


THE INDIAN ACHIEVER'S CLUB

50 UNDER **50**

INDIAN ACHIEVERS

2020

EDITION I





We take this opportunity to Thank our Beloved Environment Minister **Hon. Shri Aditya Thackeray** for supporting us in our Dream Project of planting 75 lakh trees in Mumbai Metropolitan Region celebrating the 75th Year of Indian independence.

Thanks to the Forest Department of Maharashtra for facilitating our Plantation Drive and **The Rotary Club of Dahanu** to help us Plant trees.

All the Members at **The Indian Achiever's Club** together would join this initiative and we will continue to create many such opportunities which will enable non-members to participate in the Mega Plantation Drive.

We together shall ensure we fight Climate Change and make Mumbai a better place to live.

Please spread the message with your friends to plant trees online on **www.eplantations.in**

Special thanks to



Environment Minister
Hon. Shri Aditya Thackeray



Forest Department of Maharashtra



Dist : 3140

Rotary Club of Dahanu



ABOUT

Established in 1966 as Sahitya Bharti Trust, was then one of the biggest networking and socialising clubs in the city. The Trust was a collaborative effort by three aspiring entrepreneurs – Shri Shirish Mehta, Shri Jaivadan Takhtawala and Shri R.R Sheth, who translated the concept of networking clubs by having over 5000 members at once. The sole idea behind initiating this club was networking for businessmen and professionals to help them bring out better thoughts and strategies which in turn helped them to do better socially as well as professionally.

Today 54 years later, a team of like-minded new age entrepreneurs and professionals have come together giving a modern facelift to the networking club. This 2.0 version of the club is taking all the activities online, making available for its members who are spread across various regions of India and abroad. The initiative is in its new avatar with a modern approach, while keeping the ideology of appreciating the achievers in the society. We call the organisation – The Indian Achiever's Club.

Chaired by Harsh Vaidya an ecopreneur by profession with over 15 years of experience in brand communication and entrepreneurship, the organisation has a managing committee which includes a team of highly experienced entrepreneurs, strategists, professionals and experts in the field of creativity.

The main purpose of the club is to recognize the efforts of achievers, who have sailed through numerous social baises and today have established themselves in their respective fields. The club has come up with various initiatives which will bring the unsung achievers from around the country on a platform, where they can share their journey in front of the world.



50 UNDER 50

WINNERS
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THE INDIAN ACHIEVER'S CLUB



YAMINI K JAIPURIA
MANAGING TRUSTEE
COSMO FOUNDATION



ZORAWAR KALRA
FOUNDER & MD
MASSIVE
RESTAURANTS



**CHEF REETU UDAY
KUGAJI**
CHEF, FOOD BLOGGER
& CHEF CONSULTANT



AJAY CHHANGANI
ENTREPRENEUR
OWO



ANURITA PATEL
RADIO & DIGITAL
PROGRAMMING HEAD
RADIO CITY



ASHANI HIRWAY
FOUNDER
DA VINCI MONTESSORI
PRESCHOOLS



DEEPIKA CHAWLA
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANT &
VP FORTUNE 100
COMPANY



DURGA DAS
ENTREPRENEUR
& SPORTSPERSON



GANESH SOMWANSHI
FOUNDER DIRECTOR
KRESCENDO
COMMUNICATIONS



HARMEET ARORA
DIGITAL & FINTECH
PROFESSIONAL



HUSSAINE KESURY
CHIEF CATEGORY OFFICER
PEPPERFRY



INDERPREET NAGPAL
HOME CHEF
HERBS & SPICES



NISHANT MEHTA
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANT,
LAWYER & SERIAL
ENTREPRENEUR



K.S BHATIA
CEO & FOUNDER
PUMPKART



PINKY ACHARYA
LIFE COACH,
AUTHOR, MENTOR
& GRAPHOTHERAPIST



MUMTAZ LALVANI
CEO
MASCOT SPINCONTROL



ANSOO GUPTA
MARKETER,
ENTREPRENEUR
& FARMER



RJ RAJIV PAUL
RADIO JOCKEY,
ACTOR & VOICE
OVER ARTIST



REMEDIANA DIAS
FOUNDER
VISION EDUCATION
SOCIETY



RABIA PATEL
FOUNDER
WALK FOR A CAUSE
SOCIETY



SAMINA BARODAWALLA
SOFT SKILL
& COMMUNICATION
TRAINER



SURABHI DAND
PRANIC HEALER &
PSYCHOTHERAPIST



PIYA MARKER
DIRECTOR HEAD
THE ADITYA BIRLA
INTEGRATED SCHOOL



HITU MAHAJAN
SALES & MEDIA
MARKETING,
GROWTH CONSULTANT



SHILPI MADAN
JOURNALIST



YAMINI KUMAR JAIPURIA

MANAGING TRUSTEE
COSMO FOUNDATION

Transforming lives of the less privileged amongst us through providing education to children & other community support

Recipient of over 23 global awards in my tenure at GE company

Been recognised as one of the super wives and achiever's in Delhiites Magazine Dec 2020

Featured in Women's era October as a super achiever as well

📷 @yaminijaipuria 📞 9810000870



Yamini has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am currently the Managing Trustee for Cosmo Foundation, and lead the foundation with strategic inputs and guidance, closely monitoring all its programs and activities.

Prior to being associated with Cosmo Foundation, I worked with General Electric as the Vice President, Human Resources for GE Capital Europe, Asia and India.

General Electric will always be very close to my heart since I have spent 18 years of my learning phase in the company. I have met some great people there with a strong sense of ethical and moral values. Heading the HR function gave me a great understanding and knowledge of business and organizational operations. The role taught me the importance of team work, process, being credible and honest in all my dealings - important traits which hold me in good stead in my current role of leading the Cosmo foundation. The seeds of giving back to the community were sown at GE, as I was given the opportunity to launch their philanthropic arm which is now called GE Foundation. I spearheaded it for India and Asia throughout my tenure with them.

In terms of my education, post my graduation from St. Stephen's, I got into the London School of Economics where I pursued my Masters in International Relations. I also pursued my Masters in Business Administration from the American College in London. International Relations helped in giving me a better understanding on the geo-political aspects of the world; which continues to help me at each step. I also made some great friends, learnt the real meaning of self-reliance and gained a global mind set.



WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR WORK THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GET UP EVERY MORNING?

I look forward to each day by appreciating the things I have, by offering my gratitude to the universe & by consciously striving to transform the lives of the less fortunate amidst us. The ability that you can change one life at a time is most soul satisfying and it gives me a lot of energy & sense of purpose .it's not waking up to just go through the motions of the day but waking up with the intention of making a difference to someone's life for real . When this happens you start to feel alive, and you start to live not only for yourself but for others and start wishing there were more hours to the day, days to the week and so on....

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

The best part, according to me would be giving back to the society. There is nothing better I would be doing. I work towards Identifying areas of concern at the grass roots level and providing strategic solutions to improve upon them, some of which include education, sanitation and environment; while also spearheading social transformation by prioritizing resources.

If I was to choose, I would any day choose my work which helps me in helping the society by educating children, raising awareness about health and sanitation, creating opportunities for young minds via improving learning outcomes and helping the people in need with food, safety, shelter and hygiene.

There is nothing that I don't like about the industry.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am the only India member on the International Fair play committee that works under the aegis of the International Olympic committee and the United Nations. The committee was formed to drive camaraderie ship, sportsmanship and Fair Play across all international sporting events.

My father late Shri Ashwini Kumar was the only Indian to ever be the Vice President of the international Olympic committee and I have been fortunate to attend every Summer Olympic Games since Moscow 1980. I too used to be a national level Swimmer and represented Delhi state in Basketball. Sport is in my DNA.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

I would divide this into two major sections. One would be the characteristics you must possess, and the other is the people you associate yourself with.



In terms of characteristics, it is extremely important to have empathy, a big heart and an eye for a change. Unless you see what needs to be changed in a society to make it prosperous, you will never be able to become that agent of change. Also, having a hands on approach to deal with natural calamities is a trait you must possess in the philanthropic space. Cosmo Foundation for example, responded to the pandemic quickly but with utmost patience; helping frontline workers, police men and people & families affected by Covid-19 with food hygiene and safety gears in order to help in the fight against the virus.

The second most crucial element to succeed in this field are the people you associate with. What you need is a hardworking team and good NGO Partners, who resonates your enthusiasm for the cause, and who you can rely on for anything when it comes to work. Cosmo Foundation has been working with several Partners across the country, majorly in and around the company's plants in Aurangabad and Vadodara, and in New Delhi as well.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

On the personal front, I love reading. In particular, I am a fan of Fiction books. I have an innate love for pets, and hence I have also started a community on Facebook and Instagram by the name of Pets Familia, where new and experienced pet parents can come together and share stories, insights and provide guidance on how to provide the best care for your pets.

I am also a fitness freak. I love reading about new fitness regimes and then practice them to keep myself healthy. I like to follow a strict diet and a routine to keep myself fit and ready for all the challenges that I have to face.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

There is always a change in the social sector post any pandemic or calamity. Covid-19 has been one of the biggest pandemics we have seen in our times, and the impact it has created has also been great. People in the lower income segment or people who fall below the poverty line have taken the biggest hit. Daily wage workers have lost their livelihood. Due to the closure of several industries during the lockdown period, many sole bread earners in the family have lost their source of income. People could not return to their homes due to unavailability of transport; police personals, doctors and frontline workers have been working day and night to keep us safe from the pandemic, not thinking about their own safety. This pandemic has changed the way we look at normalcy. So yes, there has been a major change in the industry and in the lives of people caused by the pandemic.

As Managing Trustee of the Cosmo Foundation I was heading the operations during Covid 19 and the lockdown. Since the labourers and the under-privileged people were most affected, our first task was to help them. We provided buses for the migrant labourers to travel from Delhi to Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh. We at Cosmo Foundation have been engaged in providing relief through food and education in Aurangabad, Vadodara and New Delhi, the headquarters of our parent company through direct interventions as well as NGO partners. We have distributed cooked meals and essential groceries...



to the needy. We have also distributed masks, sanitizers and hand gloves to police personal, sanitation workers and daily wage labourers as well as PPE to Primary Healthcare Centers.

In sync with our education based community outreach, we have designed digital learning programs for the rural students to augment their English, digital skills, life skills and health & hygiene awareness and imparting them mostly through Whatsapp and Zoom app in some cases.

Overall, during this period, we touched 2,25,000 lives as we distributed one lakh kg grocery, served 1,25,000 cooked meals, distributed 15,000 masks, 2,500 sanitizers and 3,000 hygiene kits to the people in need and to Corona warriors. We even ensured that old age homes had adequate food and had their sanitary needs covered.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

One of the biggest problem I have faced in the social sector is the lack of coordination and the inability bridge the gap between the problem and its solution. I have seen through my years of experience in the field that it is almost impossible to solve the problem of world hunger unless there is proper coordination. It is extremely important to have strong partnerships, and it is equally essential to co-partner with NGO's who are working at the grassroots level, in order to understand the problems at hand and in order to move closer towards solving them.

Cosmo Foundation is only a 10 year old foundation, but have been able to accomplish a lot through correct partnerships with good NGO Partners who have been working to eradicate the root cause of problems faced by the underprivileged in our country. While there is a lot more to be accomplished, I feel we are moving in the right direction.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

With the kind of work we do, it is extremely important for me to keep myself calm and deal with every day with a fresh mind. It is important to stop, introspect and see where you are going right, and what corrections are required in order to bring yourself to the path destined. It is very important to meditate, think about your actions and decide on a course correction if required.

One thing which I always practice is to wake up and decide to make a difference in someone's life that day through my work at the foundation. It is paramount to keep your morale high, because that is when you will be able to deliver the best outcomes.

Plan your day with focus, set some smart goals for yourself each day and always have a never say die attitude. That is what has kept me going all these years.



ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

In terms of the parent company, we are soon entering into the B2C pet care industry. This is also important for me since I am a pet lover and have always tried to keep myself connected to pets in one way or the other.

For Cosmo Foundation, our immediate goal would be to bring back mainstream education and create awareness on the importance of sending children to schools now that the pandemic is taking a backseat. During the closure of schools, we also helped students learn different core subjects, life skills and English communication through Cosmo Digi Paatshalas. We benefited more than 10,000 students with our program. That said, it is also important for students to gear up and return to schools, now that the situation is getting back to normal.

In the past few months, we have also worked towards helping families affected by the pandemic and frontline workers in New Delhi along with Gujarat and Maharashtra; with food, hygiene kits and safety kits. We are also looking at strengthening our Education, Awareness and Health programs in the capital city in the near future to better help people.



ZORAWAR KALRA

FOUNDER & MD
MASSIVE RESTAURANTS PVT. LTD.

Perfecting the science of molecular gastronomy with India's spice and flavour, Zorawar Kalra is a name that commands respect in the Indian hospitality industry

Recognized amongst the 50 Most Influential Young Indians by GQ India (thrice)

GQ Men of the Year - Restaurateur of 2017

Economic Times 40 Under 40; Forbes Tycoons of Tomorrow

Restaurateur of the Year Award, 2014 & 2017

Times of India & Vir Sanghvi Awards

A Finalist in E&Y Entrepreneur of the year 2017

Entrepreneur of the Year in Service Business - F & B Services, Entrepreneur India Awards, 2014



Zorawar has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

With a Master's in Business Administration from Boston's Bentley Business University, my proclivity towards path-breaking edible creations hails from my genetic love for food. With an entrepreneurial bent of mind and the new encyclopedia for all things food, I ostensibly studied the Indian food & beverage market, introducing some of the most genre-defining restaurant concepts India has ever seen.

From owning, operating and trendsetting critically acclaimed brands, I am spearheading Massive Restaurants that includes Farzi Café, Masala Library by Jiggs Kalra, Made In Punjab, Pa Pa Ya, Younion, Bo Tai, Botai Switch, +94 Bombay and Swan under its wing. It has been an adrenaline-charged journey for me to watch it grow exponentially.

