

the  INFLUENCE  
of a good  
**TEACHER**  
can never  
be ERASED ♥

Aspire



Inspire

a teacher  
TAKES A  
hand  
OPENS A  
mind  
& TOUCHES A  


SUCCESS  
STUDIO PUBLICATION

**ASPIRE TO  
INSPIRE  
-Volume: 1**

A TRIBUTE  
TO  
TEACHERS

Contributed by Teachers-  
Coaches-Mentors &  
Professionals...

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Aspire to Inspire is a book dedicated to all the teachers and educators who put in a lot of efforts and passion in supporting the growth and development of children. These people in various walks of life as leaders, parents, teachers, mentors and influencers have left a lasting impact on the individuals. These are teachers at heart working through their professions and also supporting the success of many individuals.

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# Prologue

This book is an attempt to show our gratitude to the innumerable people who dedicate time and devote their life for the success of others. There are various volumes to cover innumerable such wonderful teachers around us.

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Prologue

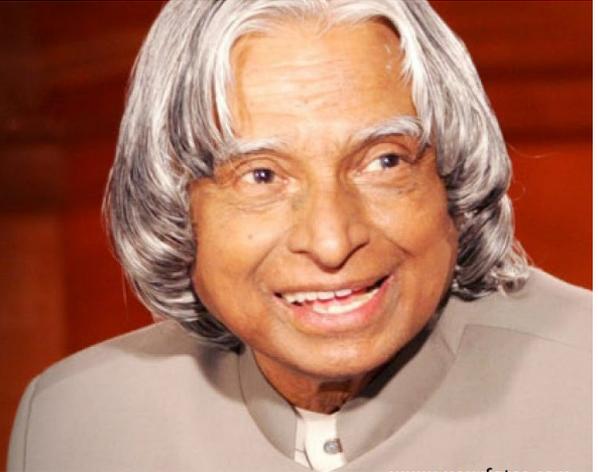
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Teaching : A Journey

# A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

'The purpose of education is to make good human beings with skill and expertise. Enlightened human beings can be created by teachers.'

- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is known as the missile man of India. He was scientist and became the 11th president of India but as he writes- he wanted to be known as a teacher . He writes that learning is a lifelong process. The one who knows the other is learned but the wise one is the one who knows himself .Learning without wisdom is of no use. Dr. Kalam was a great inspiration to many. He inspired his students to dream big and achieve their goals in life. Dr. Kalam believed that if people remembered him as a good teacher it would be the biggest honour for him. When he became the president in 2002, he made no compromise on his pen chart for teaching.

As a teacher who has been a part of the growth process of education and technology in India, he grabbed every opportunity to teach students, especially children , wherever he went .

Administering a pledge on national development to the youth was his passion. The former president said, “ Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber and future of an individual youth.They want to live in a prosperous, happy and peaceful India. This type of environment ignites me and leads me to interact with young minds” .

Dr. Kalam is also remembered as one who exemplified the profession of teaching with his inherent passion for teaching and for his zeal to inspire children to become good citizens. Dr. Kalam was dedicated to teaching and identified himself first as a teacher and then as anything else. Befitting his love for teaching his end came while delivering a lecture at IIM SHILLONG. Dr. Kalam said in a brief speech, “.....Real education is one which makes a person think what I can do be it children, teachers or leaders.” He said that teachers were the real assets of the country. He also said that capacity of teachers may be different but every teacher possessed the power to make children able and productive citizens of the country. The destiny of the nation depends upon a teacher. He said that a student spends almost 20,000 hours in school till he/she completes class 12th and during this time he/she absorbs the qualities of his/her teacher by observing them.

Dr. Kalam understood the need to recognise the effort of a teacher and identified them as the backbone of any country. In his address he said that education is a process which leads to creativity. “The creativity is indeed the result of the education process and the environment of the school and above all the teachers capability ignites the minds of the students. The essence of it can be seen in the following verses: Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, Thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes you great.”

Teachers should guide students to be able to select relevant information from this vast repository of knowledge. He also said that teachers should make an effort to relate what students learn in classroom with its application in real life. He said that student are eager for knowledge and look for challenges to stimulate their

minds. He said, “ A good system of education should be able to satisfy the insatiable hunger for knowledge. Teacher must be role models worthy of emulation. The creation of an education system with all these ingredients is solely in the hands of teachers and educationalists.

Teachers have to realise that they are the builders of the society. The society can be built only when the students are made proficient in their subject. In addition they have to provide a vision for life to the students and also inculcate the fundamental values which he/she should practice in the years to come.

