N.Bedekar launched this last project in 2003 especially to help the needy members of society. After his demise, project is continued by his daughter Mrs Alpana Bapat, Sri M.Y.Gokhale, late Sri M.N.Patil, Sri Dilip Joshi and other trustees. The activities include taking care of elderly patients through needy maids, scholarship assistance to poor students, felicitation of genuinely serving assistants and paying a musical tribute while commemorating anniversary every year on 14th April. Polytechnic Acknowledges the receipt of scholarship to over 50 students so far by this organisation.
Memories to recon with : Turkish experience

International Hydrogen Energy Congress (IHEC)
13th - 16th July 2005.

The Energy generation through Hydrogen is becoming a matured technology in the developed countries like Germany, Japan, Korea, USA to name a few. The innovations, research, sustainability and commercialization were the aspects for the Conference and there were many researchers and Universities ready to share their knowledge. The depleting conventional fossil resources worldwide focusing towards alternate sources. I got a wonderful opportunity to interact with the global experts in the field. My paper titled Storage of hydrogen through Carbon Nanotubes, co-authored by .Mrs. Usha Raghavan was selected for oral presentation.

Venue

It was my first International exposure to present a technical paper before a global audience. The venue Lufti Kirdar Convention Centre, Istanbul, had the state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate over two thousand delegates in the main auditorium and a huge exhibition hall. In addition, there were eight small for parallel sessions. It was a Municipal hall with up-to-date maintenance and professionalism was visible at the venue as well as in the event management.

Hydrogen based vehicles, which are likely to be on the roads in large numbers after 2020, were on display. It was an enterprising and sincere effort of the organizers to find a viable alternative to what probably a serious global problem of future.

Turkey

Turkey is a developing country and one of the growing economies of the world.

*Instanbul* is the only city in the world that is nestled in two continents Asia and Europe.

It offers abundance attractions such as Ancient Blue Mosque,
Topkapi Palace, the covered market for jewellery, handicrafts, Turkish carpets and Turkish food. Turkey is an ancient country, which was influenced by thirteen civilizations over the Millennium. This is a treasure-toast for historians.

Istanbul city has excellent transport facilities with underground metro-tube-rail. The state railways connect country's major cities. Large number of organized private bus companies provide frequent day and night services between all cities with modern vehicles.

While taking a stroll in a shopping market on one of the evenings, along with my fellow delegates from BARC and Jodhpur University, we had a surprise meeting with a Turkish minister of Justice and Development Mr. Hiisegin Kansu. Unlike our ministers, he was accompanied by his advisor and an Interpreter. He introduced himself and was very much pleased with our presence in their country. He exchanged few words and enquired for our comfort and wished a pleasant stay. This made me feel even more secured in a foreign country. In all, I returned enriched with nice exposure to the emerging area from a beautiful country.
Report: A visit to Moscow, Russia
6th to 10th February 2006.


About the Conference:

International Forum “Hydrogen Technologies for Energy Production” was organized by the Federal Agency for Science and Innovations of the Russian Federation under the Russian Chairmanship in the G8 Countries. The conference was held during 6-10 February 2006, at the President Hotel in Moscow. I was invited to present two papers, out of which one in the plenary session. The title of the paper was “Socio Economic aspects of Hydrogen Energy- Indian Perspective”. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) New Delhi sponsored the visit.

It was one of the opportunities for the Indian Hydrogen Energy activity. In my paper, I presented some of the initiatives by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), New Delhi. There were prominent institutes such as BHU, IITs which encouraged work in this area. From the global perspective, it was observed that our country lacks focus in research in this specific field. To tackle the present energy crisis, transport fuel spiraling prices, it was a high time to have a strong desire and vision in place to get answers to the crisis.

The International Hydrogen Energy Association, United Nations Industrial Development Organizations-International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies (UNIDO-UNICHET) is encouraging the global technology development in the areas of Energy generation through hydrogen, storage, transportation, commercialization, standards & codes and safety related issues.

Some of the commercialized Hydrogen based applications have been already in place. Developed countries have made remarkable progress in the last decade. Shell, a global petroleum fuel leader has shown concern against depleting fossil resources, volunteered the research in hydrogen fuel transport. Today it provides fuel to the largest fleet of vehicles in US for mass transport in hydrogen based buses. According to Shell, Hydrogen can be burnt in petrol engines and it's greatest potential comes from it's use in fuel cells, where it
represents a potential sustainable energy system for the future. Depending on how hydrogen is produced, it can reduce global greenhouse gases (CHG) and local air pollution. Carbon emissions are zero if hydrogen is produced using renewable power to electrolyze water.

Presently, storing using quantities of hydrogen is complicated and expensive. It requires high pressures and very low temperatures to liquify. Getting fuel to customers (transport) is another challenge. Safety related issues are yet to be addressed. Once all these hurdles are overcome, hydrogen's role as transport fuel will grow steadily in the coming decades.

**Hydrogen Energy- Future solution to fuel crisis**

There is enough energy for the mankind, which will last for generations. These resources come at a price, which developed countries afford to pay and developing countries struggle to shell out. Most of the present energy is through fossil resources, which are exhaustible.

According to the present knowledge, oil and natural gas are in the mid-depletion points and the coal reserves will last for couple of centuries. The energy consumption trends, pollution levels which are in the rising. India imports more than two thirds of its needs.

Abundant energy is crucial for economic and social development of country. Urbanization, Industrial growth, changing (comfortable) life-styles are the reasons for hike in energy consumption. India's annual growth rate is 4-6% in the last two decades and the energy demand is rising by about 10% every year. As the power projects are quite expensive, and there is nominal increase in generation vis-s-vis demand. At present there is a large mismatch between demand and supply, resulting in load shedding in almost at all cities. This is the beginning of the energy crisis.

The situation is likely to worsen in the near future. It is the high time that the technocrats and scientists to do adequate research to make them sustainable, viable and useful. Human population is growing at the rate of 2 to 3 Crore per year. To provide meaningful future, there is a need for increased use of energy. Such different forms of energy will guarantee comfortable existence and wellbeing of people.
The exhaustible resources are taken from the earth's crust and return them to atmosphere in a altered form resulting in pollution, toxic

Gases, greenhouse gases, solid carbon particles etc. these are the burden on the environment and risk climate change. Some of the effects of are global warming, change in land fertility, variation in rain pattern, increase in temperature etc.

Today we are on the threshold of energy scenario where there is an acute need for increase in energy generation. The non-conventional energy source where there is little awareness among the people should be dealt with seriously. India can do very well in the field of energy generation through solar, biomass, solid waste, tidal, geothermal as well as hydrogen. With appropriate planning, support from govt to R&D activities, and education to masses, our country may succeed in overcoming the probable crisis.

About Moscow.