Owing to its success stories, the brand has raised INR 160 crores from Gaja Capital for the purpose of expansion. With strong foresight, I aim to launch properties in 10 new cities within this year.



WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR WORK THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GET UP EVERY MORNING?

In an industry where competition is so tough, it is extremely important to keep evolving to stay ahead of the curve and give patrons something exciting each time they choose to dine at our restaurants. Not a day goes by when I don't think how we can give our patrons great food with good service. I believe there is no golden rule of running a restaurant apart from the fact that guests should be served great food in a hygienic manner, with a smile.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Innovation in food and ambience has always been my prime focus. In a cut-throat space that is anyone's game, our idea is to stay innovative while expanding at the same time. Compared to businesses internationally, a lot of improvements are needed for seamless operations of our restaurants in India. There is a need for the sector to be more organised, for an effective cold chain and supply chains.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

A lot of my friends know me as a man who never sleeps. That's because my mind is continuously thinking about the best innovative ideas we can introduce in the market.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

In times of crisis leaders sometimes have the inclination to make hasty decisions and these can create further problems. Hence, patience and trust in your colleagues is extremely important to deal with a problem.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Apart from food, I have a keen interest in gadgets and I am an avid golfer and spend time introducing my kids to this game. Most of my leisure time is spent with family and exploring new destinations.



HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

The current pandemic is one of the biggest shocks to the entire human race. The F&B industry was one of the ones that were hit the worst. Restaurants were not operational, the staff in our industry did not have the option to work from home. This industry, which directly employs seven million people in the formal sector – to say nothing of those who in the informal sector, from roadside vendors to delivery boys – was crippled by the lockdown measures directly affecting the economy. The sector faced a severe cash-flow problem.

Changes I see in our industry are even though the recovery will definitely not take 2 years as now the vaccine has been rolled out across the world. As the restaurants have now opened up, the industry has been adapted itself with the service offerings and all safety and hygiene protocols are emerging in the sector to gain customer confidence and lift revenues.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

The biggest challenge with any new business is obviously the fact that you are always worried about getting customers. You put your heart and soul, everybody does. Everybody who opens a restaurant puts a lot of effort into it, does lots of planning and lots of other background activities. It might look calm on the outside, but lots of tinkering, lots of systems and processes are going on in the back.

The biggest challenge that we faced initially with Farzi Cafe was that Indian food was never considered exotic. One would never go out to an Indian restaurant on a date night. We wanted to change the perception and introduce a product that's Indian, exciting, exotic and drive the younger crowd to think of Indian food when they want to hang out with friends or plan a special date. Now Farzi as a brand has been able to reignite that passion for Indian food amongst the youth. And Indian palate earlier wasn't as evolved as now. Now people are more receptive and experimenting different cuisine and have become very passionate about food and dining.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

Always dream big. When you dream big and shoot for the moon, you are forcing yourself to get out of your comfort zone. Never quit. Perseverance makes all the difference. You are never too late or old to dream big. And there are no shortcuts in life, hard work is very important to achieve your goals.



HAVING SPENT SOME GOOD YEARS IN YOUR PROFESSION YOU WOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED DEALING WITH OLDER AND NEWER GENERATIONS. WHAT IS YOUR TAKE ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERATIONS AS TO WILL THEY MAKE THE NEXT RATAN TATAS OR DHIRUBHAI AMBANIS?

I have been fortunate enough to find energetic and enthusiastic team members for my company. The old generation comes with their own set of skills and expertise while the younger professionals are enthusiastic and spirited, excited about interesting food and new ideas, and driven by a desire to be a part of something greater than themselves.

The millennials have many opportunities in front of them and they are the next generation of great chefs and have the potential to be the global leaders.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

The need of the hour is to stabilise the current restaurants and ensure high levels of safety and sanitation at each of them. As a company, we are going to look at adaptation, for example, delivery that was traditionally less than 10 per cent of our revenue now plays a larger role. We have just launched a delivery and takeaway only brand in NCR – Butter Delivery and we are planning on expanding this to the other cities as well. We are also looking at opening many other cloud kitchens. While Farzi Café and Masala Library by Jiggs Kalra have expanded internationally, others like BO TAI and Made in Punjab are in nascent stages of an international launch. Farzi Café Canada and Kolkata are slated to open in the next few months. We plan on launching properties in 10 new cities this year.



REETU UDAY KUGAJI

CHEF, CULINARY EXPERT, MENTOR, EDUCATOR,
FOOD BLOGGER & CHEF CONSULTANT

Chef Reetu has 22+ years of experience in the world of culinary, and she believes that food is like oxygen for her

Awarded "The Real Superwomen 2020" in the Category Chef, Mumbai Maharashtra organized by FSIA Forever Star India Awards 2020
Received Award... " Exceptional Women of Excellence" conferred by Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2019

Won Trophy & Certificate... "The Pinnacle Chef of the Year" .. PIFA (Pinnacle Fame Awards 2020)

Received the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Award

Won award for Outstanding Achievement ..."The Most Sustainable Chef" 2020

AspiringShe Power Awardee 2020

Women Achievers Forum Designed to Inspire, 4th Edition 2020 for the " Most Innovative Chef Of The Year"

📷 @chefreetuudaykugaji 📞 9987051589



Reetu has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

'All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to you my angel mother in Heaven.'
I have Risen like Phoenix.

As a child I have grown up seeing my mother cook the most delectable cuisines for the entire family. That gave the first kick in my mind that, Yes food is such an interesting and enormous art. I guess that I have got it through my genes.

I remember when almost all my relatives were strictly against my joining Hotel Management. The persons who stood like pillars were and still are my parents. The myth those days was that this profession is just not apt for girls. I owe all my success to my God Almighty, my Angel mother Mrs. Manjit M.S. Arora and my father, Mr. M.S.Arora, who supported me right from day one. I made sure to make them proud by receiving the Certificate of Merit. Thus kick-starting my journey into the world of foods." I am also blessed to have such a supportive and motivating husband, my soulmate Uday B. Kugaji who supports, encourages and motivates me in my growth and success.

In the past, I have worked as a Program Head of Culinary Arts, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh at the ITM Institute of Hotel Management at Navi Mumbai.



Also, I have worked as an Associate Professor at D.Y. Patil University, School of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Navi Mumbai. At the D.Y. Patil University and Stadium, I was menu planning and preparing the most delectable and exotic cuisines for the Former Hon. President Of India Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Tai Patil, "The God of Cricket" Mr. Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, "The Great Wall of Indian Cricket" Mr. Rahul Dravid and various other dignitaries and eminent personalities.

I intricately prepared cuisine designed to capture a delicious and exciting range of flavours, textures and aromas. I also handled special food preparations for IPL matches and T 20-20, at the D.Y. Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai. I have cooked the most delectable cuisines for small to very large numbers.

I am presently working as a Chef Consultant for various eminent Brands. Also, I am into writing recipes and articles for both Desi and Videshi for various online and offline publications. I strongly believe in "Real Chefs Share and Teach."

As chefs and mentors we owe to the generations coming to create an awareness and follow Sustainable Cooking , Zero-Waste Recipes and to bring back the lost recipes of India. This not only creates awareness among the budding chefs but when they go ahead with their extensive research, they are facing mind-boggling facts like what a vast and rich treasure we have in Indian Cuisine.

Positively the coming generations will bring back the lost recipes of India, the authentic flavour and fragrance as India's colonial legacy is food. I love to prepare both types of recipes rich in traditional authentic recipes as well as curating out of the box recipes and zero-waste recipes.

With 24 years of experience in the world of culinary, I believe that food is like oxygen to me. Food for me is God. As my profession demands cooking and tasting Non-Vegetarian foods & in spite of being a pure vegetarian, I perform my duties religiously as I understand the cause behind it is holy and noble. I profoundly believe that food whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian, if cooked with utmost love and positivity touches the heart of a person relishing it. I am privileged to be a Chef and a Mentor. If I have to say what my biggest achievements are, they would be shaping the careers and motivating thousands of students. I am indeed blessed to see my students excel in their careers and hold immense respect, gratitude and love for me. I believe that the food that I cook / prepare should not only touch the hearts but also the souls of the people relishing it.

I am a complete foodie; love to experiment with foods, innovations and fusions in foods and beverages; passionate about exploring new places and tasting and knowing about different types of cuisines. I totally adore food styling and food photography. I have an insatiable curiosity for new foods and love pairing flavours, foods and ideas from different parts of the world. It feels great to share my knowledge and skills with everyone.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." -Mahatma Gandhi
Learning is an everlasting process, I learn from everyone even from my students, from every person I know or I don't even know. Pick up the Positives and DROP THE NEGATIVES. Upgrading oneself must be constant, may it be skills, training, technology or recent trends in Culinary and Hospitality.



WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR WORK THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GET UP EVERY MORNING?

Every day is a new day. New learnings and new teachings. I hold a Title that many people hold as a dream.

When I was working as a full-time Program Head-Culinary Arts and as an Associate Professor -Food Production the biggest motivation were my students! They are full of spirit and enthusiasm for learning new dishes and cuisines; they keep me on my toes always. All of us learn from each other. Their ideas motivate me to share and gain more knowledge.

Now as a Chef Consultant, Culinary Expert & Food Blogger I look forward to cooking the traditional and regional dishes of Amazing India. I look forward to cooking them, styling them and doing the food photography and featuring it on my blog so that I can share it with all. Also as a Chef Consultant I simply adore giving live demonstration of cooking the fabulous and most delectable Indian Cuisine.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

The major challenge is that our work is both very demanding and requires constant change in this world of culinary. The most satisfying thing is that I have learnt a lot from every one I came in contact with. For me, it is very essential to keep learning and experimenting with food. Accepting the change and moving forward with it and of course never let your passion for curating food dishes die. The only Constant in Life is CHANGE.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am completely a pure vegetarian by HEART and a non-vegetarian by PROFESSION. Isn't it a mind-boggling combination?

As my profession demands cooking and tasting Non-Vegetarian foods & in spite of me being a pure vegetarian, I perform my duties religiously as I understand the cause behind it is holy and noble. I profoundly believe that food whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian, if cooked with utmost love and positivity touches the heart and soul of a person relishing it.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Patience, Perseverance and being very Optimistic. Learning is an everlasting process. I learn from everyone, even from my students and from every person I know or I don't even know. I pick up the positives and drop the negatives.



Upgrading oneself must be constant, be it skills, training, technology or recent trends in Culinary and Hospitality. On the Job I do a lot of experimenting with food and off the job I ensure that I attend a lot of workshops or seminars which relate to the culinary world. I keep myself updated with the latest trends of the Hospitality Industry by attending various workshops/ seminars and Conferences. In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different. It is very important for the modern chef to be known for the work that has been put by him/her. Through undying passion, dedication, hard work and being innovative, one can stay on the top.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am a huge fan of Oprah & Oprah's OWN Network. For real, I could sit and watch it nonstop. Also I completely adore my me-time , enjoy watching K-Dramas and the list goes on....

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

It has affected the hospitality industry at its worst , as compared to the daily visitations of customers before the spread of this pandemic, the hotels are sadly seeing no visitations which have been continued for many months now. We have also witnessed complete shutdowns of Hotels, restaurants and food outlets. The hotel industry has witnessed one of the worst times. But I can positively say with the various methods that have been adopted may it be sanitation or taking into consideration the complete safety of the customers the industry will bounce back in no time.

WHAT IS THAT ONE THING THAT YOU HAVE DONE THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF?

I witnessed that people had started hoarding and stuffing food and groceries in their pantries due to the panic of the Covid19 Pandemic. Therefore I decided to create awareness of Sustainable cooking, recipes, resourceful use of leftover food and zero-waste recipes. I started getting a lot of calls and messages to help them curate these recipes with minimum or no wastage. I started curating these recipes and helped a lot of people with it. This was not done to stabilize my income but to do something for the society during this pandemic. Not a penny charged / no consultation fee charged and the satisfaction that I received was much much more than anything and I am totally proud of myself.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Never Give Up. You are here for a purpose. I believe we are the blessed and chosen ones. Make a positive difference.... Be humble and kind..... Follow your dreams and you will achieve your Goal. Besides being humble, be proud of your roots. Extreme faith in God almighty, Passion, Creativity and lots of Patience is the Mantra to be a great Chef. Dedication, commitment, and destiny will take you a long way.



ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I believe that life itself is uncertain, so I don't believe in planning for the future. I live in my present. If you ask me what I love doing in the present, that is I love cooking the lost recipes of India and am creating an awareness of sustainable cooking, sustainable recipes, resourceful use of leftover food and zero-waste recipes. There are so many people who die of hunger and empty stomachs everyday, the least that we can do is make smaller changes in our cooking styles and follow sustainable recipes so that we do not waste food and thus this can feed huge numbers of people who are dying of hunger.



AJAY CHHANGANI

ENTREPRENEUR

OwO

Turned entrepreneur with OwO and also acquired majority stake in 22 years old Education & EdTech company

Successfully aggregated a large CSR funds for a project

Have been instrumental in training, skilling and employment of more than 2 lacs needy young unemployed youth.

Have successfully launched India's first dedicated platform for beverages www.owo.in

☎ 9910002097

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

Born in a small town of Rajasthan, famously known as Golden City - Jaisalmer. Graduated from Bikaner, did my PG in computer application from Jodhpur University before moving to SIBER, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra for my MBA in Marketing and Finance.

Started my career in 1999 with IT Industry in Jaipur and moved to Pune to join Datapro in 2001 and went on to head the business at Datapro in a short span of 4 years based on my performance and zeal. Have worked with and lead various businesses till 2012 at KarROX, RUMI & USHA Martin and then joined Rise India as CEO. Led the team to successfully acquire 2 companies and managed to grow the business 2X every year for 5 years. It was 2019 when I decided to form OwO, but our research and other much-needed partnerships delayed the formulation of OwO and finally OwO arrived in Feb 2020.

