

જીવનનો ધબકાર
BEATS OF LIFE



AUTHOR
Labhubhai Tapubhai Sonani

TRANSLATOR
NARAN BARAIYA

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My Voyage into the Space of My Memory

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DEDICATION



To Late Shri Nilaben Labhubhai Sonani...

I got the title of this book - "**Beats of Life**" - from some of her exclamations. I found the title from natural, effortless, spontaneous discussions with her. Thoughts in my mind inspired me to write this book, and the English translation of it was to be published when she was living on the Earth, but she left me forever on Tuesday, 20th April 2021, at 4:46 am due to Covid19 before the book release date that was set on April 23, 2021. As a result, the book could not be published.

But now, September 11 is Neela's birthday and I am happy to dedicate her the book on this day.

- **Labhubhai T. Sonani**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The eye is very important organ to make progress in every sphere of a person's life, but the belief that a person cannot develop himself without physical eyes is full of mistakes. A person with strong morale achieves extraordinary success even after losing the sight of his eyes. We see and know many examples to prove this. Author and translator Naran Baraiya is my personal friend. He is also a very good journalist. I keep discussing with him about a lot of current issues, especially bringing out the dormant power of the disables. His warm cooperation continues to unfold the power of disables.

One day we were having a similar discussion. He said to me, "Labhubhai, why don't you write a book on your life? For this, I will sit in front of you once in a week. I will write whatever you speak. I want to share your experiences with the world. It's hard to say whether regular time will help, but I'll be happy to do it. We'll do it anyway. "

According to his suspicion, my friend couldn't take the time. I swallowed his words like a vein so I started that work on my way. According to the sentiments of Naranbhai, the book "Jivanno Dhabkar - Mari Smaranyatra" in Gujarati on my life was published in 28 chapters with the help of another friends like printer Sureshbhai Trivedi. As soon as this book came in the hands of Naranbhai, he came to meet me. "You have completed this task and created a new

challenge for me. Now I will have to translate this book into English to pay the gratitude of our friendship. I will have to reveal it in global language to put it on the world stage.”

Today, when this time has come, my heart is full of joy. Because I have always felt that the people of the world show the same sympathy for the blind. Still much needs to be done to change people's thinking towards the world of disables.

Assuming that, I keep doing new experiments of mass movement. In which special exhibition held every year, cultural program, Navratri festival can be considered as the main one. The purpose behind organizing all these activities was to introduce the power of disables to every section of the society. It aims to establish them in the mainstream of society. With the noble intention of getting more and more people to join my mass movement, I have tried to convey my ideas in the form of book. It has long been my desire to publish in English to take ideas to the world. I would like to thank Shri Naranbhai Baraiya for translating it into English and supporting the work of highlighting the powers of the entire Blind Society.

The heart beat resolving the tensions of life. There are many challenges in the work of welfare of the blinds. But people like Naran Baraiya himself are like beats of my heart. Becoming a prophet of God, my comrades will not stop without giving a result like the heartbeats.

Especially, when the book is going to be published I'm so grateful of my life partner Nila Sonani and my daughter Nishtha and Vice president of Blind School Mr.Kirtibhai Shah, Sarojben Shah and every member of our organizations for so many helps. I cannot forget Mr.Ghanshyambhai Bariya, former principal of Blind School, English teacher Kirtibhai Italiya and author Umakant Rajyaguru for linguistic support for my books in Gujarati. And also I'm thankful of Harsh N. Dhrangdhariya and Mayur Bhatt for typing and other technical support for this book.

I salute my friends who have played a collaborative role in each of my Endeavour...

- Labhubhai T. Sonani



Great Book of Great Life of a Great Personality - Naran Baraiya

Some people say that Labhubhai Sonani is *a male Helen Keller of India*. Some people say that Labhubhai Sonani is *Mahatma Gandhi of handicapped people of India* but according to my belief Labhubhai Sonani is something more than that. According to my view Labhubhai Sonani is a man of miracles. He is a Miraculous Personality. I felt it when met him years ago for the first time.

It was my first visit at Krishnakumar Sinhji Blind School, Bhavnagar. As a journalist, I was there for an interview of the chief executive person of the organization, and he was Labhubhai Sonani. I was highly impressed by his style of walking, talking and every manner. I found it; he was a man of profound knowledge. It was ok. It was an event based interview. The interview was published in *Divya Bhaskar*. It was okay...

But I sank into the ocean of wonderment when during his feedback about my article a reader told me that Labhubhai Sonani himself is a blind person... I was not ready to believe...

Very next day I rushed to Blind School to see Labhubhai at his office. How might be this person a blind!? He acts like a normal person in every manner! I asked him with a lighter tone: "Is it not a story like film "*Mohra*" in that the villain pretends to be a blind person and deceives the world???"