Moscow is the Russian capital city. It's population is over ten million with around two million working people. Majority of the people speak and all the business and educational activities are conducted in Russian. For about four months (December to March), the whole of Russia reels under extreme sub-zero temperatures with night temperatures dipping below -30 degree celsius.

I reached Moscow during such period to get a first hand feel of climate. The normal life gets paralyzed as the outside world becomes too hostile due to freezing cold and everyone needs to remain indoors. The houses and residential/office buildings are heated to 20 degree to make daily activities possible.

Being a country with this kind of climate, the people are used to manage their living. Ice is accumulated everywhere outside and there is no chance of agricultural activity during this period. In fact Ice-movers are used to remove the ice accumulated on the roads and pedestrians lanes to clear the path.

The municipal agencies supply hot water round the clock. In fact Russians are quite used to this climate, which persists for few months and well prepared to take care of their food and other needs. The transport facilities are fitted with heaters and lighting systems as these vehicles are required to drive through chilling cold.
The Russian Government

Russia is visualising its future plans and has brought out a book Russia-2050, the strategy of innovative breakthrough. The monograph is aimed at the foundation of a long-term strategy of an innovative renovation of the society based on the realities of twenty-first century. This has been prepared by taking into account the background of global transportations of the first half of the century embracing the global economy. The Russian economy, social science, identification of trends and prospects for the transformation of high tech, energy and consumer sectors, evaluation of scenarios for innovative developments and their effect using reproduction-cyclical and geo-civilizational macro models. This is a scientific thought focussed on the development of a new vision of a rapidly changing society.

According to Russians, the post-industrial scientific paradigm is underway and they are getting prepared well in time.

*Best Attitude: I will win; Not immediately, but definitely.*
With Hydrogen Energy Experts

With Moscow Conference Chair

Delivering Keynote Address

Delivering a Special Lecture
Mou

Northern College, Timmins, Ontario, Canada

It was a matter of pride that we got an opportunity to tie up with Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology, Timmins, Canada to facilitate the further education and subsequent employment for Diploma students.

With the educational scenario undergoing metamorphic change, this was one of the best opportunities for those who wished to study and settle abroad especially in Canada. After a series of video interactions with Prof. Fred Gibbons, President of Northern College, me and Dr. P. M. Kelkar visited the Porcupine Campus in Timmins during 11-13th May 2009. The city of Timmins has significant East Asian population, and we had the dinner hosted by locals with all Indian menu. With the excellent MSBTE Curriculum, Northern College was confident about the better future of students who wished to pursue this option.

The MOU did offer training and lifelong career opportunity from the Institute which had over a century experience with worldwide recognition. The institute had the federal govt funding for over seventy percent and rest were taken care by the resources generated. Each department of the Institute had industry supported lab with not more than 20 students per division to ensure skill based training. All the students were selected for the employment in associated industries even before the completion of the program. The industries which employed students facilitated their further stay and other facilities. The northern college arranged for our visit to local industries, gold mine and other Campuses. The local media covered the visit news giving cover page highlight.

The students were to receive Advance Diploma from Northern College within a span of one year to make them ready for employment. Mr Fred Gibbons, visited Thane Campus on 15th June 2009, for signing an MOU between Northern College Canada and VPM Thane. He visited the MSBTE Mumbai to interact with the Director and other officers. He also visited two local industries Ashida Electronics & APLAB and impressed with the work environment in both the industries.
With Prof. P. M. Kelkar, Prof. Fred Gibbons and his Colleague at the Northern College

Meeting with Northern College executives

Visit to underground Goldmine in Ontario Province

The Daily Press Timmins, Ontario covering the Visit news
Visit to Salzburg Austria

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

Session 463

GREENING THE MINDS:
UNIVERSITIES, CLIMATE LEADERSHIP, AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES.

July 11 - July 16, 2009

RENEWABLE ENERGIES: Way To Global Sustainability

I was invited to attend the Session 463 of the Salzburg global seminar on the theme Greening the minds: Universities, Climate Leadership and Sustainable Futures. The main focus was the Sustainable Futures Academy with the involvement of selected institutes, universities around the world to design a strategic and collaborative approach for SFA.

I was selected for the Fulbright-Hays Federal Assistance Award of U.S. Department of State to attend this global debate. The assistance amounting to US$ 2000 covered Travel and Visa expenses. The American Centre in Mumbai, facilitated my visit.

Schloss Leopoldskron, the conference venue infrastructure was commissioned as a family estate in 1736 by the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold Anton Freiherr von Firmian (1679-1744), a member of Tyrolean noble family. Together with adjoining Meierhof, is the eighteenth century castle, the venue of Salzburg Global Seminar. It is located in the outskirts of Sazburg, Austria. Schloss is in the outskirts of city within couple of kilometres, with a spectacular view of the Alps.

This beautiful city is the home for Salzburg Global Seminar since 1947. The first session offered education on American Literature, Art, History and Culture. Salzburg is the city of Mozart the Sound of Music. The calm setting and nourishing food, amenities were enormously appreciated by the participants from the countries long at war. Founded by three Harvard students, Salzburg Global Seminar, has been addressing global issues over the last sixty years. The success of the First session prompted the founders to gather funds for the Second session in summer 1948. Since 1947, over 25000 fellows all over the world attended 460 sessions at the global seminar venue.
This is a leading global institution that challenges current and future leaders to develop creative ideas for solving global problems. An independent, non-profit organization, convenes imaginative thinkers from different countries, cultures, professions to develop strategies for change. It organizes problem focused initiatives, supports leadership development and engages opinion - makers through active communication networks.

The venue has local paid accommodation and food facilities for the duration of the event. Being a FH Scholar, I was entitled for complementary facilities of food and accommodation. During the free afternoons, we were permitted to use the cycles for the local tour which turned out to be a pleasant experience.

Protection of environment, climate and its responsible preservation for the generations to come is a demanding societal, scientific, economic, engineering, educational and political task. Utilization of fossil resources to a great extent has already posed many challenges and the world is on the threshold of a serious consequences such as global warming, different types of pollution, speed of new discards and vulnerability of living beings to health related issues. Countries of the globalized world have already started taking steps to understand the implications, work on renewables and provide viable and sustainable solutions to the inevitable crisis looming over the mankind.

Near the Lake view before Alps Mountain Range at Salzburg Austria

With the Scholars attending Session 463 : Salzburg Global Seminar
I couldn't pursue Research soon after post graduation due to other priorities. My career took off after becoming the Head of the department and focus shifted more towards completing the Masters education as well as the Institutional development. For the next two decades, my focus got a bit diverted from research as Institute was progressing in leaps and bounds with many additional activities of Polytechnic, IT Centre and VPM.

