Autobiography

Everybody has a life purpose and everybodys life when exposed reveals life lessons learned while striving to achieve that purpose.

I was born in Bareilly (utter Pradesh)on 5th august 1968. With my father posted at a non family station my grandmother came to fill the gap. My grandparents hailing from a small town Gujrawala, now in Pakistan and came to Ludhiana after the partition. My grandfather Mr. Jindaram Khanna was a hard working banker and the sole bread winner of a large family of six children and two younger brothers. My impressionable years were spent with my resourceful grandmother Mrs. Lajwanti Khanna

My grandparents were proud parents to attend the passing out parade where my father then Lt.R.K Khanna led the team of young officers to serve the nation. Stories about my father as a young cadet in the NDA and his illustrious military career which included fighting three wars are frozen in my memories .It nurtured the love for my nation in my young mind.

My parents got married in 1964 and my father left for the war soon after .I being the first child was very protected by my parents. I often went to my father’s office in the afternoon and spent time with him. This is one of my fondest childhood memories. When my brother was born in 1971 years later, my father was again away for the war and got wounded. My mother was informed about his injury later on. When he returned from the war, two months later our family rejoiced and he saw my brother two months after he was born.

I started my schooling in Ranchi in Bishop Cotton girls high school. I remember my school which changed every two years with my father’s transfer .Apart from physical structure changing it exposed me to varied cultures. It was a boon in disguise as I learnt very early to adapt and accept changes. My childhood was like a normal life army officers children would experience. My days were filled with myriad of activities as my parents ensured that both my brother and I excelled in academics and extracurricular activities. Each dinner time was a learning experience as we shared with our very involved parents. The highlight of my childhood was a tangible contentment and protection.

I had the opportunity to study in some of the best schools in India. From 9th grade to the 12th grade I studied in Chennai. I learnt many languages in this period – Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati. I was sent to Mumbai for my graduation in SOPHIA college which is one of the best colleges in the country. Whatever I am today, I owe it to my college education. It was a place where I got wholistic education. I enjoyed studying, participated in National social service camps, organised functions .I emerged from a shy , quiet girl into a confident girl ready to face all the challenges in life.

My professor in college Mrs. Gale Cannero inspired me to take the decision of pursuing post graduation in chemistry. Her competence in the subject ignited my ambition for the same.I went to University for my post graduation in chemistry. I started teaching in secondary school along with my university course. It is in this phase of my life where I understood that by asking a impertinent question one finds a way to the pertinent answer. Teaching helped me to organise myself, created better understanding of the subject and hence taking a better exam in the same.

My teaching graph moved up in harmony with my institution as I moved from secondary school teacher to a higher secondary teacher focussed on garnering best grades for board students. The next logical step was the head of the department in a large and competitive organisation. This gave me an opportunity to train and mentor my subordinates in the school. This sharpened my understanding and delivery of chemistry.

The advantage of being in a progressive institute is that one learns as much as a student while being a facilitator .I got the opportunity to teach the IB students, where I grew further as a chemistry teacher.

 From concept based learning I moved to inquiry based learning which I connected it with” the arc of science” i.e. designing research questions ,conceptualizing an appropriate research method, collecting data, interpreting data and reporting results .I understood that doing science is an idiosyncratic pursuit that applies many shared methods e.g. rigorous and sufficient data collection ,careful record keeping, intellectual honesty, the application of induction and deduction and catering to individual student needs in at times a heterogeneous group.

My years with this institute has moulded me into always striving to explore uncharted territory .I see my task ahead in coming years as grave and challenging .It will demand rigour and innovation in equal degree so that I can foster the same love for chemistry in all my students and find satisfying intellectual pursuits.