He laughed, took it lightly and told me that his story was not like that. I was not ready to believe the fact but the

fact was fact. I asked so many questions to Labhubhai. He gave me answers with open heart. It was brief story from his birth to present life. But my heart was not satisfied with this short interview. Thus, in that meeting I proposed him to write his autobiography. I told him that the world is eager to know his story if he is eager to tell it. Moreover, I told him that if he was ready to dictate, I was ready to pen the story. He was happy...

We decided to meet once in week and write one chapter. But after that it couldn't be possible on account of highly busy schedules of my daily journalistic works. But surprisingly after a year, Labhubhai sent me an invitation. His book titled "Jivanno Dhabkar"(here, Beats of Life) was going to be launched on March, 23, 2017, the World Book Day. He insisted me to appear in the book launching function. But I was not in Bhavnagar on that day.

After some days, when I was in Bhavnagar, he called me to his office, put the book in my hand and said: 'This is the book, 'Jivanno Dhabkar' that we wanted to write together. I wrote down this with the help of someone else.'

I told him that I was not happy because I lost the chance to write his autobiography. But he said- 'I am going to launch this book on the global stage and you going to translate this book in English. '

It was a great surprise for me. I told him that I will think about it because I was too busy on those days. But when I reached home started reading the book, I could not put the book aside before I reached on last page of the book.

I accepted rendering this book into English because, me thought, there are so great things in Labhubhai Sonani's

book that the world need to know. Not only the blind people but every person of the world can get inspiration from his life. It is the story of a person who loses his eyes at the age of years.

By the way, Labhubhai Sonani was born on born on 15th March, 1967 as the third son of Tapubhai Sonani and Ajwaliben Sonani, who lived in Tarsamiya village near Bhavnagar. When he reached the age of three and a half or four years, the curve of his nature changed as if disaster had befallen the family. The child began to play a life-threatening game with typhoid. The doctor also gave up hope of his survival. He said: 'This child has become blind due to the effects of typhoid, take the child your home. Treat him at home, his life is very short now.' ”

Then, as the author said in this book, every day he started eating a dozen or two dozen bananas and overcame the disease and became physically healthy. But the regret was that he could never see the physical world.

Labhubhai lost his eyesight due to typhoid fever at an early age and also lost his mother before completing five years. Nevertheless, without giving up, with the full cooperation of his family, he got admission in Blind School of Bhavnagar at the age of nine and started his academic career. The oil of ideal leadership skills permeated his life at this time. He was the G.S. (General Secretary) of the institute for four consecutive years. He joined various small and large committees of students, managing various activities. He got his secondary education at Vishuddhanda Vidyamandir, Bhavnagar and Andhajana Mandal, Ahmedabad.

Labhubhai got the first number in the school as well as

in the blind section in the examination of New SSC and achieved 'Gold Medal'. He later graduated from Bhavnagar University and RCI from Bhopal University. He also holds a Master's degree in music. Labhubhai's favourite subject is the various Acts framed for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. He is always keen on its effective implementation.

For the last three decades, he has been working to diagnose, treat, educate, train, rehabilitate and develop manpower for the visually impaired, hearing impaired, mentally retarded children as well as people with mobility impairments.

Labhubhai's goal is the service of the disabled people. He believes that they must not have to live a miserable life due to lack of work. To achieve this noble goal, Labhubhai has been working tirelessly.

In the year 2013, he became victim of deadly disease meningitis. Due to which almost half of the organs in the body became completely lifeless. The disease lasted for more than half a year. But because he was a 'strong-willed man', he once again overcame the deadly disease. This can be called a divine miracle. This was his rebirth. He is determined to live the rest of his life for the betterment of the handicapped.

It would be interesting to go through the some of milestones of Labhubhai Sonani's Voyage of human services... With the blessings of his father Tapubhai, Labhubhai carried on the valuable legacy of social services with full devotion. He has been the Founder and Executive Member of the Rashtriya Andhajan Mandal- Bhavnagar

District Branch established in the 1984. In 1992, he was appointed as the Development Officer of Shri Andh Abhyuday Mandal. Through constant correspondence with 600 to 700 registered members of the organization, he provided necessary guidance to the blind brothers and sisters.

He was elected as Honorary Secretary of Rashtriya Andhajan Mandal, Bhavnagar District Branch. He enthusiastically participated in adventure sports like *Khokho*, *Kabaddi*, *Cricket* and *Chess* during his student days. Going forward, under the leadership of Rashtriya Andhajan Mandal- Bhavnagar District Branch, a successful state level 'Gujarat Cup' Blind Cricket Tournament has been organized under his leadership in the year 1995 to promote blind cricket. Apart from this, he has been organizing small and big competitions in the district from time to time. In the year 2013, under the *Khel Mahakumbh*, the state level tournament was successfully organized. In addition, he is also the Vice President of All Gujarat Blind Cricket Control Board-Gujarat.