**The Research Instinct**

Post millennium, my urge to become more inquisitive gained momentum, as we started organizing Conferences on emerging trends. While discussing with experts, the realization of obsolescence of our knowledge and the need to unlearn for learning new things started. The thought of getting outdated made all the faculty to choose one or two emerging areas. I used to have interaction with Dr. D. D. Kale, former Prof. UDCT, Dr. S. Siddhan and Prof. V. S. Bhakre to discuss about the prospective research topic on multiple occasions.

Our Institute started organizing National Conferences from the year 2004. It was the true beginning of learning about the emerging areas from the Polytechnic perspective. Students and faculty were made to work a year in advance and interaction with experts throughout itself was rejuvenating. This helped departments to upgrade and remove obsolescence in the knowledge front. In fact I did my Masters in Computer Engineering in 1991, but by the time I thought of research, the IT field had advanced much beyond what I expected. Now my interest had switched towards renewable energies and was inclined towards Materials Science and Power Electronics.

In the meantime, in 2006 I got a chance to present a paper on Hydrogen Storage, that too in an International Conference at Istanbul, Turkey. Interaction there with many Indian and International experts, made me to take up keen interest in the subject.
Hydrogen Energy as a Future fuel and issues concerned with this could be an area for research. This indifferent approach posed many challenges right from registration till the award of degree. But it gave me immense satisfaction that I did work in an interdisciplinary area and completed it from the Institutions of eminence at VJTI and IIT Bombay.

After having presented few study papers in this promising area, I registered for my Ph.D in VJTI Mumbai during January 2010. Prof.H.A.Mangalvedekar was kind enough to be the Internal guide and Prof.S.K.Mahajan, the then Director of Technical education as External Guide. The admission process completed in February 2010 and I couldn't enroll for any credit courses during the first semester. The registration for the courses at IITB were open for July batch. During the few months period, I did extensive literature survey and collected enough publications, which helped me to prepare future Conference and Journal papers.

Credit Courses at IIT Bombay

After enrolling for research, it was essential to complete few credit courses related to the topics identified in addition to the research methodologies. My subject was highly specialized and having a need for experimental set up. The facilities for the same weren't existing at VJTI. VJTI had an MOU with IIT Bombay for doing such courses and under the Continuing Education Programs (CEP), I got a chance to enroll for two courses in July 2010. It was like getting back into classroom learning after almost two decades, that too in a highly competitive environment.

Faculty at IIT Bombay

The faculty at IITB are high profile and extremely committed. The performance was assessed through continuous assessment, midterm exams, quizzes and end sem exams with relative grading. Most of the students studying here were the top rankers who have qualified with excellent score in the entrance exams ie. Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineers (GATE). The students are the best of the lot and doing their work on full time basis. The students who are doing research get selected though highly competitive IIT level entrance examinations. At least from my point of view it was a huge challenge to learn in the company of brilliant students of half of my age and still prove relevance.
As the semester progressed, learning started getting more and more tough. It was quite difficult to deal with too much of complex mathematics and the application of latest technologies. Thought of dropping out crossed mind very often. By putting a brave face, I started telling myself All is well even though it wasn't so.

At IITs, students as well as the faculty stay in Campus and interact throughout the day and even during late evenings. Time management used to go for a toss, when I was required to attend late sessions. It was a privilege to learn in the company of best talents. Four months since July were quite nightmarish as I had to deal with expectations against age and time. By December the ordeal was finally over with the completion of end sem exams. I wasn't optimistic about the outcome, remained skeptical in spite of giving my best. I was thrilled when the course results were declared indicating successful completion with some of the best grades among CEP candidates. It was a lifetime experience, I shall relish for a long time and surely strengthened my belief in the saying, there is no substitute for hard work and discipline

The Best Paper award: First Prize at Vision 2011.

BVIT Kharghar Navi Mumbai organizes the Technical Paper competition for Faculty and Project Competition for students every year known as Vision. As a part of my research, I decided to present a paper at the Competition Hydrogen- Future Fuel. The paper received the appreciation of the organizers and won the First Prize. It was a motivation to continue the research in an unexplored area, with few co researchers. But in the company of IITB faculty and permission to use their laboratory facilities made my task look result oriented.


The International Conference was organized and hosted by the Fuel Cell Institute, University of Kebangsaan, Malaysia, in association with Centre for Materials Technology, Indonesia. Understanding the potential of hydrogen as a renewable future fuel and Fuel Cell as its main component to convert into Electricity. The vision of Hydrogen Economy 2020, was the focus and the very objective is to establish networking amongst the researchers and industrial sector. The Conference provided scope to review and exchange innovative ideas, scientific breakthroughs, prototypes and
demonstration of projects, commercial opportunities and the level of R&D efforts by prominent experts. My research on Hydrogen Storage and work on Ammonia Borane experimentation was in progress at IIT Bombay facilities. The hydrogen release properties of this material and work done by many others gave me opportunity to do extensive experiments. I prepared a preliminary study paper with the early results and submitted the same to the conference for approval. I got a chance to present my paper in the August gathering of researchers on the subject Hydrogen Storage in Amine Borane Complexes.

I completed four Courses including the mandatory Research Methodology program at the premier Institute. Thanks to the MOU, as I got access to the laboratories at Energy Sciences Department as well as Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility. The best part was we were provided with lab facilities at very nominal charges and I was motivated to do as many experiments as needed for my studies. In the mean time I published two papers based on the results obtained and VJTI permitted me to submit my thesis in 2014, only to ask me to resubmit again. I was asked to perform few more experimental work using Electronics circuits for Power conditioning and the Thesis was finally accepted in 2016. But the last three years were truly testing times of patience and perseverance and somehow I succeeded in the mission.

The research brought out two excellent Conference papers and three peer reviewed Journal publications before the award. It was a great learning experience and one should go through the same to remain relevant in whichever field they are pursuing.

I completed all the formalities and my open defense was held on 22nd September 2017. Dr. Rangan Banerjee Dean of Research of IIT Bombay was the External Examiner and it was a happy ending to the adventure. Mumbai University awarded the Ph.D at the Convocation held in February 2018.