Have been fortunate to have a lot of learning opportunities during these 20 years and have successfully launched many path breaking products and processes.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GET UP EVERY MORNING FOR WORK?

The People problems. The problems we see around us and the challenges and the opportunities we get to explore. I have been part of start-up ecosystem since last 12 years and what excites me is the new learning I come across every new day.



Ajay has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020



So much to do, and so less is the time and that makes me do things faster. I have always been trying to do things faster than others. I became a professional CEO when I was just 30 years old and now I have my own venture and I wish to address atleast 1 problem for atleast few million people.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Most interesting and satisfying is the technology and its application. It excites me that how a large scale problem can be solved easily with the use of technology. And the tech world is just growing with every passing day. Everyday we come across new development, new technologies and that makes it challenging too to keep up the pace. However the bigger challenge has been the magnitude of the problem we are trying to address. It's a global problem but even if we talk about India alone, the problem is quite large. So for us, scale would be the biggest challenge. We will have to keep evolving to ensure that we reach out to more and more people.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

Quite a few. One of them is, Speed. I have always tried doing things fastest possible. If others have done something in 5 years, I try to do the same in half the time.

And that reflects in my unlearning and learning aptitude. I learn and unlearn things quite fast, which is required in today's world to be competitive and to be ahead.

And most importantly my passion and my hunger towards solving large-scale problems.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

One should be a technocrat, go getter, quick learner with business acumen and market intelligence backed by strong leadership qualities. One has to lead from the front and set the right examples for the team. One should also be able to connect himself/herself with the problem.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Cricket as most of us in India do. I have my own cricket team here in Gurgaon and I play regularly various tournaments here and have won many. Apart I am quite passionate about employability and career guidance.



HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Quite significantly. Our business has both B2C and B2B verticals but B2B has not really taken off well till yet as most of the large corporates are still not opening up and have their larger workforce working from home. This has been the biggest setback for us as we expected to have some bulk deals with large corporates. Things are getting back to normal as far B2C vertical is considered and we see good growth coming from this segment. This segment is growing and demand too is on rise. We also expect that corporates too will return to their work place post March 2021. Another post pandemic impact is safety measures. Our delivery is covid-proof safe delivery and we have decided to continue to have safety as one of our key USP. We ensure complete safety for all our customers when it comes to delivery experience. Proper hygiene, regular sanitization, use of hand gloves and shoe gloves by delivery team and many such initiatives are new normal for us.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

There are quite a few of them such as absence of a ready-made technology solution that can be deployed instantly, how to address related environmental issues, and how to scale. While the 1st and 2nd are addressed to a large extent, for the 3rd one, we will have to wait as we will be able to know only after we touch a million people, hopefully after few years.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

Would love to mention quite a bit, but would restrict it to few keeping in mind the restriction of number of pages. It starts with an attitude of not calling it a quit if you encounter failures in your early attempts. Remember the failures teach us more. So one should be quite persuasive and committed to the cause and should not quit. Keep learning and trying is an important mantra. Give equal respect to failures and learn from each such encounter. Secondly, its your self believe and confidence. We must have self-confidence that we can do this. Remember, practically, there is no problem in the world that exists without a possible solution. So patience and believe is must and I am sure we will find the right solution to the problem we are trying to address. Another important aspect is building a right team that complements each other and is committed to the cause. In this case, I would always prefer to give weightage to attitude than the skills. If you get a person with right attitude and right skills than your half of the job is done. But in the absence of either skills or attitude, select the attitude as the skill gap can be fixed easily with learning and experimenting but the right mix of attitude is must. Last but not the least, you should do something where you feel connected from your heart. Something that you are really passionate about, concerned about and a have a strong desire to make the impact.



ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Getting ready to launch unique service - WAAS (water as a service) where we plan to launch a unique IoT based water purifier at simply NO cost. The machine will be installed at your home or office completely free and you will have to pay for only the usage of water. So we will introduce pay per litre of water consumption model. It will reduce the water wastage to 90% level and shall have no cost of maintenance.

Apart, we really want to scale fast. We wish to reach out to few million customers and reach to 600+ cities in India to make it a PAN India presence in true sense.



ANURITA PATEL

RADIO & DIGITAL PROGRAMMING HEAD
RADIO CITY

Radio head with two decades of experience, she has been the youngest jock during the onset of Private FM phase in the country

Her initiative 'Candy class' was the ONLY radio entry at the Cannes for two categories & also won the Radio 'grand prix' at Spikes 2016, Singapore

Won the silver 'PENCIL' at the ONE awards, NY

Part of the team that has won maximum awards in a year by any radio station on 2017-18 at E4M-Golden mikes awards.

 mylittlekitchen.in  9769484829



Anurita has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

Since the beginning of my career, I have been associated with the Radio industry. I started at 21 and Radio has been home for 18 years now. While my passion has been content creation for the longest, I started on the forefront as a Radio Jockey for Radio Mirchi, Delhi. Being the youngest in the team, I got to learn a lot about scripting, producing and understanding the consumer. It was that knowledge that took me to the next step in my career with Radio City, Mumbai. 7 years after being a successful RJ, I became the Programming Director. I was new to the city and the people, yet Mumbai gave me a lot of love. Through Radio City I was able to build a team that not only had compassion for the citizens but also the urge to do greater help than just talk about an issue at hand. 11 years later, I now head 14 radio stations comprising of the west region of this large corporate.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

A to-do list that constantly harps upon how I can make today's content and listener experience better than yesterday. My job not only entails entertainment but also a social responsibility to make a difference to one or many in the city. It's the latter part that makes me look forward to my day at work.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

My occupation enables me to make a palpable difference to people's lives and that is what is most gratifying about my job. We have been able to facilitate water in drought ridden Maharashtra assisting the government a few years ago. I have had the opportunity to work towards the causes of children's education in the slums of Dharavi and Mahim, women and girl child's sanitary requirement by visiting various BMC schools, providing for underprivileged children through a newspaper donation drive and water shortage across the country by associating with the Restaurant Assoc. To serve 'half glass water' to the guests. The gratification is good when awards & applause come by in the form of international accolades such as Cannes nominations, The pencil NY award, Spikes Asia and closer home from Golden Mikes and IRF for our various concepts. The gratification is greater when we are able to see an actual change in the society. It is not just for the heck of creating a buzz but by way of Radio I have had the good luck of earning good Karma through these initiatives.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

That I am passionate about cooking and the art of making food as much as I love radio. I love to research about various cultures and the stories behind a certain dish and how it came about along with what are the foreign influences it has had over the years which has transformed a dish. It's the people, the culture and the purpose of building a dish which is wonderful and so gratifying that on my days off you would catch me in my kitchen cooking up a (storm) meal for my friends and family.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

I will answer the second part first. You need to be a person that thinks more from the heart than just your mind. A sense of compassion would always win over any kind of aptitude in my business. You need to feel for the cause you wish to pick up on radio. Even for fun and comedy you ought to be a quirky funny person who is naturally entertaining. The wronged reason to be in this career is that you a presentable wonderful voice. That's just an add on, never the actual content.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I think I have already answered that. Irrationally crazy about food and the art of making it. I can make and bake some mean meals from a lot of international and Indian menus, my biggest love being Italian cuisine and back home, the Indian junk food from bhel to Biryani !



HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

The industry has been able to ride well before and during the pandemic. There has been a natural transition in the business itself from the stages of denial, anxiety and then acceptance. All the stages have seen us cope and in fact come ahead of the times generously. According to the latest report from AROI, Radio has seen a much larger spike in consumption during the lockdown with people tuning in in larger numbers for entertainment and reliable reportage.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

The only challenging part, if you like to look at it as that, is that you are never off the job. You have to be abreast with the happenings around you and plan your content in accordance of that. In our business if you are not talking about what's top of the mind for your consumer, you are out of context.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

Times are erratic and unprecedented. So, keep the faith and carry on your path irrespective of what others around you say or pre-empt. Always remember, grit and relentlessness (nirantarta in Hindi) always always wins over talent. As my senior who respect tremendously quotes from Shri. Harivansh Rai Bachchan's poem... 'koshish kerne vaalo ki haar nahi hoti' (those who try relentlessly, would never fail)

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

The future is promising. Radio is only but in its young days. Content will co-exist in the form of Radio and Digital going along hand in hand. You will find me there finding a new way to entertain and serve an important cause.



ASHANI HIRWAY


EDUCATOR & FOUNDER
DA VINCI MONTESSORI PRESCHOOLS

Ashani runs a chain of preschools based on the Montessori Philosophy. The first of its kind in South Mumbai

10 years of successful operation: Educating 150 children each year across its three branches

Delivering a true Montessori education compatible with international standards

Providing wholistic education to children

 @davincimontessori  8879430046



Ashani has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I was born and brought up in Ahmedabad. My teenage aspirations recoiled between being a tennis professional and a singer. However, with a firm Indian middle-class upbringing my goals soon rallied between becoming a doctor or an engineer. As the dice of fate rolled in favor of engineering, I went on to pursue a career in computer engineering and management before turning entrepreneur.

After graduating from Gujarat University, I got my Master's degree from Purdue University in Computer Engineering. I started my career as a Microprocessor Designer in Silicon Valley, California and was part of the great Silicon Valley boom years of 1999 - 2004. In 2004 I moved to the east coast and I got my MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. I was recruited out of school to join a management consulting firm where I worked for global clients in the US and Europe.

In 2009, my desire to provide a good preschool environment for my daughter, led me to complete the Montessori training program at Ratan Tata Institute, Mumbai, run under the auspices of the Association Montessori Internationale, Netherlands.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

If I had to choose to go into a workplace with a room full of adults or a room full of children, I would pick the latter any day. The joy of being with children, listening to their stories and witnessing their minds at work is the most exciting part of my day. The satisfaction of creating an environment where children's hands and minds are happily engaged makes my journey fulfilling



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Dr. Maria Montessori wrote in one of her books, "We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being." The best way for children to learn is to let them be their own teachers. Children bloom, their personalities flower and their minds work in fascinating ways when we do not bind them but instead allow them to explore, think and create. We need to allow them to be independent; we need to give them the freedom they need coupled with limits that create their safety net.

However, we live in a competitive world and each parent wants their own child to outdo the other child in every aspect. This leads to 'Helicopter Parenting'. It leads to children being directed constantly, children asked to fit the mould, children who at the end of the day lose all originality and grow into a mould fitting, rat racing running, factory produced robots.

What needs to be a joyful period of the parent-child journey has turned into a high stress, demanding phase for both.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

With each day in life brimming with activity, I love a lazy day when an alarm doesn't wake me up – A day when I can lie in bed and read without any interruptions.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

It takes many skills to run any institution. Like any other individual I have my limitations that I work on conquering. However, one skill that I find valuable is patience. Montessori at its core is an education for peace. It's an education that is natural, flowing, stress free and serene. The culture of any organization is created by the person leading it. When I am able to handle everyday situations patiently it enable a sense of calmness amongst our teachers and hence our classrooms.

Working with a large group of teachers, each with a different style and temperament is not easy. Even more challenging can be working with the parents of our 150 children. Each parent diverse in their thought and in what they want from an institution like ours. The child is a parent's most precious possession and at school we are the ones caring and raising this individual. Although some days can be testing, engaging with the people around me is most gratifying.



WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Music is something I have loved since childhood. I have trained for several years in Hindustani classical music but in recent years have realized I can't do it all. Although I practice occasionally, it's more a stress buster than a pursuit towards a goal.

I love a good game of tennis. As a child I played at the state level and represented my school and college at various competition. That too sadly has been put on a standstill since my recent injury and surgery there after.

I assume there will be time to pursue these later in life. For now, raising my two wonderful girls, running my home and giving it all to Da Vinci Montessori is how I spend my time.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Running a preschool virtually was an idea none could fathom till hit by the pandemic. Last summer, before the start of the June term, it dawned on us all that this virus is in no rush to go away. To function virtually with 3 and 4 year olds, seemed unfair. The Montessori philosophy is grounded in sensory learning. Dr. Montessori said, "The hand is the instrument of intelligence. The child needs to manipulate objects and to gain experience by touching and handling." What kind of sensory stimulus would an online class be able to provide our little children! We searched our souls and racked our brains on how we could run a Montessori program virtually. How could we be true to the Montessori philosophy and yet be there for the children.

Our first step was to start working with the parents. We sent them material and lesson plans and had them work with the children just like we would at school. Parents turned into teachers as we kept guiding them. But when two months went by with no light at the end of the tunnel, we altered strategies. The parents had had enough and they also needed to work from home. We started our first online session with children. We planned our activities carefully so we would keep the essence of the Montessori classroom alive albeit at home. Some children were thrilled to see the teachers and their friends online. We were all socially deprived after all. Some others couldn't care less about a screen. Weeks when by, our sessions became more frequent. Teachers learnt how to engage the children better and gradually more and more children took to it. Six months into the sessions all of our children looked forward to joining the virtual classrooms. They chatted, they learnt and they worked. Maria Montessori was so right when she said that children adapt to the environment around them.

Now with vaccination drives beginning in Mumbai there is hope for getting back to normalcy. With safety of our children, our staff and all families at the forefront, we hope to once again fill our classrooms with busy little hands and their grand minds.



**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

When I trained myself as a Montessori teacher, the most fascinating part was the outdoor environment – bringing children in close quarters with nature. It was probably most fascinating because in a city like Mumbai nature is elusive. Activities entwined with nature like taking children for a walk in the woods, listening to birds and identifying them, caring for a vegetable garden are sadly impossible to do in a crowded metro like Mumbai. We do have substitutes with indoor plants in the class, listening to bird sounds on our classroom speaker system, bringing in dried leaves into a classroom but none of these can compare to the experiences children can get from being in nature.