Dr. Kalam’s book "Wings of fire" gives an insight on how he faced countless adversities and overcame them to rise high.

According to Kalam, a teacher must have following four qualities:

1. Teachers love teaching (you should be passionate about sharing your knowledge)
2. Teachers encourage questions from students (you should let them think beyond your teaching)
3. Teachers put the student ahead
4. Teachers create pressure on the students to explore their own capabilities.

[Author: Manoj Joshi & Ankita]

A teacher is candle  
that spends the whole  
life lighting up the  
minds of students



# Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan



The true teachers are those who  
help us think for ourselves.

— *Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan* —

A philosopher, a great teacher, a scholar par-excellence, a creative genius, a great humanist, a spiritualist, a man of vision, a man of mission, a man of principles, an idealist, an orator with gift of the gab, an original thinker, an eminent author and then the role of the Executive Head of India are few outlines of this personality. He was one of the greatest educationists in India. He not only enlightened India but also the whole world by his outstanding personality and intellect. He shines like a luminous star in the galaxy of intellectuals. He was a great son of India. His birthday is celebrated as the Teacher's day in India. He was the torch-bearer of the Indian education. His contribution to the field of education, philosophy, religion, culture, science etc. was immemorial. Dr. Radhakrishnan defines education as the instrument for social, economic and cultural change. For social and national integration, for increasing productively, education should be properly utilised.

The importance of education is not only in knowledge and skill, but it is to help us to live with others. According to him education should not merely give us some techniques so that we lead successful lives, but should also help us discover “lasting values”. The teaching profession was his first love and those who studied under him still remember with gratitude to his great qualities as a teacher.

Though he was a multi-faceted personality- distinguished scholar, renowned professor, orator, able administrator, prolific writer, well-known philosopher, successful diplomat, famous statesman, ardent patriot--his contribution towards education has been stupendous. He felt that education plays an important role in solving many ills of the society.

He believed that, “The importance of education is not only in knowledge and skill, but it is to help us to live with others.” Dr. Radhakrishnan opined that only the right kind of education could solve many problems of the society and the country. He wants that education which will help us to see the other world, the invisible and intangible world beyond space and time. Education has to give us a second birth, to help us realise what have already in us. The meaning of education is to emancipate the individual and we need the education of the wholeness- mental, physical, intellectual and spiritual. Education should develop in the minds of students a love of sustained thinking, adherence to truth and the power of resistance to popular sentiments and mob passion.

Radhakrishnan did not love knowledge for knowledge sake but he wanted knowledge for its practical utility. He did not want to educate the children and youths of the country for their self interest and self-aggrandisement, but for the natural development and prosperity. His educational philosophy is based on the principles of universal love and humanity, mutual help and cooperation, self-sacrifice and self-abnegation. Moral qualities are of greater values than intellectual accomplishments.

He states that all knowledge and powers are within the man. Heart can be refined and purified through appropriate education and so also the spirit. To him, education is the enlightenment of soul. Education dispels ignorance and enlightens the individual. He stresses that education is neither book learning nor memorising facts and figures. It is not accumulation of words or stuffing mind with countless information unrelated to life and world. It is also not memorisation of thoughts of others in a foreign language and reproducing those in examinations to get Diplomas and Degrees for white collar jobs. Rather, it is the assimilation of values and ideas for man-making, character-forming and life-building. In a nutshell, it can be said that his concept of education is the harmonious blending of the positive points of both Eastern and Western culture.

Commenting on Education at the close of his introduction to “Essentials of Psychology,” Radhakrishnan says, “The basis of educational theory is psychology. Education has for its aim the complete and harmonious development of the different functions of man. What those are and how they develop are problems of psychology. Every educator must have a full knowledge of the nature of the mind which it is his business to bring into fullness and maturity. A knowledge of a child-mind is, therefore, necessary for a teacher. Again, any method of teaching opposed to psychological principles is false. Psychology thus affords to negative touchstone of the true method of teaching.”

Radhakrishnan expressed his worry at the plight of the diminishing human values. He felt if education does not build wisdom and humanity in the hearts and minds of men all its professional, scientific and technological triumphs would be meaningless.

He emphasised on two things: One is What to Teach? And another one is How to Teach? What to Teach? refers to the content / Subject Knowledge and How to Teach? refers to methodology. A teacher must know these things. These things are equally importance for a teacher in order to make the teaching effective.

