

EDITION 1

Strong COFFEE



In the world of education, there are countless untold stories of dedication, resilience, and innovation that deserve to be celebrated. "Strong Coffee" is a captivating coffee table book that brings these inspiring narratives to life, showcasing the unsung heroes who have made a profound impact in the field of education. This book serves as a tribute to the educators, administrators, and individuals whose relentless efforts have not only transformed lives but have also laid the foundation for a brighter future.

In the pursuit of educational excellence, the contributors to "Strong Coffee" have faced numerous challenges and hurdles, yet their unwavering commitment to doing what's right, in the right way, has shone through. The pages of this book are filled with tales of educators who have defied the odds, challenged the status quo, and made a lasting difference in the lives of students, families, and communities.

Through compelling stories and insightful anecdotes, "Strong Coffee" captures the heart and soul of the education field. These stories are not just about academic success but also about character development, mentorship, inclusivity, and community building. They underscore the transformative power of education and the positive ripple effect it can have on society.

The overarching goal of "Strong Coffee" is to inspire the many individuals within the education field and beyond. By shedding light on the uncelebrated heroes who have paved the way, this book encourages current and future educators to continue their noble mission with renewed vigor. It offers a dose of motivation, a reminder of the greater purpose, and a testament to the fact that positive change is possible when we strive to do what's right, the right way.

This collection of stories is a testament to the enduring spirit of education, and "Strong Coffee" is a testament to the enduring power of storytelling. It invites readers to savor each story as if enjoying a rich cup of coffee, providing a moment of reflection and inspiration that will resonate far beyond the pages of the book. As you embark on this journey through the remarkable world of education, may these tales of triumph and tenacity in the face of adversity kindle a passion for change and a commitment to making the world a better place through the vehicle of knowledge.



ANUSHRUTH MANCHI
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



VINAY SHETTY
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



PAVAN D JOSHI
CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

A JOURNEY OF COURAGE AND TRIUMPH

- By, Parag Shah

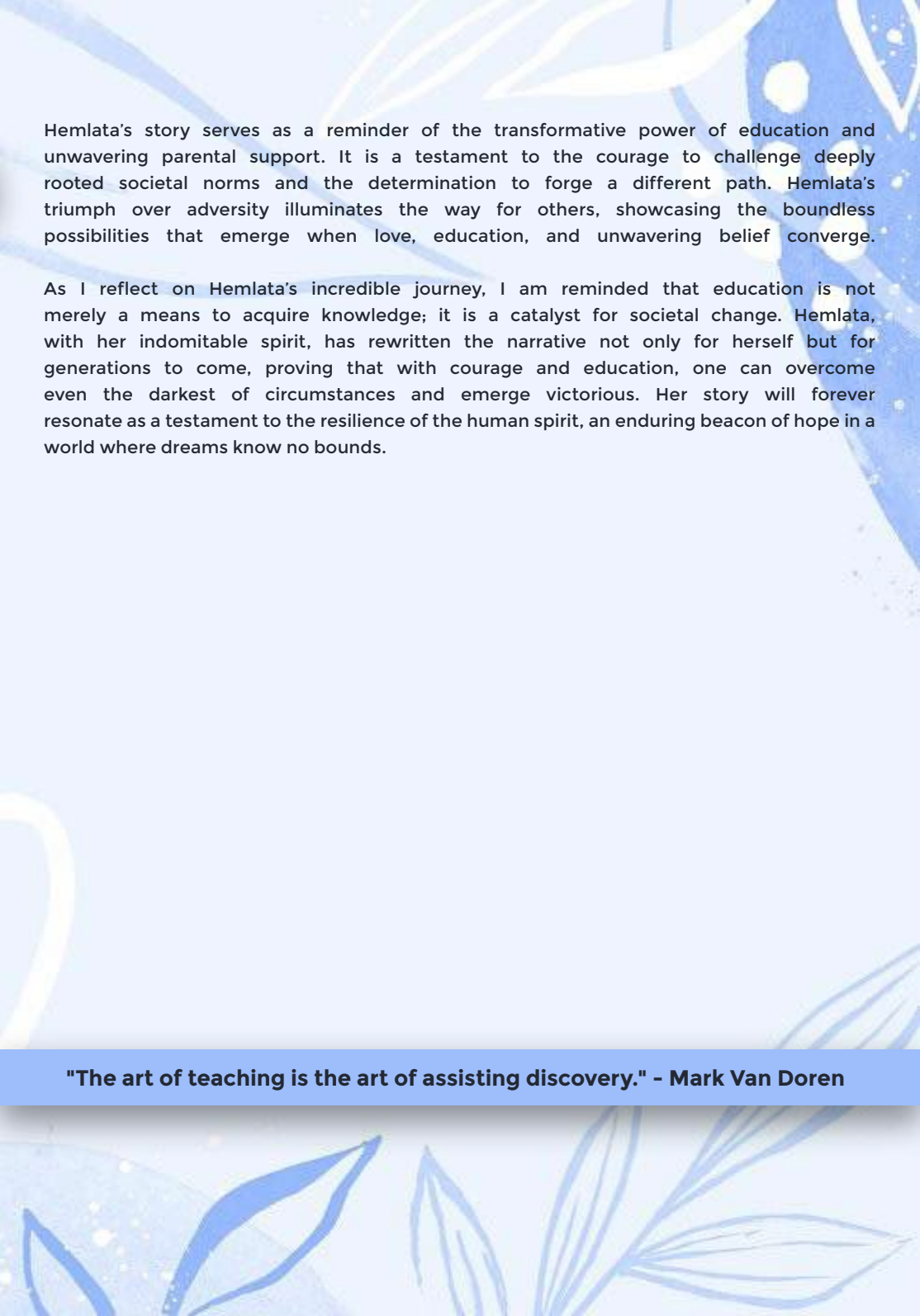


In the heart of rural India, where tradition often overshadowed progress, a courageous young girl named Hemlata defied the odds. In her village, a horrifying tradition prevailed, where infant girls were immersed in milk until they succumbed to asphyxiation. However, Hemlata's father stood as a beacon of change, vehemently opposing this cruel practice. He fought against his family and the village, declaring that his daughter would not face such a fate. With unwavering determination, he ensured Hemlata's safety and education, recognizing the transformative power of learning.

Fresh out of 12th grade and hailing from a village where English education was a rarity, Hemlata expressed her ambition to pursue liberal arts. When she walked into my office at the first liberal arts institute I established in India, her attire, a simple petticoat, and blouse, belied the fierce determination in her eyes. I expressed my concerns about her ability to cope with the English medium curriculum and her potential difficulties in mingling with wealthier, privileged classmates. To my surprise, Hemlata met my doubts with quiet confidence, assuring me that she would manage.

Reluctantly, I granted her a full scholarship, expecting her departure once the enormity of the responsibility sank in. However, Hemlata not only proved me wrong but exceeded all expectations. She not only coped with the challenges but excelled academically, winning a silver medal at her graduation ceremony. Her success was a triumph over adversity, a testament to her resilience and determination.