“Education is the name of our attitude, actions, language, behavior & personality with others in real life.Confidence is better than perfection, because perfection means doing the best but confidence means knowing how to handle the worst.”
Research Guides

Dr. H. A. Mangalvedekar
Prof. VJTI Mumbai

Dr. S. K. Mahajan
Director DTE MS

Poster presentation at
II Sc Bangalore
(2009)

Attending workshop
at IIT Bombay
(2009)

Group Photo of
Research Scholars
and Guide of Electrical
Engg. Dept. of
VJTI Mumbai at VJTI
(2015)
I stayed with my sister at Ghatkopar for initial few months in Bombay. I had great support from my elder uncle’s family at Vasai and younger uncle’s family at Andheri. I was visiting them occasionally on holidays/festivals and spend quality time. It was a rejuvenating experience in the company of near relatives. Within a month of joining VPM, I shifted to PG accommodation at Saraswati Lodge near Jambli Naka in Thane. This relocation reduced my daily traveling time as I could walk down to institute in five minutes. It was a place where over 20 members stayed in the First floor, and the owner's family stayed in the Second floor. A kind hearted land lord Sri Bhau Mahajan, in his late 60's stayed with wife and unmarried son. It was an old dilapidated building, which had a common toilet and bathroom. We were dependent on outside food throughout. I managed my stay here for over three and half years with enough inconvenience in all the aspects except travelling. My friend from Science college, Sri. N. D. Mandge suggested a Row house in Airoli, at about five kilometres from Thane. By this time, I had saved just enough money and decided to shift to the place which fitted well in my budget. I knew a bit of cooking and managed to survive even though travelling was quite tedious as the harbour line trains hadn't started by that time. With great difficulty, I managed my work, studies at VJTI and part time activities as well for the next three years. Having realized the difficulties of staying far, I was looking for a house near to the college. After three years of row-house stay, I sold off my Airoli house in 1990 and shifted again to a Paying Guest accommodation in Ravi Uday Society near CIDCO Bus stop for next few months. The owner of the house was an old lady Mrs.Gadkari with her handicapped son. There I met Mr. Jayesh Patel and his friends who were already staying as PGs. Mr. Jayesh is an artist with multiple skills in printing & stationary, I introduced him to Polytechnic for providing different services. He proved to be very useful and reasonable and one point solution for general needs of the office and departments.

My friend Sri C. S. Limaye, was staying in a building known as Kamalpushpa CHS near Kalwa Bus Stop. He had plans to shift to a larger house in Thane and offered me his present home at a reasonable price. It was a one BHK house in the top (Second) floor of the
building which was nicely painted. I was impressed with the house and shifted to this place in March 1991. During vacations in May/June, I went to my native place for couple of weeks. On my return, the first week June saw heavy rains which resulted in flooding situation and our house developed heavy leakage from the terrace. I learnt a tough life lesson that one should never look for house in either Ground floor or Top floor with this experience.

It was over six years in Bombay, and I got married in November 1991, to a Banker. Smita's grandparents belonged to a village Palimar in Udupi district, but migrated to Bombay generations before. She was born and brought up in Bombay and hardly visited Karnataka before marriage. A Commerce graduate employed with Apna Sahakari Bank Ltd., she was good in managing home as well as work. Being a working partner, it was a turning point as we could put in efforts to jointly own a better house. Staying in the present house was quite challenging due to Heat in summer and leakages in the Rainy season. It took around three years to accumulate enough funds and sell the existing house and acquire a new one. We shifted to a relatively better building New White House CHS, a Second Floor Flat, in Kalwa. This flat was spacious and quite lucky from our family life point of view. We didn't have to face seasonal problem. Our bundle of Joy little Saurabh arrived in November 1996, and made our life more meaningful. As both of us were working, we were wondering at how to manage this little one after the maternity leave of three months. Smita decided to extend leave by one month till the little kid adjusted at the Caretakers. She was away from home from 8 am to 8 pm on working days and this was another cause of concern. We were fortunate to find a Baby sitter Shanbhags; close by, who took the responsibility of the Four month old along with their own child of two years. I had to leave Saurabh, at the Day Care in the morning at 8 am and bring him back after 5pm. We had another support from the Kulkarni's family who stayed in our building's Third Floor. They were fond of this Chubby Kid and their daughter took care of him in the evenings along with her homework. Even now he is equally attached to Kulkarnis as the Childhood bond seldom fades. Within one year, Shanbhag's were on their family extension way and we had to search for another Baby Care. Mrs. Meera Kamath who stayed in Manisha Nagar, came to our rescue. Saurabh spent next seven years under her care, and he learnt all the family values. He did his initial
schooling at Sahakar Vidya Prasarak Mandal's School till fifth standard. With the intention of shifting to Thane, we got him transferred to A. K. Joshi English Medium School at Naupada Thane. However, our relocation to Thane got delayed and he had to travel by School auto till his completion of SSC (2012). We shifted to a rented home for two years after selling the flat at White House (1999) and to stay at rented house in Vikrant Society for 2 years. In the year 2002, we shifted to a First Floor flat in Shree Yashwant CHS and stayed there till December 2013. The present house in Imperial Heights is a 2BHK house close to Railway Station, Bus Stand as well as to College Campus. He studied Diploma in Computer Engineering (2015) and did his BE (2018) at Shah & Anchor Kuttchi Engineering College at Chembur. He has grown up as an independent, friendly, adjusting, adapting and most importantly learnt all ethical practices for life. He is pursuing his Masters education **MS in Information Technology** at Deakin University Melbourne Australia.

Five Generations in the Family -
Grandmother, Mother, Sister,
Niece and Grandniece.

Marriage on
28th November 1991

With Uncle
Dr. Keshav Prabhu
and Preeti Aunty
(1998)
With uncle Dr Vasudev Prabhu US (1992)

Vasai Family (1998)

With Smita’s parents and brother Vivek at Ramnathi (1992)

With Grandmother uncle Taranath Pai and aunt Shobha Pai with their Children
Maternal Grand parents home (1991)

Smita with uncle Subbanna Nayak at Pilar (1991)

Grandparents house in Pilar (1991)

Hejamadi Home (1990)
Family Portrait

Saurabh with sister Neha

Family on First Birthday

One year old Saurabh with his friends at White house
Saurbh's First Babycare Shanbhags

With Uncle Madhu, Pooja, Nishika and Amey

With Prof Neelima Shastry and Kulkarnis (1997)

Mrs. Meera Kamath and Smt Shetty and freinds at Baby care
Tajmahal (1999)

Saurabh, Nitish and Ishaan with Grand Parents Smt Sheela and Anandrao Prabhu

Saurabh, Nitish and Ishaan with Namrata mami and Nagendra mama
With Deepa mami and Vivek mam

With Sheela Prabhu, Suman Shenoi, Deepa, Namrata and Smita

Mahabaleshwar picnic

Horse ride in Matheran (2012)
Nayak Family during Saurabh’s Thread Ceremony (2005)

Shenoy and Prabhu Family

Uncle Dr. R. G. Shenoy and Smt. Vidya Shenoy blessing Saurabh

Saurabh at Chinmaya Mission Camp
Saurabh attending a Shibir for Brahmapadesham Vatus (2005)

Smita’s Brothers and Cousins during Bhaubij.