He stressed the following methods of teaching such as:

1. Observation
2. Experiments
3. Discussion
4. Learning by meditation
5. Text book method
6. Seminar
7. Tutorial system: Radhakrishnan introduced a tutorial system in Universities under his administration. This system brings teacher and taught closer to understand each other.
8. The relationship of nature and society
9. Radhakrishnan viewed that teaching of moral values should be through real and living examples.
10. In learning industrial subjects, Radhakrishnan recommends the use of imitation method.
11. Radhakrishnan believed that man through regular practice in Yoga and Meditation may could be aided in reaching his goal.
12. Radhakrishnan also accepts the importance of internal knowledge for experience in different subjects

Intuition is the source of knowledge, Self-knowledge is the source of knowledge, Reasoning is source of knowledge. Method of teaching cannot be lecture, cannot be demonstration. It can be question-answer and discussion. It should provide adequate opportunities to the students for conversation, debate, discussion and exchange of opinions and thoughts with their teachers.

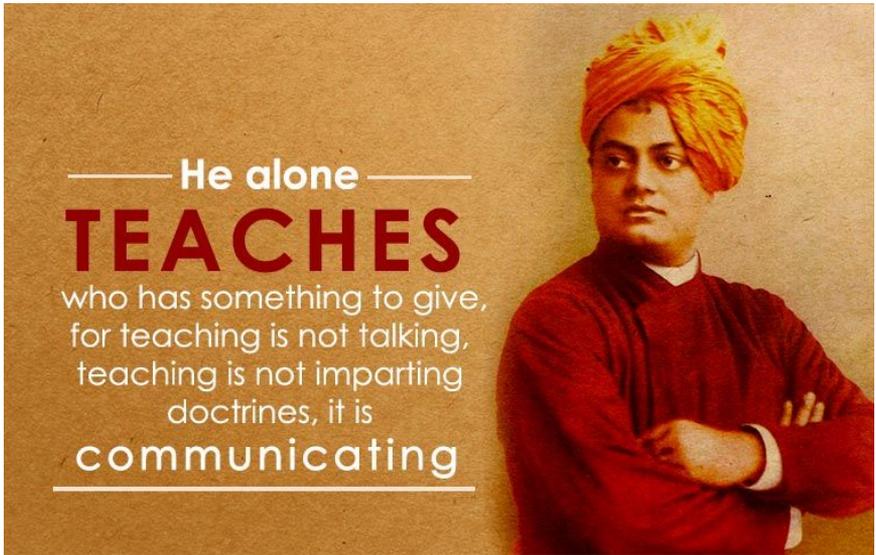
Radhakrishnan wants that students should come closer to society and nature to understand the basic concepts taught.

(Author : Saloni Dutta)

A teacher presents the past, reveals the present and creates the future.



# Swami Vivekananda



It is said that, a poor teacher tells, an average teacher explains, a good teacher demonstrates, a great teacher inspires. Vivekananda was a great teacher and also a great educationist. According to him, the aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts but of values. Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man. Vivekananda's definition of education is one of remarkable insight. First of all, the word 'manifestation' implies that something already exist and is waiting to be expressed. The main focus in learning is to make the hidden ability of a learner manifest. As Vivekananda said, "what a man "Learns" is really what he "discovers", by taking the cover off his own soul, which is a mine

of infinite knowledge. According to the Vedanta philosophy, knowledge is inherent in a human being, like a spark in a place of flint, and all that is needed is the strike of suggestion to bring out. 'Manifestation' indicates spontaneous growth, provided the impediments, if any, are removed. Next in importance in the Swami's definition of education is the 'expression already in man'. This refers to a human being's potential, which is the range of the abilities and talents, known or unknown that he is born with - 'potential' speaks of the possibility of awakening something that is lying dormant.

Swami Vivekananda says "We want that education by which character is formed of mind increased, the intellect is expanded and by one can stand on one's feet."

According to Vivekananda, education is the discovery of the inner self. For Vivekananda education is not the amount of information put in to one's brain, which may be there undigested all one's life. It is rather a life-building assimilation of ideas. HE said, "If you have assimilated five ideas and made them as your character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart the whole library. If education were identical with information, the libraries would be the greatest sages in the world and encyclopaedias the greatest Rishis."

Swamiji emphasised on the personality of the teacher in education. True education is only possible through intimate personal contact between the teacher and the taught. For this purpose he wanted to revive the old Gurukula system of education. Vivekananda regards the child as the pivotal point of education. He is the store house of knowledge. Vivekananda lays emphasis on the discovery of inner knowledge. Until the inner teacher opens, all outside teaching is vain.