Years later, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hemlata's father reached out to me. He reminded me of their first meeting and shared the astonishing news. Hemlata had not only pursued a successful career but had also moved to Japan, working with the prestigious investment company, JP Morgan. Her journey from a village bound by harmful traditions to the global stage of finance was nothing short of inspiring. Hemlata's triumph over adversity illuminates the way for others, showcasing the boundless possibilities that emerge when love, education, and unwavering belief converge.



Hemlata's story serves as a reminder of the transformative power of education and unwavering parental support. It is a testament to the courage to challenge deeply rooted societal norms and the determination to forge a different path. Hemlata's triumph over adversity illuminates the way for others, showcasing the boundless possibilities that emerge when love, education, and unwavering belief converge.

As I reflect on Hemlata's incredible journey, I am reminded that education is not merely a means to acquire knowledge; it is a catalyst for societal change. Hemlata, with her indomitable spirit, has rewritten the narrative not only for herself but for generations to come, proving that with courage and education, one can overcome even the darkest of circumstances and emerge victorious. Her story will forever resonate as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, an enduring beacon of hope in a world where dreams know no bounds.

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." - Mark Van Doren

"Resilience in the Shadows: Nandini's Journey"

- By, Rajdeep Manwani



In my former educational institution, there existed a dedicated program aimed at nurturing mentor-mentee relationships. This initiative paired approximately ten to fifteen students with mentors, and it was incumbent upon us to convene in person every Saturday. These meetings were thoughtfully structured to address a multitude of concerns, be they academic or personal in nature. Nevertheless, despite the regular attendance of students, a substantial number remained reticent, choosing to keep their innermost thoughts and feelings veiled.

Among the students entrusted to my mentorship, one individual stood out as particularly noteworthy—Nandini. In her initial year, she had demonstrated academic brilliance, but as the second year unfurled, her scholastic performance began to wane. Fearing for her well-being, I initiated a conversation regarding her academic challenges, yet she appeared hesitant to confide in me regarding her troubles. My attempts to solicit insights from her acquaintances also yielded little information, leaving me with a lingering sense of concern.

Then, on a pivotal day during her fourth semester, as I sat alone in the staff room, Nandini approached me with tears welling up in her eyes. Her heart was heavy with a tale she had concealed for far too long. She divulged that her father had tragically passed away during the second-semester break, and her mother had subsequently remarried a man who subjected her to severe mistreatment. This stepfather not only inflicted harm upon her mother but also subjected Nandini to ceaseless verbal abuse. It was in that moment that I became her confidante, offering a compassionate and empathetic ear, along with words of encouragement every week, assuring her that brighter days would eventually dawn, and that she possessed the strength to confront her harrowing circumstances.

However, to my astonishment, Nandini mysteriously vanished from our institution during her fifth semester. Despite our concerted efforts to locate her using the limited contact information we possessed, she remained elusive. Lingering doubts and anxieties assailed me. Had I done enough? Should I have escalated her situation to the authorities?

A year or two later, I received an invitation to deliver a motivational address at Shoba Developers. As my speech came to a close, I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder, and to my utter amazement, there stood Nandini. I was taken aback by her reappearance and her query about whether I still recalled her. I eagerly inquired about her well-being, and she proceeded to share the extraordinary journey she had undertaken. She had secured a prestigious position as a secretary to the managing director at Shoba Developers.

We made our way to her cubicle, and there, she grasped my hand and uttered, "If I am alive today, it is because of you. You listened to me and infused hope into my darkest days. I often wondered whether a teacher, someone not even related to me, could comprehend and bolster me, perhaps my own family could do the same." She went on to recount, "I reached out to my biological father's sister, who insisted that I leave my tumultuous household and reside with them, as the maltreatment from my stepfather had grown unbearable. To avoid being traced by my parents, I had deactivated my cell phone. I completed my B.Com through correspondence and pursued an MBA online through Symbiosis. It is your kindness and unwavering support that have propelled me to my current position."

On that momentous day, I was engulfed by an overwhelming sense of elation and pride. It became resoundingly clear to me that my empathetic listening and unwavering encouragement, in my capacity as a teacher, had cast a profound and enduring impact on Nandini's life.

"Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students." - Solomon Ortiz

Shaping Destinies

- By, Dr Pankaj Choudhary



My journey through the world of education has been a remarkable odyssey, one marked by dedication, passion, and the transformative power of knowledge. Over the past two decades, I've had the privilege of venturing into various domains of the educational industry, and my experiences have left a lasting mark on the academic landscape of India. But my story isn't just about my professional achievements; it's also about my unwavering commitment to inspire and uplift both faculty and students.

Let me share with you the story of one of my most cherished students, Dr. Preethi Stanley, and how she embodies the profound impact I've had on countless aspiring minds. At the Indian Institute of Planning and Management, I transcended the role of a mere professor. I became a mentor, a beacon of wisdom whose influence left an indelible imprint on the journeys of many students.

Among those lives I've touched, Dr. Preethi Stanley's narrative stands as a testament to the profound impact I've had on aspiring intellects. I didn't merely teach; I illuminated the path ahead for my students. My pedagogical approach extended beyond theoretical abstractions, delving deep into the realm of pragmatic knowledge, equipping my students for the real-world challenges they'd encounter.

My classroom wasn't just a place for imparting academic knowledge; it was a crucible where the principles of finance came to life. Dr. Preethi found herself irresistibly drawn to my lectures, where I seamlessly merged theory with the practical intricacies of the subject.

Following her postgraduate studies, Dr. Preethi embarked on a successful career in the corporate world, working for prestigious organizations like KPMG, Yahoo, and Accenture. Over the course of a decade, she achieved milestones that once seemed out of reach during her formative years. However, a deep-seated desire to give back to society led her to make a transformative decision—to redirect her career toward education and mentorship.



As she returned to her academic roots and joined the BMS College of Commerce and Management as an assistant professor and placement officer, I once again became her guiding force. Under my mentorship, Dr. Preethi rapidly ascended in her academic career, eventually becoming the Head of the Corporate Communication Department and taking on leadership of the Management Department. Her journey from corporate success to esteemed educator and academic visionary is a shining example of the enduring influence of a dedicated mentor.

My unwavering support, both as a knowledgeable professor and a visionary Principal, continues to inspire students to this day, illustrating the far-reaching impact of a mentor who can shape destinies and transform lives. My mentorship isn't just about engaging the intellect; it's about touching the very essence of one's being, molding not just careers but entire life paths. I stand as a guiding star for students, reminding them that, with the right mentor, even the loftiest aspirations can become tangible realities.