I wish someday we can create more environments in Mumbai where nature is an integral part of the classroom.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

When I switched careers from Management consulting to a preschool educator everyone I knew including my family was in disbelief. The only person who completely understood my passion was my husband. But as time went by my anxious parents made peace with it. They understood my drive and my goals. The decision to switch careers and start preschools was not difficult for me. In fact it was a no brainer; I never second-guessed myself. The first lesson I learnt through my experience is that following your passion brings fulfillment like nothing else. There will always be challenges but when you have set your heart on something, you will have the desire to overcome challenges and everything eventually will fall into place.

The second lesson for me in life is to stay grounded. Each of us not matter how accomplished, is but a spec of sand in this endless universe and the work we a drop of water in the ocean.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I want Montessori learning to be more prevalent and accessible. To that end Da Vinci has started three branches and we hope to initiate an elementary program soon. To make quality education accessible to children from economically deprived backgrounds Da Vinci adopted a preschool run by a Jain Mahila Samaj, 6 years ago. We hope we can we can fund and support more such initiatives to make Montessori learning available to children no matter what class of society they belong to.



DEEPIKA CHAWLA

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

*Vice President in fortune 100 company,
TEDX speaker , Mentor, Josh Talks Sheroes ,
Board of Directors*

Has won various recognitions for promoting Diversity in the workplace & Society

She has been named as one of the 25 inspiring women in the Coffee Book 'Big Dreams Bigger Achievement's

Received Champion Award from 'We Are The City, Organisation in collaboration with EY

📷 @deepika.chawla.vivacious 📞 9818001055



*Deepika has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am presently a Vice President in a Fortune 100 company having 26+ years of rich and diverse work experience in Financial Shared Services and Banking Industry. I am Qualified as a Chartered Accountant. With Extensive work experience and as a Chartered Accountant, I have taken upon various profiles such as Strategy, Retail & Investment, Finance, Controllership, Business Development, Operations, Accounting & Reporting, Migrations and Control & Compliance. I have worked with brands like Times Bank Ltd, HDFC Bank , ICICI bank Ltd and now a Fortune 100 company.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

My mission in life is to create a Legacy of leaders . I get up in the morning to work with such potential and harness them.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am not sure if its interesting but I enjoy life to the fullest. I celebrate small wins, everyones birthday around and create beautiful memories. Life is beautiful irrespective of the challenges in it. For me dress up and show up irrespective of what has happened is important. I truely believe that happy memories become treasures in the heart that can be pulled out on the tough days of life. Pandemic has further proved for me that life has a reset button and make the most of what you have , put your best foot forward always , be humble and have gratitude.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

I am a finance person by profession and over the years foundation of Finance is core to my kind of career. I feel having passion, self belief and resilience on top of it has helped me to be who I am. People skill, relationship building , networking and a passion to learn new things are some of the very important skills needed in any career. Everything and everyone are innovating so if we don't learn to upskill ourselves we will be left behind. One should be good at his job, be approachable and work well in a team, I believe in that if you don't go after what you want, you will never have it, if you don't ask, the answer is always No, if you don't step forward you will always be in the same place...

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Success has many faces. I realized that just working for a company, your qualifications, or a single portfolio should not define you. "WE must look to ourselves as a whole, as a complete individual. I am very passionate about giving back , paying it forward.

Mentor- I am a mentor on different diversity networking groups , to women across different organizations. (eg, BeyonDiversity, Lean In , The Star in Me). I also run Group mentoring program for women professionals. I gain utmost satisfaction in the success of others. "It is rewarding to see people prospering in life whom I have supported.

Speaker -I am a TedX speaker and also am on the panel of several colleges as a motivational speaker, a panelist for next generation counseling . Some of the colleges she has been associated with are the MSIT, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Amity and the Economics College in Delhi University South Campus.

Board of Director -On the advisory Board of Directors of Muskaan Dreams (digital education in Govt schools), Taleem (supporting education for underprivileged), an honorary member of the Foundation against Thalassemia. I help them in strategizing and creating sustainable programs , create awareness etc.



I have done modelling to support budding women photographers and I did this at the age of 45 . I also walk the ramp and anchor programs to create awareness on Thalassemia, Cancer etc.

Deepika has a dream to be featured on the cover page of The Times magazine as a successful business woman and wants to be on the Board of Directors of different companies. She is very passionate, energetic and a peoples person. She is versatile and a self-motivator. Being a great mentor, Deepika has inspired many people around her and helps everyone find happiness from each situation.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF JUST ENTERING THE INDUSTRY AND BASED ON THE EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED AND HAD TO ENDURE?

You are unique and you have a Story. Discover it , Create it & Live it.

Speak Up - Don't hold back to your dreams

Be fearless to ASK - at home and in office what you want

Life Stage Transition - Any transition is part of your growth

Be confident of your qualification and knowledge

Don't try to copy men , as women we have lots of strengths use them. Be your unique self. Use inspiring leaders irrespective of gender to inspire yourself. Don't live in assumptions that I cannot do this Invest in yourself . Be the women you are.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

I am still learning I would sayNever stop learning, never stop living, whatever you do put your best foot forward.....Learn to share knowledge and experience, Have gratitude .

I have learnt more from my failures so don't let anything stop you. We all have our strengths please use them to uplift people around you. One is never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. Don't feel scared of diverse views as diversity of thought leads to better discussions , decisions and outcomes for everyone. Lastly integrity is the most valuable and respected quality of leadership , believe in it.



ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

My plan is to grow more women leaders and expand their horizons through mentoring & coaching.



DURGA DAS

ENTREPRENEUR & SPORTSPERSON

Building technology and solutions to bring drinking water to the billions who have no access to safe water. Making water from air (atmospheric moisture)

Played national level cricket in India. Captained the US cricket team

Played the amateur golf circuit for several years

A competitive sailor

📷 @durga4477 📞 9884422270



Durga has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am and always will be a sportsperson. Playing cricket, golf and now some sailing, I have always looked to build my resilience by playing some sport competitively. I started my professional life at the age of 14 when life demanded that of me. A journey of over 35 years in various forms of business from retail to advertising to technology to now water and energy, I am motivated by whatever can use my strengths to create a social impact.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Simply to make a difference.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

The best part of my work is that I am involved with creative minds.

And there is nothing to not like. Any industry like any sport has its own challenges. To make the most of these challenges and to emerge as a better person, a better leader, a motivator is what drives me



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

That I am actually a shy person!

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Attitude and Gratitude have always been my philosophy. Without applying these every day, one will never get satisfaction, no matter any level of success.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

I think this pandemic has made every one wake up and realize that we have been fooling ourselves about the wrong things to aspire for. I think this pandemic has made people realize that without health (mental and physical), no wealth matters.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

Government, financial institutions, statutory demands are not built nor conducive to genuine entrepreneurship.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Nothing lasts forever. Not failure nor success. Not happiness nor sadness, not wealth nor poverty. Stay balanced irrespective of what the day brings. Balance will give you right perspective and that will eventually give you peace of mind. After all, what do we do all this for? To be happy. Happiness lies within you, not in what you make or earn or win.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Taking clean drinking water to the millions who lack access to safe drinking water. Making our planet survive for the next few generations to come.



GANESH SOMWANSHI

HUMAN VALUE ADVOCATE
& FOUNDER DIRECTOR

KRESCENDO COMMUNICATIONS

*Award winning 360 degree marketing
communications professional*

"India's 50 WCRC Transformational Business Brands & Leader 2019 Award" in the "Growing" category which was held at the prestigious House of Lords, Westminster, British Parliament, London

"Marketing Mastermind Leader Award" held in September 2019 was received by the hands of the Indian Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kisan Reddy in New Delhi

"Daily News Agency 2015 -Young Achiever Award" for his contribution in the field of marketing & public relations

📷 [ganeshsuave](#) 📞 7738891198



*Ganesh has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I have always been an extrovert and loved interacting with people and was called as "peoples person" by my friends. During my college days I had an unfathomable urge to become an entrepreneur. Some of the leaders I got inspired with that time were the Ambani's, Ratan Tata and Amitabh Bacchan. When I was an undergrad, I ran away from my hometown Pune to Mumbai dreaming of making it big all by myself. I dint have the vision and clarity on how I could prove my mettle to the World but was certain and passionate about becoming a successful business person. I reflected on my decision of running away and thought it was a juvenile act and post introspection a sense prevailed of completing my studies. I came back to my hometown, completed my bachelor's degree and later grabbed an opportunity to empower school kids in teaching them communication skills at The Times Of India's initiative, Newspaper in Education.

I have been into the field of communications for almost 2 decades now. While communicating with the kids I realised I need to specialise in this field as I was extremely good with connecting with people. I decided to do my Post-Graduation Diploma from St. Xavier's College of Communications, Mumbai. I realised my focus and passion was into creating impactful communications and decided to become a professional "story-teller". I began my career working for a boutique PR agency and was with them of 2 years. The next move, I was working with India's top PR agency where I managed brands like Piramal Healthcare, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and launched many India's firsts during my tenure with them.



In 2008 I started working as a corporate communications manager at The Piramal Healthcare (then the 3rd largest pharma company of India). I was with the group for around 6 years. The journey has been upwards since then as I was mentored by Padma Shri Dr. Swati Piramal, Director and Mr. Ajay Piramal, Chairman of the Piramal Group. Inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit of Chairman Ajay Piramal I moved on to start my own communications firm Krescendo Communications along with a friend of mine Deepti Dhoot in the year 2012. This month we Krescendo Communications are celebrating 10 year of our success story and it has been a chequered career for me. I am overwhelmed to receive an appreciation from Mr Ajay Piramal, Chairman, Piramal Group, he quips, "I was delighted to note that Krescendo Communications is celebrating its tenth anniversary during this month. Completing ten years of operations is indeed a milestone for any organization, particularly for a new start-up! Please accept my heartiest congratulations to you and your colleagues on this happy occasion. I was happy to note that apart from India, you have operations in South East Asian countries and have plans to expand it to other areas. I always found you hard working, and loyal. Above all, you always aspire to do more things. Once again, wishing you all the absolute best for Krescendo Communications, as well as for all your future endeavours". Some of the other dignitaries of India who have wished us are Padmashri Shankar Mahadevan (Musician and Composer), Padmashri Suresh Wadkar (Musician and Composer), Padmashri Dr. Swati Piramal (Director- Piramal Group), Pushkaraj Shenai (Lakme CEO), Riccardo Fasoli (Outgoing Mayor, Candidate on the " Il Paese di Tutti " list Mandello Del Lario, Lombardia, Italy), Dr. Ajay Sankhe (Director, Bhaktivedanta Hospital, Mumbai) and Datuk M.S. Mahadevan (Secretary (Public Affairs to Melaka Chief Minister, Malaysia) to name a few.

Since inception we as a consultancy firm we have delivered exceptional results for varied industries including start-ups, financial technology, sustainability, healthcare, architecture and design, real estate, retail, technology, BFSI etc. I am overwhelmed to have received India's Transformational Leader Award in July 2019 at the House of Lords, Westminster Abbey, London.

We have acquired rich experience in managing complex marketing communications campaigns for notable brands and have launched many ASIA's first disruptive businesses ideas like the Wings Rainbow (Radio Cab services by the LGBTQ community), Chototel (India's only affordable hotel), Clean Air Technology (Certified by National Physical Laboratory of India) to name a few.

Our growth story started a new chapter as we launched our services four years ago in Singapore servicing clients across industry verticals in the ASIA Pacific region.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Every day I strive to search for new inspirations. This feeling motivates me and a dedicated focus on a journey that I had began almost 20 odd years have given me a great window to set and achieve new challenges and new milestones leveraging my career's leanings, relationships and experiences.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

This is the only industry where I feel one can create deep customer engagement through innovative approach and enable brands through that to consideration and transactional outcomes which is key to survival. For only then can we break through the clutter, media fragmentation and the commoditisation. The path to innovation always starts with the human ingenuity and with a purpose driven approach, the results are overwhelming. There I nothing that I dislike about the industry as I am constantly learning and always on the go. I just sometimes wish if I could take a vacation, stop a bit and reflect.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am an ardent promoter of social entrepreneurship and have deeply invested in unblocking Asia's socio-economic potential and involved myself in various social projects as a Global Goodwill Ambassador (Humanitarian) for Singapore, Malaysia and India. Recently, I have also been nominated as a volunteer for International Human Rights Commission, Czech Republic, European Union.

In 2019 I was invited for a fundraiser by Mrs. Cherie Blair, QC wife of former PM, Tony Blair, United Kingdom and The Lord Loomba CBE of The Loomba Foundation which took place at the House of Lords, United Kingdom . The fundraising was to mark the 9th UN Recognised International Widows Day. Few months back I organised a fundraiser for Mandello De Lario, Italy and the aim was to help the city with funds so that they could buy essentials for the frontline staff to fight COVID-19. Another one-of-its kind (quintessential) initiative that I curated and launched is "Share-It" a COVID-19 knowledge sharing platform between India and Malaysia. This project garnered healthcare fraternities attention and helped in saving thousands of lives. The officials involved in this project were Dr. Ajay Sankhe, Director, Bhatkivedanta Hospital, Mumbai and Melaka city's Chief Minister Datuk Sulaiman Md Ali.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

'Knowledge is Power' is the philosophy that I believe in which will keep one going in the field of communications. Increasing one's knowledge of just his/her own domain is simply not enough. Knowledge of one's client's businesses, relevant sectors, geo-political conditions and overall global business trends are a must to stay competitive. One needs to be extremely passionate to learn and grow and drop the ego to be successful in the field of communications.



WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I love to listen to music and swim and a Vipassana meditation practitioner which keeps me cool as our job is stressful. I love to play golf when I am stressed out.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Having spent two decades in the industry I feel this is the best time for the communications industry to evolve. The year 2020 has created a real demand for disruptive work in the digital space while all communications have moved to digital that pushes the boundaries and takes cognizance of modern media consumption behaviours.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

Paucity of skilled workforce is something I would like to see a change in. As our industry becomes more sophisticated, seamless and global in nature, industry ready skills is the need of the hour. Mediocrity has no space here and I wish to see that change. Thoroughness in approach to solutions is a vibe that is auguring well for the industry and I wish we retain that and even better; take it a couple of notches higher.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

Entrepreneurship is a huge responsibility. It means that while you will create jobs and help the economy, you are equally responsible for the people who join you as they believe in your vision. There is no short cut to success. As entrepreneurs you might come across many challenging situations that seem overbearing. Self-belief and relentless pursuit of excellence will bring rewards for you and your partners. Be diligent.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

We anticipate a challenging business climate into 2021. On the positive side, there are still many opportunities in this difficult environment. We will use this "downturn" to strategically plan the communications offering for our clients and prepare them for the "upturn." Our focus has been and will purely evolve on building the digital portfolio.

We will continue to build our brand and expand our presence in the Southeast Asian market. We are confident that our clients in India would recommend us in other regions as well.



HARMEET SINGH ARORA

DIGITAL & FINTECH PROFESSIONAL

His FinTech Start-up MobiSwipe, was successfully exited after selling the Majority to OMA Emirates, UAE

📷 @connectharmeet 📞 9820183489



Harmeet has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I'm a Digital Media Veteran turned FinTech Professional. After 6 yrs of My Entrepreneurship stint with my FinTech Start-up MobiSwipe, which I successfully exited after selling the Majority to OMA Emirates, UAE, I had joined Telr as Country Head - India and now I work as Vice President - Strategic Partnerships, Corporate Strategy and Corporate Communications with Zaggle, an Award-Winning B2B SaaS FinTech. I've significant experience in the Internet, Online Gaming and Mobile Domain, having worked with companies like Rediff.com, Zapak.com (Reliance ADAG), SMS GupShup and NetworkPlay.in with cross functional expertise in Sales, Marketing, Strategic Alliances and Business Roles. I've led the Sales Team at Rediff.com, increasing Annual Revenue from Media Sales from \$4 million to \$20 million during my tenure.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

I like meeting Deadlines and Targets. Mentoring and Coaching others. Learning New things. Leading team to success. Finding a way to solve a problem, or overcome a challenge.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

The FinTech Industry has been a great support to the entire ecosystem including during this crisis time. Top Benefits of working in FinTech is Flexibility, Transparency, Breaking Down Borders, Challenges and Innovations.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

That I actually never left anything. I've been acting RJ'ing and VJ'ing for almost 19 years and all mainstream channels. So when people tell me I am the jack of all trades It is a matter of pride for me that I did manage to garner a fair deConfidence, Enthusiasm and Fight for to Reach Targets and Goals. I am an Extremely Friendly and Helping Nature Man.gree of success in every single field

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Essential Skills and Personality required in FinTech is Communication, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Analytical, Ethical, Detail Oriented and Adaptable.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I'm passionate about Singing. I go to a Karaoke Class every week. Singing is a good way for me to relax after a Busy Week. I also feel that it helps me to be more creative in other aspects of my life. Some of my most creative solutions to work problems have come when I'm Singing.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

The pandemic that we are going through, though it seems to have subsided in scale, the worries still remain, has been unprecedented. The nationwide lockdown has had some serious implications on the overall economy and industry across sectors. Most companies always have a business continuity plan in place. However, those plans do not take into consideration a black swan event like COVID-19. Luckily technology has been a great enabler during these troubled times for the businesses and we being a part of the tech community have helped our clients and constituents with many innovative developments to overcome the business challenges they have faced. The pandemic has pushed businesses into an accelerated state of digitization. The world was already embracing digital labour but COVID-19 accelerated this shift towards greater automation. Digital adoption has taken a quantum leap at both the organizational and industry levels.



Covid-19 has speeded the adoption of digital technologies by several years and these changes will be here for a long haul. 8) From your perspective, what are the problems you see working in this field? What was the biggest challenge you were facing? Today the Banking processes and workflows are broken, which are mostly manual and partly digital, making Banking an extremely difficult process. With our experience and interaction with various business groups, we realized that businesses face lots of problems in managing their financial requirements and expense management. We figured out that payments and accounting in conventional ways are a bit broken, inefficient, and sluggish. Some of the Pain Points which businesses come across are the complex and tedious workflow, Payments still made in Cash, No Real-time Control or Visibility over the Business Spends, etc.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Be Brave and Take Risks. You need to have faith in Yourself.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Being an Individual who firmly believes that learning never stops, I'd like to expand my horizons by learning as much as I can, as quickly as I can. Being an Industry Expert, Young Startups come to me for Ideas, Help and Strategy. I've had amazing mentors and managers in my past positions, so I'd like to provide similar guidance.



HUSSAINE KESURY

CHIEF CATEGORY OFFICER
PEPPERFRY

Built largest furniture category in the country. Have led key initiatives and omni channel for Pepperfry

Has been successful in creating a platform for SME's to grow their business and reach Pan India

☎ 9870727669



Hussaine has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I have 20 years of experience in varied industries including ecommerce, banking, insurance and IT sales. I have worked in various roles including B2B, Key Accounts, Product Management, Category Management and Omni Channel.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Organizing a fragmented and unorganized market and bringing MSME's to expand their reach from rural areas. In my existing role, the organization is focusing on the overall social impact by means of creating direct and indirect employment in smaller towns

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

The industry is fragmented and there are not many organized players and required infrastructure to reach the masses. In the current organization, we are working with suppliers to deliver their products from one part of the country to another through our very own logistics arm.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am witty and enjoy hosting events, programs and even doing a roast show.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Analytic, Business Acumen & Relationship Management.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Cricket.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Due to covid, consumers are spending more time at their homes / working from home and therefore are spending money on setting up their workspace, doing their interiors. This has led to a demand for WFH furniture and there is also a gradual shift of people moving to online for their purchases.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

There is not enough infrastructure. We realized that it is difficult to offer great customer experience as deliveries are not done professionally by most logistics companies in the large item shipment space. We had to therefore build our own infrastructure and logistics arm.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Nothing is Impossible Nor Impassable .

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I would like contribute to the Furniture & Home Industry with the knowledge I have acquired and be recognized as a thought leader in the industry for innovation and thinking out of the box.



INDERPREET NAGPAL

HOME CHEF

HERBS & SPICES

*Curates homemade, natural food recipes
& preservative free products*

Won sanjeev Kapoor's show "Kitchen Ke Khiladi"

Held a cooking class with Gauhar Khan

Cooked with Saif Ali Khan on a comedy show for promotions for the movie "Chef"

Received recognition award from FBAI & Godrej for home chefs

📷 @rummyskitchen 📞 9769211608



*Inderpreet has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I started out as an entrepreneur, way back in 2000 cooking from home. Over a period of time I experimented with wax candles and did that for a few years. Then my love for children took me to my Montessori certification; which led to my teaching career. I taught in Bangalore and then in Bombay at TreeHouse Juhu, where I went on to become Principal. However, food is my first love, so 10 years ago I restarted in earnest. And this time I've gone on to build a robust business making and selling traditional and bespoke pickles. I am also a home chef and have a weekly menu. Take personalised and online cooking classes.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

My love for food and for 2 reasons: 1. I love to see people happy and enjoying good food, does that for them! The creativity that food offers. I am forever trying new recipes/blends/flavours/textures. I am happiest making new things or reinventing traditional recipes.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

I love the people I get to meet. Firstly, my customers, who are always asking for their favourites or for something new, which encourages me and enables me to grow. And secondly, my fellow home-chefs who are a community I have grown to love...



..What I dislike, is the unpredictability of the business. There can be sudden ups and downs. No week is predictable!

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

That I love gardening , have small place in my flat where i grow all the herbs and few veggies.

I love owls. I feel a connection to them. I even have one tattooed on my arm. And my love for Buddha.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Resilient-take the rough with the smooth. Persistent-don't give up. Optimistic-stay positive. Tough-Able to take criticism. Exploratory-keep learning.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

My family. Being with them lifts me up. And children!

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

I think the pandemic changed the playing field. People with leaner coat structures suddenly gained an advantage. Also, while many home chefs flourished, the ones who grew were those who could replace the fare you were used to. For example, I supplied 20 jumbo crabs one Sunday. Another Sunday it was 14 lobsters. So while regular cuisine was in demand, it was the dishes you craved that you ended up paying for!

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

Customer acquisition has always been the key challenge. If you're a restaurant, you want footfalls, as a Homechef, you need more people to not just know you but yo order from you. That's primary. Then there's the uncertain regulation; while many of us have gotten our fssai licenses, we don't know how or when other regulations will apply. Will we be treated the same as restaurants or delivery kitchens? That worries me.



Post pandemic, how many of my customers will still order from me as regularly? Already, since the maids and cooks have returned, I see a dip. So continuing to add new customers and staying relevant to their evolving needs is critical.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

I have no commercial background or marketing training nor have I been trained as a chef. I have learned, actively and from everywhere to be where I am. If I can, you can. Follow your heart. Do what you love, you'll always do it well.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Large scale consumer products. My label. And who knows, one day, maybe a restaurant. One without a menu. You walk in to be surprised by the special of the day.



NISHANT MEHTA

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, LAWYER
& SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR

The only person in India with the combination of CA, LL.M and MBA. (Record Holder - India Book of Records). Fintech Auditor, Serial Entrepreneur

Appointed as International Partner for India at WBAF (World Business Angel Investment Forum)

Appointed as the Consul for Mumbai Entrepreneurs Group at Inter Nations

Has unique educational background of possessing a bachelors and Master's degree in Law, while also being a Chartered Accountant (CPA of India) & MBA in Finance.

📷 @finance_wizard_ 📞 9821470299



*Nishant has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am a practicing Chartered Accountant, Serial Entrepreneur and Mentor. I am also a Prolific Speaker and Traveller. I am very Passionate about IMC - YLF, CII - Youth Wing of CII -Young Indians, Mumbai, Rotary International & Toastmasters International and love to lead in nation building projects. I have also been appointed as International Partner for India at WBAF (World Business Angel Investment Forum). I am also the Consul for Mumbai Entrepreneurs Group at Inter Nations.

I have a unique educational background of possessing a bachelors and Master's degree in Law, while also being a Chartered Accountant (CPA of India) & MBA in Finance. I have a rich and varied work experience including Audit & Tax Consulting assignments and Legal Advisory Services in Corporate Law. With my rich experience and forte as a financial and legal advisor I joined Toogle as the Director-Finance, Legal and Administration.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Passion and Love for my work and my Goals motivate me to work.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Like – Bringing a smile on my client's face and taking over the stress from his mind about the government compliances is the most satisfying feeling I get from my profession.

Dislike – Handling too many deadlines is something I dislike about my profession.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

The Most interesting thing about me is my time management and my love for pursuing my hobbies parallel to my profession successfully is something I would like people to learn from my profile alone.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

1. Time Management
2. Financial Expertise
3. Commitment is the skill very crucial to succeed in our career.

I need to be a person who can't only adhere to compliances but also help my clients on how to manage their finances.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Tarot Reading, Cricket, Podcasting

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Our industry is actually an essential part of any business. So technically we never had a break, we are working from day zero of lockdown – pre- and post-pandemic. Of course, initially the pace of work had reduced due to work from home but later on we adapted to the new normal and increased the efficiency and pace of work of my team.



**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

The prominent Problems in our field are too many deadlines being there parallel for various compliances like income tax, gst, tds and roc at the same time.

Biggest challenge we face is time management looking at so many deadlines.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

To our readers - Best thing you need to achieve your dreams is not only DREAM, But Dare to think out of the BOX and DELIVER your BEST.

DREAM, DARE & DELIVER

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

My future plans are to set up more offices globally and create my brand in INDIA and Abroad and sustain my presence in the top professionals of the country.



K.S BHATIA

CEO & FOUNDER

PUMPKART

Runs an e-commerce network which was world's first online marketplace for pumps

Best startup company of north by google in 2014

Leadership award by RMAI (rural marketing association of India) in 2017

Best brand of Punjab by CICU in 2017

Best startup from Punjab by Assocham

Leadership award by Amity University

📷 @k.s_bhatia 📞 9814005077



K.S Bhatia has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I have been an entrepreneur with 20 years of experience in water pumps industry. In 2014, I disrupted the pumps industry through my B2C marketplace venture called Pumpkart.com. Pumpkart came into limelight when Google CEO Sundar Pichai cited Pumpkart's success story to Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi in US. Then Pumpkart has gone on to signing Kapil Dev as its brand ambassador and holds the distinction of being the first startup to represent India in United Nations.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Three things which motivate me: My Dreams, Self Confidence & my Passion to do something big. Infact My Dreams are as big as Mukesh Ambani.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Taking Risk is the most satisfying and most challenging. I love those challenges which are hardest.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I never give up at any cost. I personally feel no one can beat those people who never give up.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Never Give Up is the Best Skill in Life. I need Hungry People who never satisfied in life. Those believe in "DIL MANGE MORE"

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I love to produce movies. May be soon I launch my OTT Platform.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Industry and Startups badly affected during Covid 19 but they are coming up greatly now. Covid taught so many lessons to all Entrepreneur's and those who didn't learn they are not affected.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

There is not much skilled people in the country and biggest challenge is loyalty in People.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

My father taught me 3 H ie HONESTY, HUMANITY & HUMILITY which I think Entrepreneur should have. Ratan Tata is one of the Biggest Example in front of us.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Currently I am on a mission to launch second platform Figgital.com which is India's first non-essential hyperlocal e-commerce that is committed to delivering mobiles, electronics, home appliances to the customers in 35mins to 2 hours from nearby stores.