Swami Vivekananda realised three things are necessary to make every man great, every nation great:

1. Conviction of the powers of goodness;
2. Absence of jealousy and suspicion;
3. Helping all who are trying to be and do well.

Education brings to light its constructive, practical and comprehensive character. He states it emphatically that if society is to be reformed, education has to reach everyone-high and low, because individuals are the very constituents of society. The sense of dignity rises in man when he becomes conscious of his inner spirit, and that is the very purpose of education. He strives to harmonise the traditional values of India with the new values brought through the progress of science and technology. It is in the transformation of man through moral and spiritual education that he finds the solution for all social evils. Founding education on the firm ground of our own philosophy and culture, he shows the best of remedies for today"s social and global illness. He tried to materialise the moral and spiritual welfare and upliftment of humanity, irrespective of caste, creed, nationality or time.

(Author : Saloni Dutta)

About the author: Saloni Dutta

Saloni is a student pursuing higher studies in science. She is a environmental enthusiast who is also a teacher volunteer in many government organisations. Her aspiration is to contribute to learning and improving our ecosystem for betterment.

A good teacher can  
inspire hope, ignite  
imagination and  
install a love of  
learning.



# Professor Jay K. Mitra



It gives me great amount of Excitement as well as Joy and tremendous amount of Happiness to share my thoughts about my Teacher Prof (Dr) Jay K Mitra.

He is not just my teacher, he happens to be Mentor, Guru, Marg Darshak, Friend, Philosopher and Guide. I met him during the three years MBA (Part-Time) program that I was pursuing from July 2001 to June 2004 at Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), Delhi University.

During those three years, I developed a deep spiritual bond with Prof Mitra. I observed that he possessed all the brilliant qualities that an ideal teacher should have.

## **What subjects I learn from Prof Mitra?**

I was lucky to have studied “Strategic Management”, “Organisational Behavior” and “Interpersonal and Group Communication” from him. His style of teaching was effect so great that these 3 subjects became my favourite subjects. And they remain as my favourite subjects till date. I also had the opportunity to teach these subjects when I became a Professor myself.

Prof Mitra was not just my favourite, he was the darling of many batches of MBA Students at FMS. My brother Dr CS Arora, who is nine years elder to me, was also one of his students at FMS. When I got admission at FMS and attended my first orientation lecture on 1st July 2001, my brother’s first question was “Did you meet Prof Mitra?” We had lively discussions about Prof Mitra with my class fellows.

He is a great teacher not just for his students, but every other teacher could learn a few things from him. Whenever I met Prof Mitra at our FMS Annual Alumni Dinner, he is always found to be surrounded by a large group of his ex-students. He is “party-ki-jaan” (the most sought after person) at the FMS parties.

## **How is Prof Mitra different from other teachers?**

Average teachers may get away by doing bare minimum of preparation before the class. The great teachers like Prof Mitra work tirelessly to create a really stimulating, challenging, nurturing and memorable environment for their students.

Prof Mitra’s attitude toward his students, his subject, the case studies, assignments, was really unique. He was friendly as well as strict and that is very difficult to achieve as Professor. I can vouch this with my own personal experience as a Professor: when a teacher is extra friendly, students try to take him/her for granted, which hampers the discipline of the class. Ultimately it translates to poor quality of teaching. On the other hand, when the teacher

becomes very strict, students start hating him/her, affecting his/her feedback from the students.

Prof Mitra creates extra notes, extra home work, assignments, project work and references for extra research. He spends extra time with his students and puts in his sincere efforts after the class hours to discuss and clarify any doubts the students might have. These doubts may or may not relate with what Prof Mitra has been teaching at any particular point of time. His students are free to discuss anything related to any subject, economy, job market, career and even from their personal lives.

After teaching at FMS and lots of other B-Schools in and around Delhi+NCR myself for a few years, I can say with authenticity that Teaching is not as smooth and easy as students like to think but for Prof Mitra, it's a piece of cake.

### **“Life after work (Studies)” with Prof Mitra**

Even after I passed out of FMS, whenever I had a chance, I used to visit him at his home or at his office at FMS, to exchange ideas, news and views. I never left his place without getting inspired by him with his knowledge and pearls of wisdom. The affection he has for his ex-students is quite evident.