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." - William Arthur Ward

"The Sweet Taste of Victory: Lessons from a Journey of Determination"

- By, Dr Nagraj Shenoy



In the heart of the bustling city, five young souls found themselves trapped in a relentless cycle of despair. They were ensnared by a relentless foe called "Academic Backlogs," haunting them for three long years since their campus life had drawn to a close. While their peers had confidently marched into the professional world, these individuals remained mired in a quagmire of failed attempts and ever-elusive success. With hope dwindling, they turned to me, desperate for a lifeline.

"Sir, we're at our wits' end," they confessed, their voices heavy with the weight of their shared dilemma. "We've tried everything, but these subjects continue to elude us. We don't know if it's our competence, our effort, or our study techniques that are failing us."

I listened intently to their woes, posed a series of probing questions, and soon, a glimmer of insight illuminated the path ahead.

"How many marks did you set as your target?" I inquired.

Their responses were varied, yet none ventured beyond 50. "We aimed for 40, 50, 45..." they explained. "We're only striving to pass, and we don't have the luxury of time to aim higher."

"That's the crux of your predicament," I said. "You've been preparing for 45 marks, and then you wonder why you're only achieving 40. It's a recipe for failure. To truly succeed, you must set your sights far higher—aim for 90, or even 100%."

The room fell into stunned silence. "But, sir, is it even possible?" they hesitated.

"Yes, it is," I affirmed. "Set a target of 90 and commit yourself wholeheartedly to it. Your preparation, dedication, and effort should mirror that lofty goal. This is the only way to not only pass but to excel with flying colors."

"So, you mean..." they inquired with newfound hope.

"In your professional life, you strive tirelessly to meet monthly targets. Apply the same principle to your academic pursuits. Dive into online video classes, seek personal tutoring, and devote more hours each day to your studies. Shift your mindset from casual to serious."

"However, we sometimes encounter unexpected, difficult questions..."

"That's precisely why you shouldn't expect any specific questions. Be prepared for every eventuality. Remember the old saying that when you set out for deer hunting, you should carry the weapons needed for tiger hunting. Anticipate all challenges, and that is the path to success."

Three months later, our paths crossed once more. This time, they arrived with beaming smiles and sweet boxes in hand. Each one proudly shared their success stories, having scored well above 70 marks in their exams.

During our conversation, I offered one last piece of wisdom: "This rule doesn't just apply to academic exams; it's a guiding principle for all the challenges life throws your way. Set your goals extraordinarily high. It's always better to aim for the stars and land on the moon than to aim low and achieve mediocrity."

Their journey, once shrouded in despair, had transformed into a testament to the power of setting audacious goals and pursuing them with unwavering determination. They had discovered that the path to success was paved with ambition and unwavering commitment, and that the sweet taste of victory was worth every ounce of effort.

"The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see." - Alexandra K. Trenfor

A Trailblazer in Education and Mentorship

- By, Dr Preethi Stanley



The journey of Dr. Preethi Stanley through life reads like a gripping novel, each chapter brimming with inspiration and impact in the world of education. Her narrative unfolds as a riveting tale of transformation, commencing in the corporate realm, venturing into academia, and culminating in the profound influence she has cast upon countless young minds.

Dr. Preethi's odyssey commenced amidst the bustling corporate corridors, where she honed her skills in the human resources department of esteemed organizations. But as the years unfurled, an insistent call echoed in her heart, beckoning her to embark on a more meaningful journey. She yearned to infuse her boundless energy and passion into shaping the destiny of aspiring youth and contributing substantially to society.

With an unwavering resolve, Dr. Preethi Stanley boldly steered her career towards the hallowed halls of academia. She joined the prestigious BMS College of Commerce and Management with a crystal-clear objective - to inspire and motivate the next generation. Starting as an assistant professor and Training and Placement Officer, she swiftly ascended to the pinnacle, spearheading the Corporate Communication Department and leading the Management department as the Head.

Her efforts didn't go unnoticed. Awards and accolades poured in, each one affirming her dedication and excellence. She was honored with the prestigious "Asia Pacific HR Congress Award" for "The Best Human Resource Management Professor" in November 2022, a testament to her unrelenting commitment to her craft. Additionally, she was recognized as a "Prof. Indira Parikh Women in Education Leader" by the World Education Congress, underlining her significance in the realm of education.

However, Dr. Preethi Stanley's real-life impact shines through the story of Shirisha, a young woman whose aspirations grappled with a debilitating stutter and crippling stage fear. Despite her intelligence and dedication, communication proved to be her formidable adversary.

In the quiet corners of the bustling college campus, Shirisha's life transformed dramatically when she encountered Dr. Preethi Stanley, renowned for her expertise in executive communication. Recognizing Shirisha's potential and her desire to improve, Dr. Preethi extended her guiding hand, becoming a mentor and life-altering influence.

Under Dr. Preethi's tutelage, Shirisha embarked on a journey of self-discovery. She learned the foundational principles of effective communication in Dr. Preethi's executive communication classes. With gentle yet firm advice, she acquired the tools to overcome her stutter, evolving from a hesitant speaker into a confident communicator.

Shirisha's aspirations reached further than the classroom. Her dream was to follow in her mother's footsteps and become an emcee, but her stage fear had always been a stumbling block. Dr. Preethi, ever the visionary, provided Shirisha with numerous opportunities to refine her skills, resulting in her hosting college events in front of hundreds of students.

Yet Dr. Preethi's impact extended beyond communication and public speaking. She played a pivotal role in shaping Shirisha's professional future, facilitating a job opportunity at Intellipaath with an enticing package of 9 lakhs per annum. Thanks to the communication skills honed under Dr. Preethi's mentorship, Shirisha excelled in the interview and secured the position.

As time progressed, Dr. Preethi remained the guiding light in Shirisha's life, aiding her in attaining a prestigious role as a Corporate Communication Executive at BMS College of Commerce and Management, propelling her career to new heights. Dr. Preethi's unwavering support and sage guidance proved indispensable as Shirisha confronted life's challenges head-on.

Shirisha's metamorphosis from a reticent student with communication hurdles into a confident emcee and successful corporate professional serves as a testament to the potency of mentorship and the profound impact of Dr. Preethi Stanley.

In essence, Dr. Preethi Stanley's story is an epitome of transformation and inspiration. Her dedication to nurturing young minds and unwavering commitment to the education sector have rendered her a beacon of hope and a role model for the younger generation. She has shown them that with hard work, determination, and an impassioned heart, they too can leave an indelible mark on the world and create a lasting legacy.

"Teaching is the greatest act of optimism." - Colleen Wilcox



**“The purpose of education is to make good human beings with skill and expertise.... Enlightened human beings can be created by teachers.”
- APJ Abdul Kalam**

The Birth of a Teacher

- By, Dr Santosh Birur



In the hallowed halls of Seshadripuram College, Bangalore, in the year 1999, my journey towards becoming an educator was ignited. It was in that classroom, under the wise guidance of Mr. Somayajulu, that I first glimpsed the power of teaching. His effervescent smile and adept elucidation of the Balance Sheet, using the example from Reliance Industries' Annual Report, left an indelible mark on me. Witnessing his ability to captivate a room filled with 60 eager minds without a dull moment was awe-inspiring. Mr. Somayajulu was the embodiment of the teacher every student aspired to become. Thus, with that inspiration, I embarked on the path of academic enlightenment, dedicated to becoming a beacon of knowledge.