I want to create India's largest Brand for Rural People which is not only aim but it's my dream too.



PINKY ACHARYA

LIFE COACH, AUTHOR, MENTOR
& GRAPHOTHERAPIST

Associate Certified Coach

Global Leadership Assessment 360

Marshall Goldsmith Coach

Global Leadership Coach

TISS recognition for coaching

📷 @pinky.acharya.90 📞 9833889370



*Pinky has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I'd never planned on being here. In 2005, I was a mother of two looking for something just to stay sharp. I took up Graphology on a lark, as an experiment. But the more I learned, the more I realised this couldn't just be a hobby for me. I discovered I had the intuition and keen eye necessary to make the most of skill, and decided to take a leap.

Slowly but surely, I began counselling students, couples, and professionals as their Graphotherapist. Within 2 years I had established my credibility with my clients and solidified myself as a professional.

In 2015, I decided to push the boundaries of counselling. I enrolled to receive my ACC (ICF) and Marshall Goldsmith certification, so I could combine Life-Coaching and Graphotherapy for a novel and customised self-help session for my clients. Over the last 5 years, I have used my signature compound technique with renowned universities, national level-sports persons, multinational corporates, and everyone in between!

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Subtly but surely, 'help' is a stigmatized word in today's capitalist world order. To seek help is to admit fault, and today's society allows little room for fault. I find this notion laughable! How do we grow if we don't know we must? How do we grow if we don't ask how? I work to make my individual clients empowered to seek help in their personal / professional dilemmas. The deep satisfaction that comes with aiding an individual towards a more holistic, complete personality is what motivates me.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

The biggest challenge of this profession is that one size never fits all. Every client has a different temperament, different experience, different world-view. No coaching tool can be universally administered successfully for every client. I take this challenge head on with my use of tools, that allow me to remain adaptable. I assess what my coachee is most receptive to and use it to create what I believe would be the most effective. I don't know how to be a lakeer ki fakeer!

The most satisfying part of this profession is undoubtedly the pure joy of being an enabler and empowering one with the confidence to look for their own solutions.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am passionate about publishing my personal experiences of trials, in the hope to ease others on a similar path. I am an author representing the disability parents' community. 2020 saw the release of 'I'm Thinking', our journey of raising my son with dyslexia. The hilarious anecdotes and heartfelt reflections has resonated with families and institutions around the world, and I am honoured to be part of the discussion around making mainstream education accessible to PWDs.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

To be able to read between the lines, empathize, and draw your boundaries. An effective coach must be able to listen not just to what their coachee says but also what they are unable to. Additionally, being approachable and empathizing with your coachee is what makes the Coach-Coachee space one of free flowing consciousness and no judgement; this is where the coachee flourishes most. And of course, a career in the industry is not sustainable unless the Coach remembers their purpose -- to be the guide, not the nurse.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am irrationally passionate about dancing, my children's well being and my pro-bono mentoring projects with various NGOs.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

The COVID pandemic has widened the gap between the classes of Coaches. Like with any other space, the already established coaches saw a significant spike in demand while the less established majority was hit with a slump. The rich got richer and the poor got poorer.



**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

An initial challenge for me when I was first stepping into the field was introducing Graphology to an unexposed market. I spent the first 2 years continually providing evidence for the science behind the study. Thankfully, my clients do that for me today, testifying to the accuracy and efficacy of the method. The proof is in the pudding!

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

I learned my craft at 35. I wrote my 2nd book in one sitting right after my last chemo session and I'm still dancing.

There is purpose in every turn of the universe. So chase your dreams fearlessly. You have nothing to lose but your regrets!

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

This year, I'm embarking on a 1000 Impact Challenge, wherein I dream to benefit a 1000 people and more through coaching individuals, institutions, NGOs. It's never a single human who benefits from coaching, the domino effect allows that change to impact their environment and close associates too. And it's my desire to see a multifold social change.



MUMTAZ LALVANI

CEO
MASCOT SPINCONTROL

Trustee of welove animals foundation

Has been managing to secure homes for many homeless dogs and cats

📷 @mumtazlalvani 📞 9820534739



*Mumtaz has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am the CEO of Mascot Spincontrol which is a joint venture with a French company. Mascot group of companies is owned by my husband Mohit Lalvani. I took over the reins of the company 10 years ago.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Beauty care is an extremely dynamic industry. India is an emerging country with an aspiring middle class population which is a huge growth opportunity for us.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

it is very interesting when brands make claims which are actually valid.

I dislike it when companies still expect certification and want to launch their products even after failing the trial.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

A new hidden / talent has emerged is that I love to paint. I've been dabbling in oils and charcoal. I have managed to sell some pieces and the proceeds have been given to my animal foundation.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Leadership and Process Management. One needs to be a well balanced leader with compassion

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Fitness !! I don't miss my daily dose of exercise.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Pre. Our industry has been growing year by year.

Post. We did face a setback for a few months as getting volunteers was a challenge . We have bounced back double the confidence and zest.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

We faced minor hiccups initially during the pandemic. Thankfully no major hurdles.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Follow your passion, be relentless, be consistent. One will encounter failures but the key take away are the learning's.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

We plan to partner with our French counterparts on a larger scale and make Mascot Spincontrol global.



ANSOO GUPTA

MARKETER, ENTREPRENEUR & FARMER

Says her two decades of professional life has been either about people or about planet

"50 Fabulous Innovation Leader" by World Innovation Congress

"Achiever of Excellence in Marketing" by Bombay Management Association and Bhujbal Knowledge City

'Corporate Excellence' award by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management

📷 @ansoog 📞 9867681020



Ansoo has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

My career followed a predictable trajectory and is not very different from other people who are my peers. A good student throughout school, I was an active participant of all sports, all extra curricular activities winning prizes in debating competitions, essay writing, volleyball and table tennis apart from top grades. I studied Science and Mathematics and then Business Management as it was an emerging field at the time. After that I got into media and that became my chosen career path. I worked with Star TV, National Geographic Channel and launched The History Channel in India and later on in South East Asia. I moved from 'traditional media' of broadcast to digital media when it was just a small blimp on the Indian media landscape. After spending close to 13 years in digital media, I founded my sustainable travel and mindful living social enterprise OneShoe Trust to spread awareness about climate change and action at each individual's level to build a greater harmony with our planet and the whole universe.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

The fact that my work makes a difference to the world in a small way. That it is not just about earning money and paying my bills. That I am able to impact someone's life positively. This is my motivation to work. In the absence of these drivers, I would much rather just sit and meditate all day .



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Working with other people. It is the most challenging aspect and also the most satisfying.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

This is not just a moralistic gradiose statement, this is the very fundamental of how humans were always supposed to live and act but sadly we lost this important skill. When you learn to look beyond self, you become a visionary and you are able to lead your lives, conduct your business, work in an organisation in a way that is much more impactful and shows your leadership skills. Everything flows from the belief when you learn to acknowledge this larger persepective.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I dont see my work and my life as two different entities. But I guess the question here is what activity am I passionate about which doesn't pay my monthly bills :-) I am passionate about farming – I like to grow plants and understand their life cycle and how it moves in tandem with the seasons. I am intrigued by the healing properties that almost all plants have – some with their essential oils, some with their seeds, leaves, bar, root. It's amazing what magnificent creatures the plants are !!! I am passionate about sharing this knoweledge with others. I am passionate about our planet and the universe. I also like to dabble in some DIY and handicraftswhen I get a chance.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Success is not a point in life, it's a moving graph. So don't try to achieve success, instead try to integrate a success-driven attitude in your daily life. Failure is not absence of success – it is just a low point of your success graph, if you continue this graph is bound to go up.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

We live in a decisive time. Our actions will precipitate what was seen as future a few decades back and in which direction will it go is being decided today. I want to continue my work in conservation, preservation of the planet, making people aware of better ways to live, better ways to work and conduct business, better ways to travel, and a better way to connect with our beautiful planet.



RJ RAJIV PAUL

RADIO JOCKEY, ACTOR & VOICE OVER ARTIST

A Radio Jockey with radio station in USA (Radio Zindagi)

Have won awards for Best Actor in 2020

📷 @rjrajivpaul

☎️ +13017936987



Rajiv has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am an Executive Vice-President for a Business Strategy organization. I have an MBA from USA and had a successful career with Big 5 Consulting company Accenture before I transitioned to my new role with EO.V. I worked with Accenture for over 16 years and am an active shareholder of the reputable organization.

In addition to being a Business Strategy Consultant, I am also a Radio Jockey with the largest Indian Radio Station, Radio Zindagi, in USA.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Love for my work. When you love your work and you do it for your own knowledge and growth you will always look forward to it everyday. In addition, I love my Radio Jockey work where I am able to interact with many of the people and spread love happiness and positivity.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

I love working in the Media and Entertainment zone where I get to meet and interact with so many people with varied interests. I love it when I spread positivity and it touches peoples lives and many a time change also for good and betterment.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

My Jiye Jaa Slogan. Live your life like there is no tomorrow. Live your life in a way to think what people would and remember you for when you leave this world.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

To succeed in my field you have to be totally passionate of what you do.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Theater and Acting. And making friends.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

The industry I work in has got new ways to interact with our audience during pandemic. We have found new channels like zoom and streamyard to spread happiness. It has been good for us as we were able to bring smiles for people when they were locked in their homes and would feel depressed, I would work to bring happiness for them.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

The biggest challenge is acceptance. The audience need to love you, connect with you and accept you. You either make it or you fail.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Be passionate for what you do and do for yourself and let that passion show in every day job.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

In the coming future I plan to take my show to multiple TV channels and continue to find new avenues to spread love and happiness and positivity.



REMEDIANA RODRIGUES DIAS

EDUCATIONIST

Runs her own NGO--Vision Education Society that works with the teaching fraternity to create proper learning environment for all kinds of learners in every school

EVA Award for Excellence in Volunteering at Southampton University, UK - Student Community Action Volunteer of the year 2006-07

Winner of the Broad Outlook Learner Teacher District Award in 2004 instituted by AIR INDIA

Finalist at the All India Tata Consultancy Services-Education World Teachers Awards in April 2005

📷 @remyrodriguesedias 📞 9823846094



Remediana has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am the oldest sibling that grew up in an extended family in Goa. I have a younger, very outgoing sister and I had a brother who was dyslexic, I have always been 'Miss Conscientious' in my family. Looking back at my brother's childhood, he had dyslexic characteristics. Yet he remained undiagnosed. As a toddler, he had delayed speech, but was very confident and social. But all that changed when he started school. He hated it, and was left behind by his peers in the classroom. He had illegible handwriting, was slow at reading and battled with spelling. These hindrances led to the deterioration of his social skills and he lost that confidence he had so enjoyed as a child. Things got worse when my younger sister started school and was top of her class. He couldn't understand why his sisters were doing so well and he wasn't. His self esteem took a knock and he sunk into depression. While trying to come to terms with his death, I attended a workshop on dyslexia. I realised that my brother had experienced so many of the symptoms but had never received effective treatment. By the time we realised what was at the root of his behaviour, it was too late. I became determined to do something for children who were dyslexic and save them from a similar fate to my brother's. So I enrolled at the University of Southampton in the UK to pursue a Masters degree in specific learning disabilities, focusing on dyslexia. I received my Associate Membership of the British Dyslexia Association (AMBDA) accreditation. I went on to work at the Highfield Primary School, Southampton and the Sacred Heart School in Leicester to gain sufficient teaching experience. After getting married, I moved to Dubai, where I worked in various positions in different schools. Simultaneously, I formed my own NGO—Vision Education Society to help create awareness about learning difficulties in Goa. Its main focus is to set up KG schools in villages of Goa and we are gathering resources to set up a resource centre that will be one of its kind in Asia.



WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Believing in the work I do motivates me to get out of bed in the morning. Every day is exciting, and it brings something new, most of the time it is a series of problems, in need of solutions, followed by a sense of fulfillment for overcoming the problems. Even though I am a self-motivated person, I enjoy being appreciated for a job well done because I give every job my all, and I also like knowing that the work I'm doing is producing results that matter to people everywhere.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

In the field of education, the level of participation is very high and each action will make an impact on others life thereby making it very responsible. As mentioned earlier, every day there are new things to deal with—the good, the bad and the ugly. I like a lot of things about my job. One of them is the the independence or autonomy to do what I feel is right and effective to make things work. That gives me a lot of scope to use my creativity and innovate. Another good thing about working in a school is that everyone shares the same vision and is dedicated to the mission. I like working in collaboration along with a great degree of control and freedom within my job.

Rising above the challenges is very gratifying to me. My job provides me ample opportunities to interact and support the pupils, parents, teachers and the people who make up the organization. The most rewarding aspect of my job is developing my skills and helping to foster the growth of my team. I enjoy learning something new each day, getting to network and work along with colleagues from other schools, my ability to take certain decisions which impact the organization in a positive way and motivating employees to perform and give their best, even in an adverse environment. What I do not like is dealing with the egos and nuances of some teachers and higher ups. I hate the repeated follows up to get the job done, especially when you are dependent on other people to do it. I detest the various small, and time-consuming jobs which rarely add value, and yet have to be done.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

My profile does not explain that my passion for education and making a change through education comes from personal experiences of my own. The first one is I was fortunate to be blessed with very good teachers throughout my schooling. Their love for teaching and the love for pupils made me decide on teaching as a career for me at a very young age. I too wanted to make a difference with every action of mine on the minds of learners. My second experience was the amount of suffering my brother endured in his school due to the ignorance of teachers about teaching pupils with dyslexia or learning difficulties. I did not want learners to suffer from low self-esteem and think that there is no hope for them in this world. That led me to study about learning difficulties in UK and writing a book on Understanding Dyslexia—a guide for parents and teachers. And finally coming from an ordinary middle-class background, it is education that has transformed and uplifted my life.