Alongwith all the wonderful knowledge, he always treated me with Love, Affection, Respect, Tea, Snacks, Bengali Sweets and even Meals, Rather than making me feel that I am one of his ex-Students, he always treats me like a close friend, fellow learner as well as a fellow teacher. I owe him a lot because whatever I am doing in the field of Coaching, Training, Teaching and Mentoring, it's all started with him. Let me share that story with you.

### **The story behind “Why I owe everything to Prof Mitra”**

While I was pursuing my MBA program, I became very close to Prof Mitra because I was spending extra time with him. He used to take my opinion before discussing the type of assignments,

quizzes, case studies he might introduce in the following class, without revealing the exact details (for obvious reasons). I happily assumed it as my responsibility, in turn, to discuss the same with my class fellows in his absence (before the actual time of the class) and to make announcements related to those assignments. He jockingly pulled my leg in one of the classes blaming me for “Letting the cat out of the bag”.

I was also made the group leader by my class fellows for most of the student groups which were created to complete various assignments, projects and case studies which were supposed to be done by us as part of the our curriculum. The pattern got followed not just in the subjects being taught by Prof Mitra, but in most of the subjects. Since I had accepted to be the leader of all those groups, I had to invest extra efforts, work extra hours to coordinate the work of all the members of those groups. It was therefore my moral responsibility to make myself aware about all the aspects of all those assignments which had to be delivered by those groups. So, by design or by default, I had the holistic picture in my mind for all the activities which needed to be performed as part of those projects / assignments / case studies. Keeping that in perspective (most of the time), the team members delegated me to also make the presentations for the corresponding assignments in the class.

When one does something with love, sincerity, devotion selflessly, that extra effort anyone puts in, never goes waste. As I was completing my MBA, our Faculty of Management Studies was preparing a new program called MBA (Management of Services). Prof Mitra was one of the architects of that course, and he forwarded my name as a Visiting Faculty for that course.

I can say to the world with pride that Prof Mitra is the one who spotted the teaching talent in me. He used four parameters for judging my teaching skills : the depth of my knowledge (acquired by virtue of my leadership of various groups), my academic grades, my professional background as a part of the Top Management Team in a Fortune 100 organisations as CTO (which

makes the Management Education very rich for the students), and my Speaking skills.

**Prof Mitra keeps himself professionally occupied even as we speak**

After completing his full term for three years as Head & Dean of FMS, Prof Mitra continued to be with FMS as Professor for a few more years till his retirement. He continues to serve our society through various educational, research and consultancy organisations as Chief Academic Advisor, Director of Research Centres, Member of Boards and Governing Bodies, Leader/ Member of Management Consultancy Teams, Coordinator/ Lead Faculty for Management Development Programs and Visiting Faculty to a large number of Institutions.

**Here's my Salute to Prof Mitra for being my inspiration and the reason for my Happiness:**

Long Live Prof Mitra, so that he can transform the lives of many students like myself.

With Love and Regards CK Arora

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About the author: CK Arora

CK is a Keynote Speaker and a Thought Leader. He is also a Happiness Coach, Business Mentor and Leadership Skills Trainer. He is currently the President of the Professional Speakers Association of India (Delhi Chapter). CK is the growth catalyst for his clients.

He asks powerful questions and in answering those questions, his clients get new insights about themselves. These insights help them resolve the issues and challenges related to their Career, Business, and relationships.

CK is the Author of a Book “Laugh Lines: Instant Recipe for Happiness” (<https://www.LaughLines.org>) and there are 2 books under his pen at the moment. CK has created several Techniques, Processes, Tools and Programs to reduce the Stress levels of his audience while increasing their Energy, Motivation, Productivity and Loyalty towards their organisation. He is on a mission to empower 1 million people to laugh all the way to the bank doing what they are most passionate about.

CK is the Founder of

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It is the supreme art  
of the teacher to  
awaken joy in creative  
expression and  
knowledge



# Mother



"Ma-" as I called my mother, was a very strong and chirpy woman. I learnt from Ma the virtues of being patient, compassionate and accept life as it comes. I have fond memories of her cooking “sorshe illish” – my favourite dish and making sure that my lunch at school was always scrumptious. My school mates often envied my lunch.

As the wife of a UN Peacekeeper, who was deployed on foreign continents, she raised four kids alone and completed house chores effortlessly. I fondly recollect her smile, her keeping my school uniform ironed, shoes polished, hair kempt and giving the special attention and care when I was under the weather. In my late teens, I was always there to help Ma. However, that was my choice and Ma never insisted that I help her in everyday chores.