Saurabh, Nitish, Shamika and Nitin mam

Group Photo of Rao Family whose children Vinita and Vishal studied Diploma at the Polytechnic
Family Portrait

Saurabh with cousin Pratik Prabhu in Melbourne

Saurabh at MCG, India vs Australia Match

Saurabh with his friends Melbourne
Saurabh receiving prize from Sri T S Pai Canara Lighting (2018)

Samridh, Anjani, Ganesh Brothers family at Gate Way of India (2019)

Manoj, Rashmi, Akshat, Manorama Vanni in Goa (2019)

Madhav's Thread ceremony 11th March 2020
About GSB Community:

Having born in Saraswat Brahmin family is a blessing in disguise. This is a rare minority community of over ten lakh population spread all over the world. The community families are specially blessed to have a Kuladevatha, Ishtadevatha, Gramadevatha, Dharma Peetha and Dharma Guru. Every male child of the family is required to perform Sandhyavandan after Brahmopadesham ceremony which is performed at around the age of eight. Community with a difference where education is given prominence, culture and ethics are introduced right from childhood.

Most of us have roots in Goa and the family deity's temples are visited by kulavis on regular basis. During Portuguese invasion, to prevent conversion into Christianity, most of our strong vegetarian ancestors fled Goa, towards south and other parts of the country. They settled in villages which offered them shelter and made it home for these deities as well. They were honest, good in trading and enterprising. Hardworking nature coupled with humility and commitment towards society made them important pillars of the village economy. They not only prospered but helped others also to improve their standard of living by creating different employment opportunities. They knew the only way in having a civilized society is to provide work to young and energetic hands based on the education, skills and abilities of individuals.

Every village in the south has a temple where daily prayers in the mornings, afternoon and evenings are offered and special occasions were celebrated. The affluent members generously contribute to the social functions and many families which struggled to sustain received help including the financial one from the community groups for education, marriages, hospitalization and in every hour of need.
For my Engineering education I too received financial support from GSB organizations across the country with a simple application addressed to them. The children who received the support showed their gratitude and continued to strengthen by repaying back in multiples so that activities of these community organizations became worthwhile even in the present scenario.

Early sixties and seventies saw many Private Banks such as Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank, Saraswat Bank, NKGSB Bank, SVC Bank etc which became popular within a short time and provided employment opportunities to large number of graduating youth from the villages and towns alike. In the late seventies some of these Banks became nationalized and now functioning as a part of country's financial backbone. This not only helped the society in improving the standard of living but made them important contributors in the social development as well. Today, GSB members on their own merit and abilities are doing well in IT, Management, Education, Manufacturing, Banking, Service and almost every sector for that matter. While excelling at their individual responsibilities, they take organizations to greater heights as well which is basically due to cultured upbringing, respect to elders, involvement in social activities etc. **Success should never go to head and failure should never go to heart**, is visible in acts of most of successful professionals when they mix with rest of their counterparts, whether it is a family function or a community program, everyone participates like a volunteer by keeping their Professional Status aside. It is not surprising that wherever our members settle, they make it their home and gel with each other especially at the time of joy or suffering. In Mumbai, the members settled in every suburb, they have their respective local units of GSB.

**Association with GSB Seva Mandal Kalwa Kharegaon**

I started staying in Kalwa since 1990 and had hardly any contact with fellow GSBs in the initial days. Due to hectic schedule and Part time assignments, I was keeping to myself without much interaction with locals. However, when it became too difficult to continue staying at Kamalpushpa CHS, we decided to shift to a better place to get rid of all the problems that are being faced.

It was necessary to dispose off the existing house and look for a better house I started networking within Kalwa. During one such
efforts, I came across Prabhu brothers shop near Sudama Society. Its owners and Mr. Ajit and Ashok Prabhu happened to be from a place Matti, close to my native place. This acquaintance turned into a strong future friendship and they introduced me to their friend Mr. B. Varadraya Pai. It's from here, I got the next house. Mr. Ramesh Shenoy of Matunga a close relative of Mr. B. V. Pai, had invested in a Second floor flat in New White House CHS Ltd was looking for a genuine buyer. It was quite a spacious flat where we stayed from 1994 till 2000. Within two rounds of discussions after seeing the flat, we decided to go for it as it fitted well in our budget. In the meantime, friend of one the residents of Kamalpushpa flat, showed keen interest in purchasing the existing flat. So within a span of one month in 1994, we shifted to the White House home in Kalwa.

During the stay at New White House CHS, I came across GSB Kalwa Kharegaon activities which had started in the year 1986 with about 21 Founder members. The Seva Mandal didn't have any place of its own. The registered address was the Residence of one of the founder member Sri Krishna A. Prabhu at New Sargam Society. Few functions such as Gokulashtami, Rig-upa-Karma and Annual Satyanarayana Pooja were being celebrated at rented halls in the nearby Sahyadri / Jnan Prasarini schools.

The dream Project Building Fund:

The member's strength in the area was gradually increasing and it was strongly felt that the Seva Mandal need to have a place of own for Office as well as for small functions. With limited funds for Education endowment and for program related expenses it was a herculean task to raise funds to the tune of about 10 lakhs. Mr. N. V. Prabhu became President in the late 1990's and Mr. V. R. Shanbhag as its Secretary and Mr. M. G. Shanbhag as a member we decided to convert the dream into a reality. I was only newly entered volunteer but had lots of interest to do something for the GSB community in Kalwa. In fact there were many families which struggled to make a living and we wanted to do a bit of help to them as well. Keeping the Building Space Project in mind, we started working on this Project. We prepared an Appeal to all the life members to contribute minimum Rs 6000 each, which was the construction cost of Five sqft space in the year 2002. Our visits on all Sundays during the year to member's residence to explain and
convince them yielded excellent response. We had a God send developer in Sri Santosh Atmaram Patil of Rana Builders, who wholeheartedly gave us a nicely articulated Ground Floor flat in the Rana Tower Building near Kalwa Station. The Rakshogna Havana was performed on 26th December 2004 & Navagraha Vastu Pooja and Ganapathi Havana on 27th December 2004 by a team of priests led by Sri Vedavyasa Bhat. It was a grand achievement in the history of Seva Mandal. The Eighteenth Foundation Day and Shree Satyanarayana Pooja was held at this new premises and the Hall was dedicated to the members on 2nd January 2005, in the graceful presence of Chief Guest, the local MP Hon. Sri. Prakash Paranjape. He arrived at the venue on time and appreciated the members commitment to the social cause. He was felicitated by the President by offering Shawl and a memento. The occasion marked the presence of local corporators and other special invitees. The program was attended by over 400 members who witnessed a grand event of the local unit. A Souvenir was published to commemorate the occasion. Since then Vyasopasana Samiti members perform Bhajans on Saturdays between 6PM to 8PM.