Fast forward to 2003, and my dream of becoming a teacher materialized. Entering a classroom filled with 50 exuberant 12th-grade students, I was brimming with enthusiasm. I longed for discipline and a shared ardor for the subject, but reality offered a stark contrast. The unruly behavior of the students took me by surprise, as they seemed to behave like a chaotic band of baboons, disregarding decorum and disrupting the learning environment. My attempts to maintain control were met with indifference, and their impishness only grew with my frustration. A problem loomed large.

I wasn't alone in facing this challenge; it was a shared struggle among teachers. After weeks of turmoil and despair, I realized that a direct approach was futile. Instead of berating their indiscipline, I opted to delve deeper into the root cause of their behavior. While it was a formidable task, I refused to give up. I invested time, observed attentively, and practiced patience. Conversations with colleagues and individual sessions with students became my tools for understanding the underlying issues. Gradually, I began to understand each student on a personal level.

Simultaneously, the students began to trust me, and we cultivated mutual respect. As this newfound understanding blossomed, I found my footing in the classroom, and the class transformed into an effective learning environment. With sincerity and dedication, I taught, and my students eagerly embraced the subject. My magic lay not in spells but in a genuine understanding of the problem and the application of a practical solution.



These students had endured years of humiliation and neglect. Labeled as the "unfit" class, they were starved of love, respect, encouragement, and motivation. What was missing in their lives was positivity. Drawing from my background in guidance and counseling, I decided to listen, speak with love, respect their individuality, and encourage their interests, whether in sports, arts, or any other domain. The solution was simple but profound. Their behavior began to shift, and they started exploring new horizons, ultimately finding happiness and creating cherished memories.

Proudly, I can say that these students have gone on to complete prestigious undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and are now gainfully employed in Fortune 500 companies. Some have even pursued higher education abroad. They not only evolved into better individuals but also taught me the true essence of teaching, guiding me to improve as an educator.

Such experiences fuel my passion for the noble profession of teaching, reminding me of the profound impact it has on shaping lives and contributing to the future of society. This narrative, though centered around a few students, represents a mere chapter in my twenty-year journey, during which every student I've encountered has played a pivotal role in shaping me into a better human being.

"The influence of a good teacher can never be erased." - Unknown

"Teaching Beyond the Classroom: A Journey of Inspiration and Transformation"

- By, Pooja Shah



In a world where the relentless pursuit of success often cast a shadow over everything else, I held steadfast to a belief - that mindset was the cornerstone of greatness. I implored my students to cultivate persistence, never to surrender, and to tackle challenges with the unwavering heart of a lion. To me, the golden combination was this robust mindset coupled with an abundance of empathy.

In my quest to manifest this vision, I crafted a life-changing course at the illustrious Midas School of Entrepreneurship, and I named it aptly - "Transcend." The name itself whispered of a process that facilitated students in transcending their self-imposed limitations, preparing them for life. It was more than just about honing business acumen; it was about nurturing personal growth and fostering self-discovery.

As the years rolled on, I had the privilege of shaping hundreds of students in the art of entrepreneurship and life itself. I witnessed phenomenal transformations unfold within my students, reaffirming that I was treading the right path. However, among all the tales of triumph, one story stood out, a story I now wish to share as a confidant and mentor.

On a dreary, rain-drenched afternoon, a despondent young man named Rahul knocked on my office door. His dreams of birthing his own business were teetering on the precipice of surrender. He felt lost and defeated by the myriad challenges that entrepreneurship had thrust upon him.

With rapt attention, I lent him my ears and an empathetic shoulder to lean on. I gently reminded him of the pivotal role persistence played in our journeys and the importance of facing challenges with courage. I shared my own stories of tribulation and the ways in which I'd navigated them through empathy and sheer determination.

Over the subsequent months, I mentored Rahul without judgment, steadfastly supporting him through the highs and lows of entrepreneurship. Rahul's transformation was nothing short of miraculous; he not only launched his own business but also evolved into a staunch advocate for infusing empathy into the world of entrepreneurship.

As I narrated this story, it dawned on me that I had imbibed profound lessons through my own principles. My mission at Midas School of Entrepreneurship was not merely about teaching but being a friend and mentor, embodying empathy and nurturing persistence. In a world often blinded by ambition and competition, "Transcend" served as a beacon of hope and transformation, reminding all who passed through its doors that success was not just a destination but a journey, guided by empathy and resilience.

In the realm of teaching, I have had the privilege of playing both friend and coach to innumerable young minds. Yet, one student's odyssey stands out, a remarkable transformation that rekindled my belief in the sheer power of mentorship.

Hailing from a small, unassuming town, he bore the heavy weight of low self-confidence and an inhibiting stammer. His greatest fear was his father's disapproval, and I knew that bridging this chasm in their relationship was the key to unlocking his latent potential.

So, I embarked on a patient, hours-long journey of listening, peeling back the layers to reveal the person behind the stutter. We discussed his trials, dreams, and aspirations, and during these heartfelt conversations, he often unearthed his own solutions to life's challenges. It was a poignant reminder that the answers to our problems frequently reside within our own consciousness.

As days evolved into weeks, he began rebuilding his self-belief, and I stood resolutely at his side, an unflinching source of support. This unwavering presence empowered him in a way he had never experienced before. It was a profound journey of self-discovery and growth.

The zenith of my teaching career arrived when he delivered his final presentation. His pitch was potent, brimming with confidence, and executed flawlessly. I could see his parents in the audience, tears of pride glistening in their eyes. The transformation from a timid, stammering youth to a self-assured, articulate individual was nothing short of awe-inspiring.

In that defining moment, I realized the colossal impact one can have on another's life by nurturing their strengths, helping them surmount their weaknesses, and kindling their self-belief. It was a testament to the idea that, with unwavering confidence in who they are, anyone can achieve their deepest desires.

My student's journey bore witness to the power of friendship and mentorship. I wasn't just a spectator of his growth; I was a participant in it. It's a story that I will carry with me, an everlasting reminder that, with the right guidance and support, young minds can achieve anything they set their hearts on.

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning." - Brad Henry

"In the Footsteps of Greatness

- Dr Pankaj Choudhury



Nestled within the hallowed halls of BMS College of Commerce and Management lies not just a sanctuary of academic excellence but a living testament to the unwavering spirit of Dr. Pankaj Choudhury, the revered Principal. As the guardian of this institution, Dr. Choudhury is more than just an administrative figure; he is the epitome of mentorship, a guiding light for countless students. His zeal for education, relentless commitment, and innate ability to ignite inspiration have, over the years, transformed the College into a sacred haven of knowledge. Yet, this story of inspiration traces its origins back to the mentors who once illuminated Dr. Choudhury's own path.