Today, when I cook for my kids, I try and replicate my Ma’s recipes. Often, when my food taste’s like how my Ma cooked, I am

transported to my childhood. It fills me with a sense of pride in successfully replicating a recipe.

After my marriage with Samir, my new life took priority and I couldn't spend enough time with Ma. I remember her shedding tears when I left home to settle with my new family and did not understand the depth of the emotions Ma experienced back then, but in January this year, when my elder daughter Nandita got married I could very well relate to her.

In July 2006, Ma left for the heavens. It was all so sudden. If only I knew that Ma would go away so suddenly, I would have spent more time with her. Told her, that I loved her. I always thought that a tight hug would explain it, but retrospectively, I feel it was important to convey the same through words.

Ma has been my north star in life, and always there in my thoughts. By inculcating Ma's teachings to my daughters, I hope to keep her legacy alive.

Ma – I love you!

(Author : Rina Mitra)

About the author: Rina Mitra

Rina Mitra is a teacher to many and groomed students to accomplish their mission. She has been instrumental in supporting many children accomplish their goals.

If you have to put  
someone on a  
pedestal, put teachers.  
They are society's  
heroes.



# Teachers



My phone wouldn't stop buzzing. There were around 300 unread notifications on WhatsApp and Instagram. When I unlocked my phone, a pop up reminded me that it was the 5<sup>th</sup> of September- "Teachers day". Ah! It made sense now!

A string of "Happy teacher's day!" flooded the school and college WhatsApp groups I was part of. While some enthusiastic members added few emoticons to make messages more appealing, a handful of them added photographs of their favorite teachers with heart touching captions.

Was it only me? Or were the messages truly devoid of emotions?

Is it because technology has made it possible for us to express our deepest gratitude using a few quotes and GIFs? Or have we fallen prey to sheer laziness?

When we were young, Teachers day would be celebrated with a lot of fanfare. Dance performances, student sponsored snack parties for the teachers, chalk art and special messages on black boards, greeting cards and what not! It was an unwritten rule that all classes that day would be dismissed, school disciplines relaxed, and the teachers could be their coolest self.

It was a day to celebrate teachers who played a pivotal role in our lives, they knew our strengths, weakness, deep dark secrets and even about our crushes. So, their whips and occasional punishments were accepted and considered a necessary step to shape us into better humans and never a reason to call emergency childcare numbers! Perhaps, we shared a different rapport and understanding with the teachers. And so, did our parents. It was given that what ever the teacher did was in the best of interest of the students. After all teachers spent countless hours standing on the podium showcasing immense patience in a class of hyper energetic students, to come up with ideas and ensuring learning was always interesting and fun.

I think we owe them a lot more than GIFs and short messages. Some time from our busy schedule perhaps? For they were our Mitochondria, Catalyst and Hypotenuse and reason why our gray matter isn't so grey after all.

(Author : Nandita Mitra)

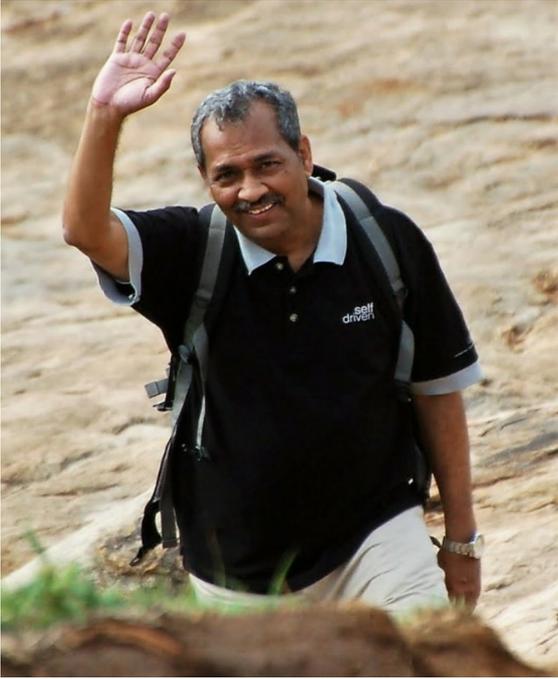
About the author: Nandita

Nandita is a ITES professional and aspires to support the teaching community.

Everybody's a teacher  
if you listen.



# Father (Mr. Mitra)



When I was a little girl, I was in awe of everything that my Dad did. Perhaps it was the way he insisted on performing every mundane task with a fervent meticulousness, or perhaps it was just the fact that he was my dad. I distinctly remember watching with fascination as he did routine things- fixing the car, repairing faulty stuff around the house, even him shaving! The fragrance of musk that his old spice after-shave had is still something that I associate him with.