Grand Celebrations of Silver Jubilee (1987-2012):

The Seva Mandal with its new office became very active and decided to take up few more projects. The Hall is made available to members for any small events which became popular. The Seva Mandal registered in 1987, was to celebrate the Silver Jubilee in 2012. It was decided to organize few events through the year to mark the occasion and come out with a Silver Jubilee Souvenir. Members worked very hard to get history details and with support of large number of sponsors, the Silver Jubilee Souvenir was published on the occasion of Foundation Day celebrations and Shree Satyanarayana Pooja held on 8th January 2012. The Chief Guest on the Occasion was Sri.Ulhas D.Kamath, President of Konkani Triveni Kala Sangama who released the Souvenir in the presence of all the dignatories and members. The event was held at Jnana Prasarini School in Kalwa.

In the last two decades the Seva Mandal made steady progress and enhanced Education Endowment Funds, Building Fund as well as the Medical Assistance Fund. Seva Mandal had been felicitating Children of Life members from Jr.KG to Post Graduation for their
Academic achievements. Poor students are provided with Scholarships to supplement their fees along with free Note books.

**Creation of the Medical Assistance Fund:**

The Medical Assistance Fund project announced during Silver Jubilee celebrations has generated sufficient funds, from whose interest, Seva Mandal is Supporting the Mediclaim policies of around nine families since 2014. For last two years the families are provided with Rs.5000 assistance per family to take care of their medical expenses.

The venue of Annual Foundation functions at Kalwa was becoming too small to accommodate the increasing number of members attending function. Many of Kalwa GSB members are attached to Thane GSB Mandal and they were regular in attendance. To provide better spacious venue for the Foundation day celebrations, Seva Mandal approached Vidya Prasarak Mandal Thane to provide their Hall. Since last five years the Cultural, Sports and Annual Foundation day Functions are held in this Campus in a grand style.

**KTKS Konkani drama Hoon Udka Ghotu**

On October 2019, GSB Mandal Thane and GSB Seva Mandal Kalwa Kharegaon, jointly organized a Konkani Drama Hoon Udka Ghotu. The event was attended by over 400 members and well appreciated by everyone including the KTKS team. So far GSB Mandal Thane and Kalwa units were independently celebrating different functions. This joint venture brought a special flavor and it was well organized and enjoyed by everyone.

**The Social sensitivity exhibited during Lockdown period:**

The announcement of Lockdown brought many families to their knees due to loss of Jobs of their earning members and other hardships they were already going through. As spirited volunteers, the committee decided to provide possible assistance especially by supplementing their needs for food and essential commodities. For the initial fifteen days in April, around twenty families were provided afternoon lunch and thereafter groceries were provided. In the month of May fifteen families were given financial assistance, in addition to the support they got from other GSB organizations. The Seva Mandal also provided PPE Kits and Masks to the local Police as an acknowledgment of gratitude to their relentless service. Hon.
Secretary Mr. Madan Shanbhag, former President N V Prabhu, Mr Ajit Prabhu helped in executing the assistance.

As a part of this Organization, I got an opportunity to take forward the good work done by our founders. Everyone here is sensitive and responds to the needs of fellow members for celebrations or even emergency. It is like an extended family, with people interact with each other and remain connected

**Work Together**

*Team work is the ability to work together towards a common vision: the ability to direct individual accomplishment towards organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.*

- Andrew Carnegie

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**Right Behaviour**

*Respect your fellow human beings, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it*

- Bill Bradley

*Never view kindness as a weakness, it takes a lots of strength to be kind in today's selfish world.*
Honouring H H Sri Vidhyadhiraj Vader Swamiji

The GSB Kaiwa team for community hall project (2005)

Chief Guest releasing the proceedings

GSB Community hall by Sri Prakash Paranjape MP. (2nd Jan 2005)
Inauguration of Rana Tower Hall

Saurabh receiving felicitations from Sri H Devidas Bhat

Music program by Vignesh Joshi and Team for Kaiwa GSB

KTKS Drama
Hoon Udka Ghotu
13th Oct 2019
With Sri R V Shenoy and Sri Yashwant Kamath, President GSB Thane addressing on the occasion of Annual Foundation Day celebration (2019)

Be so busy in improving yourselves that you have no time to criticize others.
Expositions by His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji, 20th Mathadhipati of Shree Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi

An ideal household is the one in which all members love each other. They cooperate with each other. They mutually share joys and sorrows. It is essential to help other members of the family when they need help. All work of the household is everyone's work and it has to be done in a spirit of love and cooperation. In such a household, there is harmony and peace of mind for all the members.

An ideal house should be run systematically. Everything should be arranged neatly and kept in its place. In an ideal household, there should be respect for elderly people on the part of youngsters, and elderly people should love the youngsters and give them guidance. There should be a small corner in every house for prayer and worship. All members should pray at such a corner set apart for prayer and worship. Joint worship and prayers are important in keeping household as a harmonious unit. A Tulasi plant, which is worshipped with faith, should be maintained in every household. It has a purifying effect on environment and is good for health. The hallmarks of an ideal household are regular prayers to God and cooperation among family members.

Guidelines to Youth:

Youth is most precious period in a person's life. It should not be wasted in any way. On the contrary, it should be put to fullest use, to make one's life happy and successful. In Youth, one has great energy, enthusiasm and good health. As old age creeps in, although a person
may have intelligence, money and all other resources, declining health, lack of energy and lack of same degree of enthusiasm as in youth come in the way of great accomplishments.

Young people should cultivate good habits which will last them for a long time. For instance, getting up early in the morning, cleanliness of the body, regular prayers and worship of God are good habits to be cultivated in young age. These habits lay a solid foundation for a happy and successful life.

For good health, regular physical exercise is necessary. In youth, one should cultivate such a habit of regular exercise. The body functions properly when it goes through the routine of daily exercise. It helps for the digestion of food, keeps limbs in good shape for an active life, and contributes for good health. The benefits of exercise becomes more evident as old age slowly replaces youth.

The biggest enemy of youth is idleness. It should be shunned as poison. Idleness in youth does not mean merely lack of any purposeful work. Idleness in young age turns the mind of youth to evil and destructive activities. Every moment of life should be engaged in doing one's duty and useful work.

Apart from doing one's duty well, young age is the proper time to learn to serve others. Service of one's fellow human beings is an integral part of a happy. There are innumerable opportunities to serve society. It is a way in which one helps the less fortunate or those who need help. Service teaches one many virtues such as humility and love. These virtues help one to lead a happy life, particularly in old age. Service to one's fellow being is one of the best ways of pleasing God.

Young people should learn to distinguish between good and bad and avoid all evil in life. Bad qualities like gossip should be avoided with determination. One of the worst things which should be fought in early life is anger. Anger leads one to do things without any reasoning or forethought, and this surely results in repentance. Therefore anger shall be controlled and avoided right from one's youth.