Dr. Pankaj Choudhury has always been the beacon of inspiration for his students, but his personal journey towards success found its roots in the extraordinary mentors who once shaped his own educational voyage. Their influence didn't just define his career; it ignited the flame of mentorship within him, creating a ripple effect that resonates within the college's walls.

The first of these mentors is Professor Prasoon Majumdar, the Academic Dean at IIPM New Delhi. Professor Majumdar possessed a remarkable gift – the ability to infuse the seemingly dry subject of Economics with vibrancy and engagement. In his classroom, Dr. Choudhury discovered the enchanting magic of economics. With his guidance, the complexities of National Economic Planning transformed into an exciting adventure. Professor Majumdar not only imparted knowledge but also kindled a profound appreciation for the pivotal role of Economics in shaping the world's course. His passion for teaching and his unique approach to knowledge delivery was nothing short of revelatory for Dr. Choudhury. He served not only as a teacher but as a mentor, igniting the desire in Dr. Choudhury to aim for greater heights.

The story of inspiration doesn't conclude there. Dr. B. S. Ragini Narayan, the Chairperson, Donor Trustee, and Member Secretary of BMS Educational Trust, along with Dr. P. Dayananda Pai, the Life Trustee of BMS Educational Trust and the Managing Director of Century Real Estate, left an indelible mark on Dr. Pankaj's journey. They did more than just inspire him to join the BMS Group of Institutions; they instilled in him a profound sense of leadership and entrepreneurship.



Their unwavering belief in him provided the motivation and inspiration he needed to contribute to the growth of the BMS Group of Institutions. Every day, Dr. Choudhary carries the essence of their mentorship, which guides him to execute his role as the Principal of BMS College of Commerce and Management with utmost effectiveness. Under their guidance, he unearthed his calling in the world of education. They encouraged him to dream beyond boundaries and to be a trailblazer, not just a follower. They nurtured the spirit of entrepreneurship within him, and he embarked on a journey to establish prestigious educational institutions.

Another pivotal figure in Dr. Choudhary's life is Dr. Keshava Rao, who ardently believed in his potential. Dr. Keshav's unwavering support acted as the driving force behind Dr. Choudhary's decision to pursue the challenging path of a Ph.D. in Portfolio Management. His unwavering faith in Dr. Choudhary's abilities propelled him to scale even greater heights in his career.

Dr. Pankaj Choudhary's transformation from a humble student to an inspirational mentor was marked by these extraordinary individuals who believed in him, provided unwavering guidance, and nurtured his latent potential. Today, he continues to carry forward their enduring legacy, inspiring generations of students with the invaluable lessons he inherited from his mentors. His story is a living testament to the formidable power of mentorship, the significance of unrelenting perseverance, and the transformative influence of exceptional educators and leaders.

Dr. Pankaj Choudhary remains an eternal source of inspiration for the generations that follow him, passing on the priceless wisdom he gained from his mentors. In a world that constantly evolves, Dr. Choudhary stands as a symbol of continuity, ensuring that the light of inspiration transcends time, illuminating the path for all who seek knowledge and wisdom. His journey is a testament to the enduring legacy of mentorship and the unceasing flame of inspiration that never dims.

"In teaching, you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years." - Jacques Barzun

Dare to Change Do you

- Dr Yogesh Pai



In the realm of noble professions, teaching stands as a beacon, for it wields the power to shape lives, to sculpt destinies. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the revered former President of India, once affirmed that, "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honor for me." These words resonate deeply with the essence of the teaching profession.

A teacher's mettle extends beyond academic acumen; it requires the fortitude to guide students along the right path, even when it means correcting their course. Allow me to recount a poignant incident from the early days of my teaching career, an episode that left an indelible mark on my journey in this noble profession.

Approximately two decades ago, I sat in my office engrossed in the meticulous evaluation of mid-term examination answer scripts, a task that consumed my week. Suddenly, an urgent knock reverberated through my door, and a staff member informed me that visitors awaited me. The Head of the Department had instructed me to meet them promptly. Anticipating concerned parents seeking information about their children's progress, I directed, "Send them in immediately."

As the door closed behind me, I was greeted by a couple whose faces bore the burden of pain. It was apparent that we had never crossed paths before, adding to my disquiet. Promptly, I extended the customary introduction, despite my name being etched on the door. The father hesitated for a moment before introducing himself as "the father of...", leaving a pregnant pause before he inquired, "Are these the answer scripts from the recent examination?"

The question rekindled memories of an event from the preceding week. In the tapestry of education, assessments form an integral strand, one that demands as much dedication from educators as their teaching endeavors. On one such occasion, I was entrusted with invigilating an examination hall filled with around 30 students. As I paced the aisle, vigilantly monitoring each student, I found myself drawn to one particular individual.



"A life of joy and happiness is possible only on the basis of knowledge and science" - Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

The student in question had never displayed any signs of indiscipline in my class. However, my past as a student had left me well-versed in the artful ways students attempted to circumvent examination rules. Torn between my suspicions and my perception of the student as diligent and respectful, a myriad of questions danced in my mind. "Is it possible that this model student is involved in malpractice?" I wondered. "Should I investigate and potentially tarnish my relationship with the student?"

Ultimately, my inner voice urged me forward. I requested the student's answer script, which resulted in a polite inquiry, "Sir, it's not time for submission. Why are you taking it early?" The student's courteous response momentarily disarmed me, and I pondered the implications of my actions.

Without further delay, I assured the student that the script would be returned promptly. And then, the moment of revelation occurred as a small chit tumbled from the script. Upon examination, I confirmed that it contained answers pertinent to the subject being tested.

Returning to the present, the father's question echoed for the second time, "Are these the answer scripts from the recent examination?" I replied affirmatively, prompting him to fold his hands in a gesture of apology. He spoke, "Sir, we are deeply ashamed of our child's cheating in the examination. We traveled here to convey our apologies to the institution's teachers. We are a family dedicated to serving our nation, living together, and the entire family is appalled by this act. I spoke to my child on that day, and I continue to do so. She acknowledges the wrong she committed and is consumed by shame. I assure you that such an act will not recur, and we accept any action you deem necessary. However, I request that you grant a second chance. I believe that your trust will not be betrayed, and I implore you not to treat my child differently after this regrettable incident."

In response, I acknowledged the sincerity and commitment that brought them to my office. As a teacher, my responsibility lay in preventing academic dishonesty, and I had fulfilled that duty. I had already discussed the incident with their child, who expressed remorse and promised never to engage in such misconduct again. My approach to guiding the student had been consistent even before the incident.

Years later, a knock at my office door once again disrupted my work. To my delight, I recognized the trio standing there, seeking permission to enter. The student spoke, "Thank you for showing me the right path. I remember the promise I made to you, and I have kept it. I have not broken that promise, and I never will." This moment exemplified the profound impact a teacher can have, a testament to the far-reaching influence of this noble profession.