I was not ever, and neither was my sister, what you would call ‘Daddy’s little princesses’. We were more like Lion King’s two little cubs, except that even in the Disney Movie, Simba grows up. In my Dad’s eyes, I do not think we ever did.

My Dad was always the over-protective, overbearing father who is every teenager’s bane. I still remember the time he insisted on holding my hand while crossing the road when I had to take a bus to college. “You don’t need to do this, Dad”, I had told him, half-embarrassed, half-frustrated. When would Dad understand that I need to be able to do things on my own?

“Oh no, no, walking with you is my excuse for a little exercise”, he had told me then. Yeah right, I thought. It was very evidently the opposite of what he would have me believe. I knew too well then, that my argument would fall on deaf ears anyway, so I held his hand and crossed the busy road over to the bus stop, every single morning.

I remember Dad waking up in the middle of the night to check on us- to check if the windows were not open too wide, if the wind was not blowing too hard and if we had our covers around us and we were not cold. He made sure we were tucked in properly at all times, it did not matter what the season was. This also meant that I was packed like a sushi roll in a blanket, perpetually, or at least my Dad made sure of that.

Having my father hover around my sibling and me 24/7, 365 days a year felt stifling many- a- time. I yearned for my independence, for my freedom, for a time when I could experience coming into my own as an adult.

That time did come, albeit in the most tragic of ways when Dad passed away after battling cancer for nearly two years. He was keen on seeing me do my master's, so I honoured his wish. When I got a chance to study in Germany, I went ahead with it even though it had not been a year since he had gone. Life's realities hit me with full force and only then did I realise the shield that Dad had been all my life.

My mum handed me my Dad's T-shirt while I was packing my luggage. "Take it", she said. "It's Dad's. It will keep you warm and cozy". She knew I loved wearing Dad's T-shirts. They were huge, super-comfortable, and every chance I got, I had the habit of sneaking into Dad's wardrobe and flicking some of his T-shirts. He eventually got to know though when he realised he did not have enough T-shirts to wear, and they were discovered stuffed in my wardrobe. He had laughed and let me keep them.

Dad's T-shirt was a great solace for me in Germany. I wore the same shirt so many times while I was in my dormitory room, that at a certain point of time over video calls, my older sibling was forced to ask if I had packed enough clothes for myself when I had gone abroad. "Is that the only shirt you have?", she would smirk. I liked to imagine that the shirt carried Dad's scent too, and with that, I felt a sense of comfort, of him being around in a way.

When I came back home 9 months later- having studied, travelled and basically 'adulted', and was about to leave again to begin the second year of my master's, Mum handed me another set of Dad's T-shirts. "Keep them, they were Dad's favourites."

"Do they still smell of him, Ma?", I asked, holding up his T-shirt and sniffing at it .

“Don’t be silly!”, said Ma, laughing. “How could they possibly smell of him after two years?”. She was right.

The shirts that I had of Dad, felt like him, sure. But they did not smell of him any longer.

They smelt like me now.

P.S- I have that shirt that he’s wearing in the picture that says “Self-driven”. So accurately described him.

(Author : Ankita Mitra)

About the author: Ankita Mitra

Ankita is an environmental professional based out of Germany and addressing many issues in the environmental hazards.

Teachers can change lives with just the right mix of chalk and challenges.



# PARENTS



My greatest Teachers were my Parents who taught me to be a good citizen by behaving, studying, dressing well always & helping others especially the less fortunate. My father was very strict but my Mother a very kind & loving person showing me how to cook, dress wounds, wash & iron clothes perfectly. I look back with gratitude & thankfulness for these two precious lives who were living & walking the talk.

(Author : Dr. Winston Jacob)

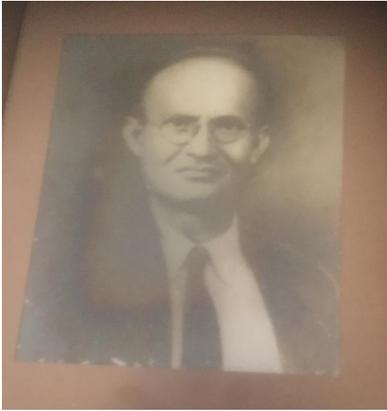
About the author: Dr. Jacob

Dr. Jacob is a leadership coach and mentor, who has been instrumental in making many professionals achieve their goals.