One good quality every young person should cultivate is reading. It is a good habit. From young age religious books should be read. One should read books on philosophy, story books, novels and literature of various subjects. Advantage of reading is the
accumulation of a great deal of useful knowledge. It also helps one to be busy even when there is no company. A good book is a very good companion. The habit of reading is especially useful in old age when people find that they become increasingly lonely.

There is a belief that one turns to religion and God only in old age. Just as one should learn to serve humanity in young age, one also take keen interest in religion early in life. Daily and incessant prayers to God for grace should form an integral part of life of every human being right from childhood.

God listens to every prayer from a sincere soul. The best form of prayer is only for God's grace, and nothing else. A prayer for the welfare and happiness of others is always pleasing to God.

A purposeful life of duty, prayer to God and service to one's fellow being develops in one great quality of love. This is the surest way to lead a happy life.

Acknowledgements:

The article is a part of publication by G S B Sabha Mumbai. A Happy Life Guidelines to Householders and Youth published in July 1998.

We don't know what tomorrow will bring. So don't stay angry for too long. Learn to forgive and love all from your heart. Don't worry about the people who don't like you. Enjoy the ones who love you.
Any successful Journey has many co-passengers. I express sincere gratitude for whatever way everyone influenced me at different points of time.

To begin with I salute all the teachers at the Primary & Secondary schools, Junior College and Engineering College were I studied. They taught all the subjects, basics of life, and imparted knowledge unconditionally. I would like to offer special thanks to all the Hon.members of Vidya Prasarak Mandal Thane, Sri Uttam Joshi, Sri M.Y.Gokhale, Sri V.N.Marathe, Sri D.B.Kharde, Sri L.G.Deo, Sri S.V.Karandikar, Sri A. D. Tillu, Sri M.N.Patil, Sri. Dilip G. Joshi, Sri Aniruddha Joshi, Dr.Ashok Bapat, Smt. Alpana Bapat, Dr. Mahesh Bedekar, Sri J. N. Kayal and Trustees Sri S.V.Vengurlekar & Sri H.T.Thanawala. These noble members bestow freedom to the faculty for going out of our way to bring best performance. The Principals of VPM Schools and colleges have been extremely supportive throughout. This includes from Science College Dr.G.V.Kulkarni, Prof.C.G.Patil, Dr.Mrs M.K.Pejaver, Dr.M.N.Nayate and Prof S.Venkatarman. In Arts & Commerce College Prof O.Y. Oltikar, Prof. S.W.Gokhale, Dr. Shakuntala Singh, and the present Dr. Suchitra Naik. Law College Principals Prof. V.S.Chitnis, Prof. Engineer, and Prof. Srividhya Jayakumar. The Bedekar School Principals Sri Ashok Chitnis to Sri Prakash Panchal. The A K Joshi English medium School Principals Mrs K.A.Kolhatkar to Mrs Asmita Mohile and other teachers. The BRIMS Directors Dr.G.P.Murthy, Dr.P.M.Kelkar and present incumbent Dr.Nitin Joshi.

I am very close to many faculty in the Campus like Sri N.S.Barse, Librarian and many more due to long association and involvement. The presence of such colleagues is a real boon and when I look back it is a huge family of which I have become an integral part. This support system and the established credibility is the real reason behind the success filled journey. The Institute has found a special place in the minds of people and every parent who has interacted with faculty feels pride for having admitted their ward. This confidence which has been earned over the years has established a brand status and it gives immense satisfaction that the journey has been fruitful and we lived up to the expectations of stakeholders.

Polytechnic is one of the important contributors of various
MSBTE projects and the unstinted support is due to the confidence of various officers from time to time. Prof. A.K. Bidkar, Former Secretary, who went on to become Director of Technical Education at Goa, had a huge influence on me. MSBTE Directors Prof. C. Y. Mowade, Prof. B. P. Tale, Prof. G. B. Dhanokar, Dr. P. M. Khodke, Prof. P. A. Naik, Dr. Abhay Wagh and the present Dr. V. M. Mohitkar have appreciated the Polytechnic functioning to a great extent and most of them visited the institute on special occasions. In addition to this all the officers at MSBTE have been very cooperative in smooth function of examinations and results and deserve due credit.

Fellow Principals of most of the Polytechnics with whom I regularly interacted have been too supportive. Prof. A. B. Patil, Dr. Bhavesh Patel, Dr. S. M. Ganechari, Prof. Vikrant Joshi, Prof. P. N. Tandon, Prof. R. K. Nandarge, Prof. Ashish Ukidve, Prof. D. C. Magar, Prof. Susheel Kumar, Prof. D R Suroshe, Prof. Ramzan Khatik, Prof. B A Damahe, Prof. Amar Mange and Prof. Prashant Mane and many more deserve a mention here.

Special Thanks to Thakkar brothers Sri Chandubhai & Dinubhai and their whole team for providing prompt Campus maintenance and thereby helping to have a clean and green campus. Sri Anantrao Satle who managed the college canteen for over four decades was doing his best and always helpful.

I need to make a special mention of research associates at IIT Bombay Dr. Aneesh Gangal and Professors Dr. Prathibha Sharma Prof. M. Vashishta, Dr. Prakash Ghosh, Dr. Vivek Agarwal, Dr. Anuradda Ganesh and Dr. Rangan Banergee, for having helped me to get insight into the research and extend every support from time to time. At VJTI Mumbai, Director Dr. D. R. Patel, Dr. B. K. Lande, Dean Dr. R. D. Daruwala, Dr. M. S. Panse, Dr. F. Kazi, and Dr. R. N. Awale, Prof. Harish Chowdhary and fellow researchers Dr. Bindu, Dr. Swapna Prabhu, Dr. A. Deshpande and Dr. Sneha Mane had been of great help to me.

It is very difficult to recall each and every one and the list is incomplete. I am indebted to all those who influenced my personal and professional life. I am confident that you will forgive me if I have missed anyone; it is just inadvertent and purely unintentional. I convey my heartfelt feelings to everyone who had been a part of the memorable journey Inspiring Life.
Academics and Major Awards

- Ph.D. (Technology) in Electronics Engineering from VJTI, Mumbai, University of Mumbai (2017).
- M.E. (Computer Engg.) from VJTI, Mumbai, University of Mumbai (1991) - First Class.
- Presented 24 Technical Papers at State, National and International level Seminars and 5 Papers in Peer Reviewed Journals.
- Recipient of Fulbright-Hays Federal Assistance Award of U.S. Department of State (2009)

Appreciation Award for Vocational Excellence by Rotary Club of Thane North End on 16th September 2006

Received Rashtriya Vidya Saraswati Puraskar at Newdelhi in 2006, from the former Chief Election Commissioner Sri G.V.G.Krishnamurthy

Nominated to the Board of Governors (BOG) of Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOAT), Western Region Mumbai, for a tenure of three years (2006 - 2009).