"The teacher is the one who gets the most out of the lessons, and the true teacher is the learner." - Elbert Hubbard

RISING ABOVE THE CHALLENGES:

- Parag Shah



In the realm of education, where talents are often discovered, and potential is nurtured, there emerged a remarkable young man named Gopal. His journey, marked by resilience, determination, and an unparalleled entrepreneurial spirit, became an inspiration to everyone he encountered.

Gopal's story began with a challenge that could have crippled an entire institution. During his engineering studies in computer science, when the spectre of COVID loomed large, his college faced a daunting task. The institution received a quote for ₹40 million to transition their batch of tablets from fingerprint scanners to a face recognition system. In a moment that showcased his ingenuity, Gopal stepped forward. With a vision and resourcefulness that defied the odds, he created a solution that cost the college a mere ₹5000, saving them millions.

Impressed by his innovative prowess, I invited Gopal for an interview at the Midas School of Entrepreneurship. When I asked him why he deserved admission and a scholarship, his response was nothing short of inspiring. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity, citing his lack of entrepreneurial legacy in his family. Gopal aspired not just to succeed but to surpass even the legendary Steve Jobs. His confidence was contagious, and it soon became evident that his potential was boundless.

Throughout his time at Midas, Gopal's capabilities shone brightly. He showcased not only critical thinking but also unparalleled creativity. On his graduation day, he was honored as the most complete student of the year, a testament to his dedication and hard work. In his speech, he eloquently shared his transformative journey, from the first day he walked into Midas, wide-eyed and ambitious, to the last day, brimming with overwhelming emotions. The audience was captivated as he recounted his experiences, taking everyone on an emotional ride.

Behind his extraordinary achievements lay a challenging past. Gopal's father, a chronic alcoholic, subjected him to abuse during his childhood. Despite these hardships, Gopal exhibited unparalleled strength. His mother, a local schoolteacher, became his pillar of support, nurturing his dreams and resilience.

Upon leaving the institution, Gopal joined Zensar Technologies, where his exceptional skills were quickly recognized. Within six months, he received a significant salary increase, doubling his earnings to ₹10,00,000 per annum. He embraced leadership roles and even earned the title of Best Employee, a testament to his dedication and proficiency. In his spare time, he delved into the realm of cybersecurity, aspiring to become one of the country's leading experts in the field.

Gopal's story is a testament to the transformative power of education, determination, and unwavering resolve. His journey, from adversity to triumph, serves as a beacon of hope for others facing challenges. Gopal's resilience, creativity, and unyielding spirit remind us that with perseverance and the right opportunities, individuals can overcome even the most daunting obstacles and emerge as true leaders. As we celebrate Gopal's achievements, we are reminded that every setback can be a setup for a comeback, and every challenge can pave the way for unparalleled success.

**"Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition."
- Jacques Barzun**

"Breaking Chains, Building Dreams: A Teacher's Impact on Overcoming Addiction"

- Naveen Shetty (About Rahul Parmar)



It was a time in my life when everything seemed dark, and my future felt bleak. Addiction had a tight grip on me, and it felt like there was no way out. My attendance at college was sporadic, my grades were plummeting, and I had lost the vibrancy that once defined me. That's when I met Mr. Rahul, my dean, who became a guiding light in the midst of my darkest days.

Mr. Rahul saw something in me that I couldn't see in myself. He saw beyond the addiction and recognized the potential that lay buried beneath. He didn't judge me; instead, he offered me compassion and a safe space to open up about my struggles. He took a personal interest in my well-being, and that's when I began to trust him and share my harrowing journey of addiction.

I remember the day he introduced a class project centered around personal goals. He encouraged us to envision a brighter future and develop actionable plans to achieve our dreams. Inspired by his belief in me, I decided to turn my life around. With Mr. Rahul by my side, I embarked on a journey of recovery. He connected me with counselling services, support groups, and resources for addiction recovery.

Mr. Rahul became more than just a teacher; he was my mentor. He guided me through moments of doubt and celebrated even the smallest of triumphs. As my determination to change my life grew, so did my academic achievements. I started excelling in my studies, and it was Mr. Rahul who recognized my talent and encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming a writer.

We worked together to hone my communication skills. He provided guidance on leadership, self-discipline and helped me prepare for various management fests and competitions. With each success, my confidence grew, and I began to see a future full of possibilities that had once seemed out of reach.

Upon graduating, I received acceptance letters from several prestigious universities and offer from various companies, a testament to my remarkable turnaround. With Mr. Rahul's guidance and unwavering support, I chose to pursue a post-graduation in Marketing, determined to use my talents to inspire and uplift others.



Years later, I have emerged as a Marketing Head with renowned company based out of USA, using my own experiences as a student and inspiration from Rahul, trying to touch many Lives as I can. My journey from the depths of addiction to the heights of success became a source of inspiration for countless others facing similar challenges. And all of this, I owe to Mr. Rahul.

Mr. Rahul, your impact on my life extends far beyond the classroom. Your belief in my potential, your compassion, and your dedication to helping me overcome addiction transformed my life. You ignited a fire within me to make a positive impact on the world, and for that, I'm forever grateful. Thank you for being my teacher, mentor, and most importantly, my friend. And I would like to Thank Strong Coffee to give a platform to narrate this or else I fear which could have just lost in my memories and could have never come to light.

"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts." - C.S. Lewis

"A Lesson in Belief: The Student Who Defied Expectations"

- By Suhan Mendon



In the hallowed halls of academia, where knowledge is passed from one generation to the next, professors are not just purveyors of facts; they are the custodians of wisdom, the shepherds of enlightenment, and the sparks of inspiration. They are mentors and advisors who wield the power to leave an indelible mark on their students. Some, by their remarkable guidance, etch their names into the annals of history. Their role isn't just about imparting knowledge; it's about nurturing, guiding, and pushing their pupils to new heights.

Among the many bright minds that graced my MBA class, there was one student who stood out from the rest, not just for his impeccable appearance but also for his unwavering optimism. He had an insatiable urge to share his thoughts, often without awaiting permission. My task, it seemed, was to play the ever-patient conductor to this relentless verbal symphony. But what set him apart was his response to every admonishment: "Thank you for correcting me."

One morning, during a lecture that tested my patience, I issued a threat to this chatterbox that I would remove him from the class. The moment those words left my lips, a chorus of his fellow students chimed in with, "He's talking again!" It was time to follow through on my promise. Fuming, I banished him from the room and demanded that he seek permission from the institute director to re-enter with an apology.

His face, small and pale, bore a resilience that belied his outward appearance. His parting words, as he left the room, were once again, "Thank you for correcting me."