The art of teaching is  
the art of assisting  
discovery.



# ATAL BEHARI SEN



My greatest teacher and inspiration has been my father Mr. Atal Behari Sen, who was India's first agronomist. It gives me a lot of pride and happiness to think of my parents specially my father who has never scolded us...He always used to encourage us to dedicate ourselves to learning -music and society. He was a perfect role model in the way he supported the entire family during partition and also towards education. He was a professor with Dhaka University and loved his profession.

I take a lot of pride in talking of my father and his achievements to my grandchildren and his values of life. His greatest values, that I practice even today are in dedicating myself to prayers and also prioritising happiness of others over self. His love -affection and guidance has given us all that we ever desired in life. I owe my life's incredible gifts due to them.

(Author -Sita Dutta)

About the author: Sita Dutta

Sita Dutta is a home maker, literature & history enthusiast. She has been globe trotter and at the age of 80 she supporting and grooming all her grand children and family members.

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.



# SITA DUTTA & BANI BANERJEE



I am very blessed to have two amazing women in my life who were always dedicated to my welfare in life. My mother and my mother-in-law have been very instrumental to all the progress, I have made in life as a mother -professional and as an entrepreneur. My mother has not only been my best friend but also a person who was my biggest motivator in life. Even today when I feel low I just think of her words and that gives me a lot of courage to deal with anything in life.

My mother-in-law pushed me to aspire more in life and execute the same. She also gave me understanding of prayers and its importance in life.

Always indebted to all their teachings and love in life.

(Author -Dr.Sonali Dutta Baanerjee)

About the author: Sonali is an executive coach -learning evangelist and human resource professional.

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A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron.



# CAPT. SK DUTTA & SUKUMAR BANERJEE



My father's values in staying humble and doing your own work is one of the biggest learnings of my life. He also influenced my thinking in context to prayers and believing in all religions. His guidance to pay respect every time we crossed a temple, masjid or church still stays with me. His ability to hold his ground in situations of challenges and expressing himself is also something that groomed my personality. Feel delighted to be blessed to have him in my life and his encouragement in whatever I wanted to do.

Capt. SK Dutta my father-in-law is another teacher who showered a lot of love and affection after my marriage. The way he led his life, has always been a great lesson in our lives. His encouragement towards my education -work and learning has always been very exciting. He is has been a great role model to me and my family, towards leading a very humble life.

(Author -Dr.Sonali Dutta Baanerjee)

About the author: Sonali is an executive coach -learning evangelist and human resource professional.

[www.drsonaliduttabaanerjee.com](http://www.drsonaliduttabaanerjee.com)

I was lucky that I met the right mentors and teachers at the right moment.



# Family



To my stationary ship you are the mast  
To my shapeless mould you are the cast  
At times you rebuke me when I falter here and there  
But I know you do so only because you care

You are neither limited by blood nor declared by paper  
When I am willing to learn you are ready to cater  
And the many lessons that I've been privileged to learn from you  
Have in many different situations taught me what to do

To the knowledge within me of what I see and hear on earth  
You gave reasons, requirements and explained its worth  
To the information I gained from experience and books  
You gave perceptions that completely changed my initial outlooks

With your enthralling words and actions you never ceased to  
captivate  
If my mind ever fell prey to idleness, in your presence it would  
activate  
Facts on books had no meaning without your expressive  
explanations

Hours alone left me nowhere when moments with you took me to new destinations

To otherwise serious topics you brought joy and laughter  
And taught me how to do the same in my own way thereafter  
When I lay beneath heaps of confusion you barged in with clarity  
You never left without leaving behind a mind full of curiosity

There are lessons to learn from your every feature and your every task

There are endless questions unattended left for me to ask  
Every occurring phenomenon at every single turn  
Interests me for it is you who inspired me to learn

Certainty may be crucial but you encouraged me to experiment  
Your faith in my abilities made me more confident  
You taught me more than facts, figures and formulae  
You taught me how to live my life to the fullest everyday.

To otherwise serious topics you brought joy and laughter  
And taught me how to do the same in my own way thereafter  
When I lay beneath heaps of confusion you barged in with clarity  
You never left without leaving behind a mind full of curiosity!!

(Author : Saloni Dutta)

About the author: Saloni Dutta

Saloni is a student pursuing higher studies in science. She is an environmental enthusiast who is also a teacher volunteer in many government organisations. Her aspiration is to contribute to learning and improving our ecosystem for betterment.

# Teaching Is A Journey...

I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.