Nominated as a member of Special Committee of MSBTE as well as Member of Board of Studies for Electronics Group.

ISTE Rajarambapu Patil National Award for Promising Engineering Teacher (below 50 years of age) for creative work done in Technical Education for the year 2008.

Award was presented at the inaugural function of the 38th ISTE National Convention on 19th December 2008 at the hands of Dr.N.R.Shetty, President ISTE in the presence of other dignitaries at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

With Best teacher award (2008)

Receiving Best Polytechnic award (2009)

*Tragedy in life is not reaching any goal, but having no goals to achieve.*
ISTE Ranganathan Engineering College National Award for Best Polytechnic Principal (Instituted jointly by Dr.P. Tamilarasi Murugesan, Chairperson Ranganathan Rajeshwari Charitable Trust, Coimbatore and Dr.R.Murugesan, President ISTE), for the Year 2014

Award was presented on 27th November 2014, at a glittering ceremony of Inaugural function of 44th ISTE National Convention held at the Govt. College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram. Received the award from Dr.K.P.Issac, Former Member Secretary AICTE;Newdelhi and Vice chancellor of Kerala Technological University.
Receiving ISTE Best Polytechnic award, in 2015 from the Maharashtra Industries Minister Sri Subhash Desai & Sri Anandrao Adsul, MP

Receiving “Best Laboratory Award” for 2015-16 from Dr. Abhay Wagh, Director, Dr. V. M. Mohitkar, Secretary, MSBTE, Mumbai

Receiving Best Lab Award from the Education Minister Hon. Shri Vinod Tawde in Presence of Dr. Abhay Wagh, (2019)

Institution of Excellence Award from AICTE Vice Chairman Prof M P Poonia. (2019)
Life's Coffee..

A small story with a lesson to end with this book.

A group of Alumni, highly established in their respective careers, got together to visit their old favorite College teacher. They had highest regard for the contribution and the knowledge imparted by this noble person in transforming their lives. He was retired and stayed in a modest house with just adequate resources to lead the retired tenure in a happy and composed manner. He welcomed all his students with pleasure and enquired about the progress made by each one of them. The conversations soon turned into worries, stress and complaints about the problems they are facing in spite of creating wealth and gathering all the materialistic resources. Many appeared worried in their life for some or the other reason.

After patiently remaining as a part of their debate and discussions, the teacher went to the kitchen and came back with a large Coffee Pot and an assortment of cups. Some of them were porcelain, plastic, glass, plain looking, expensive, exquisite, old and new together. He asked the students to help themselves to the Coffee.

After each of them had a cup of Coffee in hand, the teacher remarked. “If you noticed, all the nice looking, exquisite and expensive cups were taken up early, leaving behind plain, cheap and the old ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best to yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress as well. Be assured that the cup itself adds no value to the Coffee. What all you really wanted was the Coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups, and then began eying for each other's cups.”

He asked them to consider Life is the Coffee: the job, money and the position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain. Life and the type of cup we have, does not define nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the Coffee, God has provided to us.

God brews the Coffee, not the cups. So, Enjoy your Coffee

Prakash Nayak & family, Vasai

Dear Brother,

It felt nostalgic to re-live the old lovely memories through your book "Inspiring Life". Each and every event is explained so well, which took me back to those wonderful days. This book beautifully describes your struggle as well as success. I am overjoyed to see you reaching new heights.
‘Inspiring Life’

The book 'Inspiring Life', an autobiography of Dr. Dileep Kumar Krishna Nayak, takes the reader through a wonderful journey of life. However, the story significantly stands as a symbolic narrative of the young aspiring generation of Indian Post Independence era. The story contains many sub narratives like 'Henry' 'The Hostel Life,' Joint families, 'Job', establishment of new institutions, Pro-social work so on and so forth. The journey of the author starting from a small village and culminating into acquisition of awards, scholarship and prestigious Principal-ship is simply stunning. However, behind these picturesque narrations lies the true ethical core of the writing, which is the real strength of the work. The true spirit of the work lies in the values engineered through his life. It's more, a story of Hope, Tolerance, Perseverance, hard work, mutual peaceful living, connectedness and over and above all 'Mindfulness'. Mindfulness to accept life as it is, which builds the strength of the character, whereby poverty and Abundance are accepted with the same spirit. Thus the book is the story of these subtle tenacious values which have been building blocks of Indian Society and Indian Culture. Yet another peculiarity of the book is the most lucid, cryptic and extremely transparent style of expression, jelling well with the content.

Dr. (Mrs.) Suchitra A. Naik
Principal,
VPM’s K G Joshi Arts & N. G. Bedekar Commerce College

Madan G. Shanbhag

I commend you for excellent and very inspiring work. You have covered everything beautifully. Your life reflects 3 S's : Struggle, Sacrifice and Success. I appreciate your professional approach. Thanks for making me aware of insights of your journey through Inspiring Life.

Mrs. Namrata Nagendra Prabhu

Amazing preface. Got emotional not out of pity but with pride. Truly inspiring and commendable effort on your part to document your life journey in such a lucid way.
**Expressions...**

Dr D K Nayak: A heart touching personality!

Well read and an expert in his own right in his subject, Dr D K Nayak is unbelievably simple and humble. Turn to him for help he can never let you go disappointed! As a colleague I know him for more than the decade since he took charge as the Principal of VPM's Polytechnic. His dedication, calm attitude and friendly nature can never go unnoticed.

I was surprised to know that he had successfully completed writing a kind of his autobiography. I know some incidents of his school and college days through occasional exchanges but to read the life experiences penned down was truly interesting! I found his “Inspiring Life” too captivating to close and read in instalments. His narrative style is quite appealing and am sure that the reader will be able to see that each sentence has received due attention and a special touch. The narration takes the reader from his humble beginning in a village, his education in the village school, his dreaming big making him an engineer and then certainly, no looking back. His bond with VPM is well brought out. The photos add beauty and enhance connectivity to the real story.

My friend Dr D K Nayak's life is one of achievements and a lesson for anyone who is open to learn and is desirous of winning. Thanks to him for sharing his beautiful memory lane calling it a story of 'rags to riches' No one can miss but see the path- the path of strong desire, simplicity and responsibility.

Warm Regards and Best Wishes

**Dr. Srividhya Jayakumar**
Principal,
VPM’s TMC Law College

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**Mrs. Pooja Madhusudhan Prabhu**

Your own story RAGS TO RICHES is well crafted throughout, with lots of positivity. This reminds me our role model Sudha Moorthy. You have beautified the text highlighting the concept of EDUCATION...... A great lesson to our younger generation. I am fortunate enough to be a part of your family, grown up in a small village, studied in the same college, post graduation in the same campus & NOW more than anything you are our favourite, down to earth son in law, we are fortunate to have an innovator like you. Hats off to you Dileep.