I look forward to empower others through education to make a difference to their life by using talents for their own benefit and to the benefit of our society. Also working in UK and Dubai taught me the importance of early years education and how a strong early years foundation through education prepares a learner for life. With this in mind, I intend setting up KG schools based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum of UK in the villages of South Goa.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

For me the number one skill will be communication skills. Effective communication skills are necessary for building trust with teachers and trusting relationships are vital for leading teachers toward effective instruction. Performance evaluations on teachers, both written and verbal feedback needs to be precise and concise. Effective communication with faculty members is important for both technical performance, as well as for maintaining morale within the school. The more challenging aspect of communication is dealing with student discipline issues. Conveying what happened, the discipline and future expectations with students and parents is necessary to maintain a structured school atmosphere.

Teamwork skills are very important. Getting the team to actually work together is harder than it seems. It is a battle to delicately lead different personalities with different attitudes and sensitivities. You definitely need to have a knack for engaging and uniting staff, despite differences of opinion. It is challenging at times to let everyone know that we are not in competition with one another; to always remember that even though we might disagree on a professional level, this should not lead to an erosion of personal relationships. Knowing where I need to be along with my team, I am working on developing a facilitation rubric for teachers -- a tool that identifies and articulates the precise moves we make in order to develop a team that feels purposeful and safe for learning, and that leads to improved outcomes and experiences for the students we serve. We're hoping that this tool will be helpful in our own practice and that it could be useful to others.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am a creative person. I enjoy writing, art, travelling, camping, blogging, nature, solitude and social work. I basically follow my interests during my spare time and this in turn gives my creative process a huge boost. I enjoy providing my kids with varied learning experiences and making videos of those learning experiences and sharing them on social media for others. One area that I'm passionate about is self-development and self-improvement in my personal life. I'm always looking to challenge myself and learn new things.



HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

I live in Dubai and the UAE was well prepared for distance learning because smart-learning initiatives have been in place since 2012. It gave the country a solid base from which to build a wide-scale model. Education has definitely changed for the better. Technology had already transformed almost all sectors of the economy. Manufacturing, transport, health but not education. It took Covid-19 to change the structure of education. Parents and teachers are working together, much more closely. Parents are getting a close-up look at what and how their children learn. Parents now expect to have a choice in how their children learn. Students have also become more in charge of their learning and pupils' well-being has taken centre stage. This pandemic has also shown us where a school's strength really lies which are relationships and wellbeing. When all learning was online, students wanted to go back to school because they missed their friends. Teachers missed their colleagues. Parents missed catching up at the school gates in the morning. When we are cut off from each other, our mental and emotional health declines. Traditional schools will continue to remain the mode of choice for parents, with blended learning becoming the new normal in a post-pandemic world.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

The biggest challenge I face is carrying the burdens, worries, frustrations, and challenges of so many other people. As a leader you are naturally expected to be in charge, to meet the expectations that our students and staff and communities bestow upon us. We are expected to communicate frequently, clearly, and well; we are expected to handle the instructional, emotional, and social challenges of others; and we are expected to do it pleasantly and without misstep. But the burdens grow heavy sometimes. It can feel like a very thick, strong tree--one that is painfully pockmarked from all the woodpeckers that have taken a nip throughout the days and weeks and months of a school year.

Every leader faces some of the biggest frustrations to control student behavior, recruiting teachers and staff, promote personalized learning, improve teaching effectiveness, student retention, parent support, and more. How well your school performs depends significantly on the strategies and decisions that you make for the same. You are always accountable about the achievements of your students especially in the domain of academics. We must always believe in the possibility and potential of every teacher and every student. As the leader, we have to carry the torch and find a way.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

My life experiences have taught me that respecting myself and believing in myself is very important. People will treat you the way you allow them to treat you. Respect and love yourself and others will do the same. If you don't believe in yourself, if you don't believe that you are capable, a worthy human being, chances are that nobody will. You will act on that belief and people will treat you based on what you think about yourself, based on how you treat yourself and based on how you act and behave...



..in the world. What you focus on expands and what you resist, not only does it persist, but it also grows in size. And if you want to shrink something and make it disappear from your life, you need to stop feeding it by fighting against it. People will not always reciprocate the kindness you show them. So, don't expect the life to be fair to you. Its your responsibility to take care of yourself, fight for what you deserve and make life fair for yourself. Forgiveness is a gift you give to yourself, to be at peace, to be happy and to be able to sleep at night. You don't forgive because you are weak but because you are strong enough to realize that only by giving up on resentment will you be happy. Don't let the world destroy your character. Lastly, don't ever let the negativity and pain in the world affect your character adversely. Treasure the good pieces of yourself, shield them from the evil in the world and use it to brighten your life.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I am very open to whatever opportunities the future may hold. I pride myself in being flexible and adaptable. I think the best way of planning for the future is to make the most of the present. There are just so many things I want to contribute to our society. One immediate goal is to set up Pre-schools in the villages of Goa that are based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum that prepare learners for life. And the other goal is to set up a Learning Centre for Learning Difficulties that is one of its kind in Asia. Setting up libraries for young children is also another goal.



RABIA PATEL

FOUNDER

WALK FOR A CAUSE

LIC branch 906 Development officer

ICONIC PR AWARDED BY MIDDAY

TIMES OF INDIA - BEST AUTHOR 2020 NOMINATED

📷 @rabiapatelofficial 📞 9892971739



Rabia has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I've been working with LIC office as a Developing Officer for the past 3 decades and there's one more decade to go. In case, LIC decides that I should continue, I will continue for one more decade.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

I love to get up in the morning and go to my work because we are contributing to the society by giving one person the value of understanding why his life is important. So the one who values his life indirectly makes a difference to the society. Here, society again means a nation. So I'm very proud that I'm into nation-building organisation since past so many years.

Each day, if I'm empowering one person or one family who indirectly empowers 10 others more who further motivate 10 more people, keeps me motivated to work.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Considering to recruit LIC agents is itself a challenging job. It's satisfying when a person accepts this challenge and wants to do the job honestly and truthfully. I feel, it's most satisfying when my agent is nowhere in the society and not known to anyone, even his lanes. But he makes it to the society at large by given 50 policies or 100 policies or more. And he becomes famous not only in that area but more, and when he makes so many families happy.



I like everything about what I do. What I don't like is my agents who join in and they don't treat the customers daily as per their schedule.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

There are a lot of interesting things I do. I do a lot of social work not only through my organization but also through my initiatives such as 'Walk For A Cause'. It is properly covered by many media outlets and leading newspapers. I believe that each one has to know other person's profile. Each one is a contributor. Each person has to touch that potential and make that person aware of things and they will go a long way to contribute to the society.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

I think skills are secondary, interest is important. If I want my skills to be known, I need to approach people. The approach is the first step. If I'm not approaching or contacting people, what skills do I have? If I have no interest in doing anything, how will people know about the skills I have. In order to let people know, I have to be approachable.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am very passionate about social work and doing things for the society. I'm already doing it. It's not outside my work. It's within my work, the social organisation that I am attached to is already doing it. So I'm already doing it through my workplace. They say that 'If you really want something, the entire universe conspires you to achieve it'. That's happened with me.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

According to me, the industry has not affected at all. People are buying/purchasing things. Only thing is that for some time, we understood the value of digital. We understood that things can be done from home. We understood the technology.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

Challenge has been the social media. For the past few years, my friends have been telling me to verify my social media accounts. They say that so many people know you. They have been saying this for the past 5 years. But I didn't understand social media back then to promote my work. But now it's not challenging as I understood that we can hire people who are good at it.



MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

I think people learn a lot of things when they step out. If you travel less, you are within your walls of confinement, you believe that whatever you are thinking, you can materialise it. But if you decide anything, only you can make it happen. Any platform you get in life, any opportunity, if you want to work, just work.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I have a lot of plans. I have 'Women of Substance' award function on March 8 at JW Marriott, Juhu in Mumbai. I'm launching '365 Days, 365 Stories'. The ISBN Number and paper back are launched already. I will be covering a lot of stories in that at national & international platform. Also, Walk For A Cause will always be there. Anyone can come and be a part of it and walk for the betterment of society.



SAMINA BARODAWALLA

SOFT SKILL & COMMUNICATION TRAINER

A Freelance lecturer in college, conducts story telling workshops for children n adults

☎ 9819459352



Samina has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

A creative artist, I love writing and painting passionately, bringing a rich experience and learning along the way. Have been a motivational leader to people aspiring to climb the ladder in their professional and personal life. A positive, happy person who believes in spreading joy along the way. Hungry for knowledge so my greatest teachers are nature, situations and books. Love to innovate, experiment and think out of the box. In my career path securing a first class, first in M.A. from ST Xavier college helped me secure a position of a freelance trainer, in colleges like Hinduja, taught B.M.F. students, Saboo Siddik college, taught English literature at B.M Ruia, and Wilson college. Taught spoken English, elocution in schools, institutes and a few corporates.

Life took a wonderful twist when my articles, stories poems started getting published and overnight became an author which was highly satisfying for me. Lately I have been a ghost writer for an entrepreneur. Conducted seminars on different topics for personal development. Have done parenting talks and story telling for pre primary children. In the year 2018 started story telling for adults too.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

The thought that someone out there needs the spoken and written skills to get ahead in life propels me to face the day with a positive approach. In assisting them it becomes a win-win situation for the parties, one seeking to learn and the other ready to impart so that they get a strong foothold for their future.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Interviewing them to find out the best course that would be suitable for their needs and then instilling in them the belief that they can do it. Starting with the course and taking them along the way to speak, teaching grammar as reference to context rather than as a dry subject. Viewing the joy on their face as they go from one level to the next is the most satisfying aspect of this occupation. After the course is over they are welcome to come and solve any difficulty that they face along the way. When they are complimented for speaking / writing well or have secured a job is the most fulfilling experience that we cherish.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

It's the go getter attitude which helps me to fulfill my short and long term goals which is not evident in my profile. Starting from story telling for preprimary children to teach senior class students English, geography and history went on to become an elocution teacher and then to teach at colleges as a freelance lecturer in different streams.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Brushing up on your skills from time to time, with being able to handle students who come with different mindsets', instill a sense of confidence in them, which helps them learn easily and effectively.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Writing articles for newspapers and CO authoring books, stories for children magazine, poems and content writing. Spray painting, canvas painting with acrylic colours and doing caricature pictures for stories for children. Love to do creative writing workshops, debates, quiz and ghost writing for people who have no time or inclination to write.

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

There has been a fall out in class in colleges due to pandemic and the online lectures also has not started .So the education industry has faced a lot of flak. Slowly things are improving and there are online classes and now offline will also start shortly.



**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

Sometimes students are very rowdy and they don't concentrate. We are interested in teaching and they in playing pranks. In controlling the class our attention gets diverted and we feel sorry for them, as they are not serious. At a girls college when I was teaching English literature was requested by the principal to lecture in Hindi as they were unable to follow. So had to write down all my notes in Hindi. It was a challenge but It proved to be a blessing in disguise because this helped me write a few poems and essays in Hindi.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

I would say learn a few languages along the way and you never know when it will come handy. But English is the mainstay in all types of business and jobs so proficiency in this language takes you places, so Master English and Master the World. An impactful speaker with the right expressions and pronunciation can express his ideas and knowledge to all in a confident manner, which empowers him and wins him accolades.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

To reach out and impact a million people so that they become confident and powerful speakers, along with enhancing their writing skills so would enable them to dabble creatively and become authors. A lot of people from different professions nurture a dream to leave a mark for the future. Story telling is important in all business presentations, so it valuable today. It is a burning desire to help people understand the importance of story telling and to build their brands around story telling. So the next step we want to take is to leave an imprint on the sands of time in the field of story telling.



SURABHI DAND

PRANIC HEALER & PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Successfully have been able to help people overcome addictions, anxiety and depression

Featured in TIMES OF INDIA for an mental health video on E- Times

Featured in Bombay Times and Mid day 4 times during lockdown for my inputs and motivational stories during difficult times of 2020

WOW award for par excellence Pranic Healer and Intergrative Healing

☎ 9820672172



Surabhi has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

Being a Healer & Psychotherapist it has definitely helped me evolve a better being to shape psychological traits and shortcomings which everyone faces day today. A healer is first a human. It isn't possible that they don't have challenges. My practice and preservance has reconciled the needed balance of thought patterns and manifest them rightly. Above all, through different modalities i practice i have been able to touch people's life with positivity. And thus resolve the conflict between mind and body by bridging the gap. Especially when mental health is taking a big space today. Happy living has become a task which needs attention.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

The quest of knowledge never perishes in me, especially my forte. And in such fast stimulating times and increasing complexities i feel it is imperative to talk and pursue mental health as a regular diet. Hence the need and passion pushes me forward.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

Well I feel am just a drop in an ocean. May be God has chosen me to be a medium for helping people and spread positivity. Remove anguish and cultivate resiliency. Though blessed by divine grace knowledge is endless wealth. Each day is evolution.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Yes there have been instances where you feel too drained. A healer is human first. When you have a positive aura you tend to attract more negativity around, as they need help. Also people don't understand gratitude rightly rather just using it fancier. Being avid spiritually i am non-judgmental and non accountable in pursuits of life and its facts and ironies. One has to be be always positive to live happily through his or state of mind without giving the that right to anyone. Rest universe and karma takes over. You can always share your burden with them rather than suffocating and tying your deeds by toxic thoughts.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE STEPS YOU ARE TAKING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE GOALS YOU WISH TO ACHIEVE?

Any success and cream on cake is not easy. Its always achieved by hard work , zeal and passion, last but not least also set of few sacrifices or struggles. I have tuned myself to however life takes me inspite many ups and downs, instead of fidle with it. I believe hard times are important to make us better versions except the shortcoming of what you loose in process. I feel I have sacrificed a lot on personal and family front setting it my first priority and not equally giving importance to work sometimes. Wasted time for sentimental slushes. I could have managed if I was smart and shrude enough that moment. But as said everything comes to you at proper time hence no regrets.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

There are pros and cons of everything and how you look at it and perceive. Whatever is magnified gets manifested.



MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Stereotypes confining to social sanctions and validations need a change. Also you will always be a rat even if you win rat race. Individualism sets example of true potentials and identity rather than virtual limelight .

"We all come alone and go alone" - its just one birth role and work of each one of us to play. So live light live happy!



PIYA MARKER

SPECIAL EDUCATOR

DIRECTOR HEAD, THE ADITYA BIRLA INTEGRATED SCHOOL

Had set up & was the Principal for one of the 1st schools for children having Learning Disabilities

Under her leadership, The Aditya Birla Integrated School has won several awards – Currently No 1 in India (Education World)

📷 @piyamarker 📞 9820180753



Piya has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

A mother of three (a son a daughter and a Shihtzu). My career so far spans 23 years with a Masters Degree in Special Education. I started my career as the Head teacher at Arushi (Victoria Memorial School). shortly after that I began to work at a Child guidance centre where I worked with students having disabilities in a one on one capacity. This lead to me an opportunity to write the curriculum for one of Mumbai's first mother toddler schools. My foray into schools thus began. Setting up the resource room and working with children at a prominent South Mumbai International school. My career as a school Principal began in 2003. I was the head of school for one of India's first schools for children having Learning Disabilities. My role at this school continued till 2013. Since 2014, I am once again in the role of Head of school for a Special Needs school, for children having Learning Difficulties - The Aditya Birla Integrated School, Fort Mumbai. We train students for the National Open School Exam and are proud to announce that from June 2021 we will be introducing the IGCSE program as well.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

My work is what keeps me grounded, it reminds me daily that I am blessed and have been given the noble responsibility to empower children to be the best they can despite their challenges and hurdles. It is also challenging and intellectually stimulating. I believe I am a person who is able to balance my heart and my head, my work gives me the opportunity to exercise this balance daily.



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

I like how everyone in this industry is passionate about making a change in whatever way is possible and that the focus is always on what is best for the child in question.

I don't like how little people really know about the different types of disabilities and I know that once they are educated about the unique abilities every child possesses the stigma around acceptance will diminish.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I am a Commerce graduate with a specialisation in Management. I became an educator by chance or rather I am destiny's child.

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

The balance of head and heart is crucial. In a field such as this it is only too easy to be swayed by your heart alone. Many a time, decisions need to be made for the greater good of an overall situation. Here the head needs to balance out the heart.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I love all things music, I function best with music playing whether I'm writing, reading, cooking and even did so while studying as a child!

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

The education industry has not been badly hit by the pandemic as schools across the board have managed to convert learning online in a swift and meaningful manner. Hats off to every teacher all over the world!

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

The field of Special Education in India is undervalued and under appreciated. It is not looked upon as a serious professional career rather it is something assumed to be like social work. The biggest challenge we face is for parents to accept that their child will be happier and challenged productively in the right school. Being in a regular school that provides little or no support is more detrimental to the child's chance at success, self esteem and happiness.



MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Find a job you love, something that you're not just good at but passionate about and you won't even realise how quickly the decades of work build up! There's always a way to make a difference no matter what professional journey you are on...

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

I am excited to be able offer the IGCSE board to students with difficulties. Focusing on imparting world class education to a section of society that has always deserved the very best and yet those opportunities may have evaded them.



DR. HITU GAMBHIR MAHAJAN

SALES & MEDIA MARKETING AND GROWTH
CONSULTANT

*Marketing , Communication and Media Leader over
20 years in the domain of Television , Print, Radio
and Entertainment*

Honored with The Women Entrepreneur of the
Year 2018 by Global Business Leadership Award
organised by WPDO (World Peace and Diplomacy
Organisation) and CIAC Global

📷 @capri_hitu 📞 9810653913



*Hitu has pledged to
grow trees and help protect our mother earth*

**WINNERS
2020**

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am graduate in Homescience from Lady Irwin College and PG in Advertising and Marketing from YMCA , CP , New Delhi. Strong willed, Headstrong, Aggressive, Ambitious and Go getter are few words which explains me!! Being PG in Advertising and Marketing landed me Media Industry. I started my career from RadioCity, when Radio was new as a medium. Moved to CNBC TV 18 and was one of the launching team of CNBC AWAAZ , CNN-IBN and IBN 7 . Then happend Sony Pictures, Wizcraft , TV 9 - Telugu and Kannada , Mahuaa, Aidem and Fucus TV.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

Interesting question. My profession is my passion. I am associated with the media industry since two decades which is dynamic and phenomenal , there is so much to learn and implement. These are a few things which keeps me motivated.

WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

As I mentioned, My profession is passion , I can't judge my passion. I am never satisfied , I keep on improving myself with a lot of learnings.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

Inquisitive / Experimentalist

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

Skills: Open to learn/ keep myself updated with new technology/ good observer / good listener/ learn from the tiniest thing.

I want to be the better version of myself everyday.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Meet People / explore life / listening to people and ofcourse Music!

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

Media is always about Spend. Pre Covid ofcourse industry has a trend where clients / advertisers of different categories use to spend throughout the year in Digital and Traditional Media. Traditional Media(TV, Print, Radio, Cinema, Outdoor, OOH) use to take away more that 70% of advertisers monies. Digital and Social Media were consistent in consuming the spend. Advertisers were patient enough for the brand building process.

Post Covid entire scenario has changed. Spend by the advertisers have reduced and Advertisers who have been spending pre covid also get reduced. Digital Media Consumption has touched all time high. Spend in Traditional Media has badly hit. New age advertisers have emerged and specially from technology and have been seen across digital media. Media Industry is witnessing the emerging of new trends in spending and consumption of different media platforms , which i belive was mandatory to break the monotony in media Industry. Clients are impatient now and driving to get only performance to their brand rather spending in brand building process.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?

Problem I experience in two ways :

Client Side: Today clients want instant results in terms of converting the media spend into instant sales of the product. They have short sightedness and no patience in building the brand. Client is fearful and doesn't want to experiment much with the evolving media due to inconsistency in the sales / business scenario.



Media Side: Media houses have stopped producing the intellect. They are producing mules who rattle out the obsolete trends. Media houses have stopped spending on the training and development of the work forces. They have become the part of the rat race which is leading nowhere, which is leading to saturation in learning, dirty politics and frustration.

MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

Keep Improving your skills by learning new perspectives of life and work. Be Empathetic , love yourself , Do Karma and dharma both.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

As a professional , I am gearing to work with different categories of clients- Technology / Government / SME / MSME. Exploit media and learn more ways to make it reachable to new brands. Develop new brands nationally and Internationally.



SHILPI MADAN



JOURNALIST

Her forte is luxury & lifestyle, interviews with achievers, columns and trends

Best Journalist Award (SCM)

Jury member for India Today Gourmet Awards

Contributing Editor for publications

 @shilpimadan  9820792132



Shilpi has pledged to grow trees and help protect our mother earth

WINNERS
2020

Q & A

CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR CAREER PATH SO FAR?

I am a Mumbai based journalist, my forte is the luxury and lifestyle domain: food, fashion, decor, travel, parenting and culture. My forte: interviews with achievers, thematic trends and more

At present I am associated as Contributing Editor with Global Spa, Millionaire Asia (India). I contribute to Elle India, Sunday Standard, Deccan Chronicle, Indian Express, Sunday Herald, The Hindu...and am a columnist with DailyO. Have worked as Contributing Editor earlier with Travel + Leisure India & South Asia / Discover India / Casaviva/ Child /Better Homes & Gardens

I have lived in three cities (Lucknow, Delhi, Mumbai), done my masters from Social Communications Media at Sophia's, Mumbai; am fluent in three languages (English, Hindi and a spot of mean Punjabi!) , write compulsively, relish interacting with people, and travelling to unexplored destinations

Born and brought up in Lucknow, schooled at Loreto Convent, done BA from Lucknow University, pursued modelling for a bit : modelled the legendary Kotwara designs in documentaries based on Lucknow, by Muzaffar Ali.

First Runner Up in Gladrags Supermodel Contest 99, went to Milano, London, New York. Always wanted to be a journalist, hence enrolled for my Masters in Mass Communications at Sophia's in Mumbai, the moment I wrapped up my graduation. Won the Best Journalist of the Year Award, was lucky enough to learn and hone my writing chops under the aegis of greats: Sainath, Jerry Pinto, Smruti Koppikar...



Trained in print reportage under Busybee Behram Contractor, did abrasive cover stories for The Brief (an erstwhile ad world specific publication from the house of Mid day. No regrets!), anchored the release of maestro Zubin Mehta's biography, then played face of the account for Lakme Fashion Week debut season in Mumbai (with JWT IPAN), authored the Top 100 Restaurants & Cafes in Mumbai 2007-08 (Living Media Ltd -- India Today); playing crusader columnist for Mumbai Mirror -- got myself tagged as persona non grata here by mincing no words!; worked with haute brands as Senior Executive Producer for luxury tv channel VOI (voice of India) owned by Gurgaon based Triveni Media... I have developed content for lifestyle segments of msn.com and yahoo.com; for vaahini.com (Accenture), crafted corporate brochures for Embarq, JnNurm, Pidilite, Tanaaz, ABM Architects, Leela Kempenski Group of Hotels ... Have worked on research papers with WorldWideFund (WWF), done ghost writing for film stars as brand ambassadors, tutored secondary students at JBCN international school as part of the Journalism Club, run conversational English classes for school students.

I mentor young journalists, edit formative essays by students applying to international colleges need to submit (SOPs)by coming on board as an editor with international schools...

As a gifted public speaker, I conduct corporate grooming classes under the aegis of my brand, Making a Mark.

As a self-motivated individual, I always look for challenges to carve evolving horizons. Being a forward-thinking team player, and a strong builder of prolific collaborations, I find it easy to knit myself to multicultural environments, with my keen (grammar Nazi) eye on deadlines (absolutely sacrosanct!) while working in a fast-paced work environment.

I am a parent in progress, and have a girl and a boy. By the way, the word supermom is a chimera.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK?

I wake up, raring to work as I want to learn, unlearn, re learn. Every day of my life. That is how I grow, and make others I come in touch with, grow with me. It is a beautiful dichotomy of life -- no person can progress without helping others. I think the line "She went for it" describes my penchant for challenges and achieving the impossible

I am like a sponge, soaking up new aspects of life everyday. I love my work, it brings me into contact with new people round the clock. Energising, enervating, exciting. there is just so much to learn -- one lifetime isn't enough!



WHAT PART OF YOUR OCCUPATION DO YOU PERSONALLY FIND MOST SATISFYING AND MOST CHALLENGING?

I simply thrive on challenges. There is a consistent flow of new perspectives, crazy deadlines, an evolving menu of happenings, ideas, thoughts, collaborations, different dynamics...I love working on different projects. This skips the ennui. It makes me tick mentally.

Love the texture of the industry. Everything flows in simultaneously: irreverence, beauty, emotions, opinions.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU THAT WE WOULDN'T LEARN FROM YOUR PROFILE ALONE?

I love mimicry. I am a great raconteur. Blessed with sparkling wit. Ambivert is my middle name. I can cook well (even though I don't love cooking).

WHAT SKILLS ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCEEDING IN THIS CAREER? WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

You need to be a wordsmith. That's numero uno.

Treat deadlines as sacrosanct. 500 words of bullshit delivered on time is worth more than 200 words of sheer coherence delivered post deadline.

Being resourceful is a huge asset. Networking helps here. People's skills are a tremendous asset -- arriving at a gathering where you don't know anyone, and then spending two-three hours conversing with everyone. I do this for a living!

Be polite to everyone. It is a close knit industry, like any other. People might switch publishing houses and companies, yet the grid remains the same. Everyone either knows everyone, or has heard of them.

Always, always, always be ready to help others. Be warm, be kind. Even to a PR person who might be calling you for the 25th time. It isn't cool to lose your cool

Keep your sense of humour handy. Murphy's law comes into play all the time. You snap, you lose.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUTSIDE OF WORK THAT YOU'RE IRRATIONALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I thrive on travel. I desist going to the same destination repeatedly. There is something innately satisfying about discovering new locales, breathing in the splendour of nature in its most raw form.



Yoga anchors me tremendously as I am always on the move. Exercising gets my happy hormones going.

I am a speed demon, and love zipping, burning up the asphalt. EDM rocks. I love my own company. Observing people -- that is something that comes naturally to me

I am too independent for my own good! I don't like the idea of being dependent on someone for anything. Just call me fierce, fun and fabulous!

HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMY PRE AND POST-PANDEMIC?

It is a tight squeeze, admittedly. Pages have shrunk, advertisements have reduced to a trickle, no crowds are a luxury. Honestly, the luxury, travel and hospitality industry has been badly hit, much like the publishing industry. The sheer garrulousness of social media had sent everything spinning high into a heady cocktail blitzkrieg. Then the pandemic happened and yanked the rug from under our feet. We have re worked and found our new footing, in an albeit re shaped space -- each one of us. That's the born survivor DNA in each one of us!

But then all days are never the same. The only way is further up, from here.

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU SEE WORKING IN THIS FIELD?
WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU WERE FACING?**

Nothing, really. Every problem has a solution, always. You just have to create that solution, make it happen. I am a resilient person. I was born and brought up in Lucknow, came to Mumbai, no one in my family tree had pursued modelling, and journalism. I hammered my own way through. If you have the will, you will find a way to make it happen.

**MOVING FORWARD, DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR
READERS AS A RESULT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?**

Go for it. Take ownership of your own actions
Nothing will happen if you sit and wait for things to happen. Quit whining and blaming others.

ON THE LAST NOTE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US AN INSIGHT ON YOUR FUTURE PLANS

Aha.
A book, TEDx talks....