I can vividly recall a day when I summoned him to the chalkboard to solve a problem in front of his peers. With humility, he refused, citing his classmates' perception of him as weak in the subject. In response, I mustered encouragement, saying, "Of course you can. Young man, come up here and solve the problem." He replied, "I can't." The class erupted in laughter.

I emerged from behind my desk and locked eyes with him, uttering a simple truth: "Someone else's opinion of you does not have to become your reality." It was a lesson that would leave an indelible mark on him.



Years later, on the very campus where his transformation began, I was surprised to see him. He approached me in a business formal attire, radiating confidence. He embraced me warmly, reminiscing about his college days. It turned out he was now a member of the crime branch of investigation, handling matters related to crime, prosecution, and the collection of criminal intelligence. He had become the embodiment of the notion that life is not just about acing exams; it's also about cleverness, skill, agility, and talent.

He remembered me, even after all those years, and reached out to me at least twice a year, a testament to the lasting impact a professor can have on a student's life. The chatterbox who once could not bear the thought of solving a problem on the chalkboard had blossomed into a real-world problem-solver, a living example of what the right guidance and self-belief can achieve.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." - B.B. King

"The Mentor's Guiding Light

- By, Dr Preethi Stanley



In the heart of the bustling metropolis that is Bangalore, I ignited the skyline with my ambitions. I was a dreamer, a starry-eyed visionary, determined to etch my name into the annals of the world's achievements. My extraordinary journey commenced at Bishop Cotton Women's Christian College, where I embarked on my undergraduate voyage with an unwavering resolve that sent shockwaves through the campus. My reputation as a stellar scholar was an open secret, my insatiable thirst for knowledge lighting my path.

After conquering my undergraduate realm, I set my sights on the revered Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM), where I undertook my post-graduation expedition. There, I immersed myself in the world of business and management, with each day serving as a fresh canvas for me to paint with newfound insights. It was in those hallowed halls that the seeds of my passion for human resources and talent development sprouted into a flourishing garden.

With my knowledge now an unstoppable torrent, I embarked on an odyssey of scholarly achievement, a journey culminating in a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Meerut University. Here, I explored the intricate dance of human behaviour and organizational psychology, delving deeper than ever before. My dedication bore fruit, and I emerged as a doctorate with a profound understanding of the human dynamics within the corporate labyrinth.

Armed with this formidable academic arsenal, I became a highly sought-after commodity in the business world. The likes of KPMG, Yahoo, and Accenture were fortunate enough to be graced by my presence, where I honed my skills as an HR professional. However, as the sands of time slipped through my fingers, I yearned for a more profound purpose, a deeper connection with humanity.

The turning point arrived when I, resolute and inspired, decided to leap into the realm of education. My destination: the BMS College of Commerce and Management, where I joined as an Assistant Professor. My passion for teaching, evident in every lecture, was akin to a beacon in the fog, illuminating the path for young, eager minds. My journey was one of rekindled purpose and redefined direction.



As the years unravelled, my dedication and commitment drew the eyes of both destiny and a remarkable mentor. That mentor, none other than Dr. Pankaj Choudhary, the college's Principal, recognized my latent potential from the very beginning. He saw my dedication, my ability to forge connections with students, and my unique skill of bridging the realms of academia and the corporate cosmos. In me, he saw a leader and an inspirer.

Under Dr. Pankaj Choudhary's wing, I soared to greater heights. His mentorship, like a steadfast lighthouse, guided me through the tumultuous seas of academia. He believed in me when I didn't fully believe in myself. He steeled my resolve and lent his unwavering support. Under his watchful eye, I blossomed into the inspiring educator I had always aspired to be.

My journey was nothing short of a meteoric rise. I transformed from an Assistant Professor into an academic leader, the Head of Corporate Communication, and the HOD of Management. Dr. Pankaj Choudhary remained my anchor, offering guidance and counsel whenever the tempestuous waves of academia threatened to capsize my ship.

From the day I stepped onto the college grounds to this very moment, my journey, inspired by the visionary Dr. Pankaj Choudhary, has been a testament to the power of determination and mentorship. Together, we've woven a tapestry of inspiration and transformation at BMS College of Commerce and Management, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of education.

Dr. Preethi Stanley, an unwavering believer in the mantra that "Education is your passport, Knowledge is Power, and Learning never stops," continues to inspire and nurture the young minds that flock to me, illuminating their paths in this dynamic world of knowledge and growth.

**"Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best."
- Bob Talbert**



"Lessons Beyond the Curriculum

- By Rahul Parmar



In a serene corner of our bustling college, I, Mr. Parmar, noticed the silent struggles of one of my students, Namrata. Behind Namrata's bright smile lay a veil of anxiety and depression that often clouded her potential.

With keen perception, I reached out to Namrata, offering a gentle hand of support. I created a nurturing environment where Namrata felt safe to share her deepest fears and emotions. Through our heartfelt conversations, I helped Namrata unravel the complex tangle of her feelings, offering guidance and comfort.

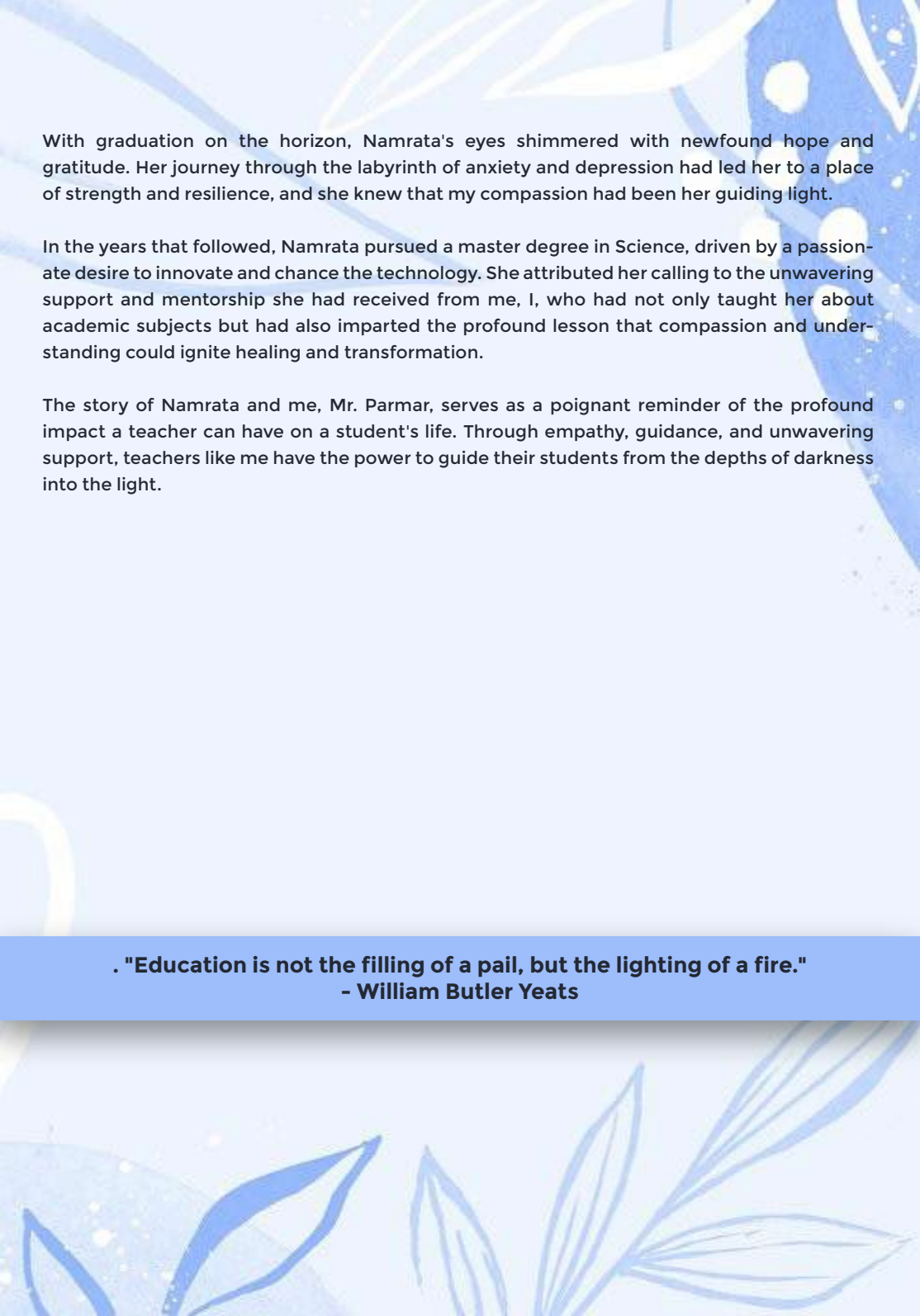
Recognizing the need for professional assistance, I collaborated with the counsellor outside the college, ensuring that Namrata received the holistic care she deserved. Together, we crafted a tailored plan to alleviate academic pressures, allowing Namrata to focus on her healing journey.

Empowered by my unwavering belief in her, Namrata embarked on a path of self-discovery. Mindfulness practices became her daily companions, helping her regain control over her racing thoughts. I introduced Namrata to the world of journaling, providing an outlet for her emotions that gradually turned into a source of empowerment.

Our collaboration extended beyond the classroom. Namrata had isolated herself from social interactions, but I gently nudged her towards group activities. With a watchful eye, I partnered Namrata with empathetic classmates who welcomed her with open arms, fostering a sense of belonging that had long eluded her.

As Namrata's confidence blossomed, I encouraged her to take a leadership role in a class project. Guided by my patient mentorship, Namrata conquered her fears and delivered a captivating presentation, leaving her peers and teachers inspired.

The ripples of Namrata's transformation spread far and wide. Outside of school, I introduced Namrata to art therapy and encouraged her to engage in volunteering. These outlets became channels for Namrata to express herself and give back to the community, further nurturing her emotional well-being.



With graduation on the horizon, Namrata's eyes shimmered with newfound hope and gratitude. Her journey through the labyrinth of anxiety and depression had led her to a place of strength and resilience, and she knew that my compassion had been her guiding light.

In the years that followed, Namrata pursued a master degree in Science, driven by a passionate desire to innovate and change the technology. She attributed her calling to the unwavering support and mentorship she had received from me, I, who had not only taught her about academic subjects but had also imparted the profound lesson that compassion and understanding could ignite healing and transformation.

The story of Namrata and me, Mr. Parmar, serves as a poignant reminder of the profound impact a teacher can have on a student's life. Through empathy, guidance, and unwavering support, teachers like me have the power to guide their students from the depths of darkness into the light.

**. "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
- William Butler Yeats**



**“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
- Swami Vivekananda**

"Building Bridges of Learning: The Pandemic's Unexpected Gift"

- By, Rohit Rammurthy Parihar



In the midst of the pandemic's chaos, life took an unexpected turn for me. While I was employed as a professor, my main focus had always been on imparting knowledge within the confines of a classroom. But the world was changing and on pause due to Covid, and so it forced a change on me as well.

The pandemic, with all its challenges, brought with it a unique opportunity. With a deep-rooted passion for Leadership and Entrepreneurship, I decided to venture into the uncharted territory of online content creation and curation, primarily targeting students and professionals in my field. What began as a small endeavour soon evolved into a remarkable journey of knowledge sharing and inspiration.

I embarked on a mission to bring education and insights to those who craved it, regardless of their location or background. Online seminars, workshops, and webinars became my canvas, and my brushstrokes were the voices of eminent individuals from various domains. These were not just any voices; they were the voices of educators, industrialists, entrepreneurs, CEOs, politicians, and influencers. They were the voices of wisdom and experience.

What made these sessions extraordinary was that they were offered to the world without a price tag. Over 2 million eager participants joined us from all corners of the globe, hungry for knowledge. The list of notable speakers was awe-inspiring. It included luminaries like Prof. Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Prize Laureate known for his groundbreaking work in microcredit. Dr. Philip Kotler, widely recognized as the "Father of Modern Marketing," shared his invaluable insights. Dr. David Aaker, the "Father of Modern Branding," offered his expertise. Prof. Gorick NG, the career advisor of Harvard University, provided guidance to aspiring students. Satyen Rao, the Creative Director of Ogilvy, brought the world of advertising to life. And Prof. Mukul Pandya, the Founder and Chief Editor of Knowledge at Wharton, enriched us with his wisdom.

One of the most memorable moments was Dr. Philip Kotler's webinar. The Father of Marketing himself graced us with his presence and generously shared his knowledge with students worldwide. In that moment, it was clear that technology had become a bridge to the latest developments in academics, offering us opportunities to build competencies not just personally and socially but professionally as well.



These webinars were not just a series of virtual lectures; they were catalysts for change. For the students who had previously only read about these personalities in textbooks and on the internet, it was a golden chance to hear from them directly, to be inspired by their stories, and to absorb their wisdom. It was as if a door had opened, revealing a world of possibilities.

The impact of these sessions was profound. Students who had once seen these experts as distant figures in their field now had the opportunity to connect with them on a personal level. The inspiration they received from these interactions pushed them to achieve greater things, both as individuals and professionals. The testimonials and messages I receive from these students to this day serve as a constant reminder of the transformative power of knowledge and inspiration.

The pandemic may have brought chaos, but it also brought the gift of knowledge, connecting us in ways we had never imagined. It showed us that even in the face of adversity, the human spirit can thrive and find new ways to learn, inspire, and grow. This journey has not only opened doors but has also ignited a passion to continue sharing, teaching, and motivating others to learn, explore, and dare to dream beyond their textbooks and screens.

**"One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world."
- Malala Yousafzai**



www.educationheros.sg

FOLLOW US ON



INITIATIVE TAKEN BY