Apart from this, adventurous and other activities can include state level blind drama competition in the year 1997, poetry reading competition in the year 2001 as well as 15 day adventure tour of 150 visually impaired students in the year 2016. Such activities cannot be described in words.

Labhubhai has started the '*Samvedana Setu*' campaign on March 15, 2017 with the noble intention of getting the cooperation of the youth, school-college students and the general community to accelerate the work of education, employment and rehabilitation for the disabled. This is the

first attempt of the whole country. Under this, in various schools and colleges, in different provinces and areas, a bridge of empathy is built by discussing with the youth and students, in which the disabled are made aware of the difficulties, efforts are made to overcome such difficulties through joint efforts. As a result of which the present and future injustices against persons with disabilities will be stopped, as a result of which persons with disabilities will get a place in the mainstream of society and they will get a fair chance to be rehabilitated.

Labhubhai, who made his homeland his *karma bhoomi*, is currently the General Secretary of Shri KrishnakumarSinhji Andh Udyogshala, who has made a name for himself nationally and internationally. He is also the President of Gujarat Apang Sanstha Sanchalak Sangh, Akhil Gujarat NetrahinJagrut Trust and Andh Abhyuday Mandal- Bhavnagar. He has been actively serving as Honorary Secretary in Bhavnagar District Branch of National Andhajan Mandal. At the same time, he is joining various organizations of persons with disabilities and providing landmark guidance.

We should remember some awards and honors awarded to Labhubhai Sonani. He was awarded Best Job Filling Officer Award by Labour and Employment Department- Gandhinagar in the year 1997. In the year 2007, N.A.B. state branch awarded him Shri Bhikhabhai Shah Award. Award for best social service was given to him by Andh Apang Vikas Mandal- Mogri in the year 2014. He was honoured by Bhavnagar Nagarik Sahakari Bank as the best social worker of the district in the year 2015. Dr. Nilkanthrai

Chhatrapati Award was given to him by Andh Kalyan Kendra-Ahmedabad in the year 2017. He was awarded Best Integrated Program Development Award by GCERT-Gandhinagar. He is awarded the Award for Best Social Worker by Rotary Club Round Town, Bhavnagar. He is honoured by the Award for Excellence in Blindness Prevention by National Service Unit- Mahuva and Andhajan Karmaveer Award by NAB, Porbandar. Apart from this, many awards have been given to Labhubhai and Honours were awarded by several social organizations of the state and nation.

Labhubhai's nature is very sociable and kind, so he can coordinate with everyone. Because he has a high level of leadership and believe in consensus, he always works with his colleagues, teachers, volunteers, students, parents, the blind. Not only is he a good administrator, but he is also a knowledgeable man in many subjects like education, health, music, and he is a good speaker too.

Labhubhai never regretted losing his eye. "If my eye had survived... I would have been a small diamond trader today, I would not have been able to do anything special in my life," he says with a mild sense of humour. His special life is becoming special for many brothers and sisters with disabilities. Thus, Labhubhai, who is rich in beautiful and inspiring personality, is living a life that amazes the common man due to his strong determination by transforming the wrath of nature into a blessing. Currently, he lives in Bhavnagar with his daughter Nistha.

Moreover, Labhubhai Sonani is a Miraculous writer too. Apart from this book, he wrote some other books in

Gujarati like *Anubhavno Ujas*, *Anubhavni Ghatmal*, *Samvedanani Shodh*, *Upavan* and brief translation of Disability Act 2016. After reading this book, I hope, you would like to read these books too.

As I mentioned above in details, the idea of writing this book was arose first in my heart, Labhubhai had fulfilled anyhow. I am thankful of Labhubhai that he provided me the great opportunity to render this book into Global language. Labhubhai is so far elder than me but always he treats me as a friend. It is his greatness. I am grateful of God that he yielded a great friend in the form of Labhubhai Sonani.

Naran Baraiya

Translator, Author, Journalist

NavaRatanpur, Bhavnagar (India)



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(1) Vision Without Eyes

The man gets perception of visual picture through the sight of his eyes. He captures the scenes through his pupil of the eye and sends its vision to the brain. We call it 'seeing through eyes' or 'seen by eyes'. I also beheld many such scenes through my eyes in my early childhood. My memory is very pale about it. But what I can remember, my father lived on rent in a Brahmin's house in a street of our village. It was a double floored house. A window of the upper floor opened back side where there was a neem tree and a kids' school.

I was born in that house on 15th March 1967. I had been cherished in that house. Still a scene of kite bewildered in the school neem tree is fresh in my eyes today. I remember the kite was swinging with flow of air. I remember, the construction of a house in a plot rather far from the village was under plan. I was two and half years old. The house with foreign roof tiles and walls plastered by earth was under construction. I have heard from elder persons that I worked bringing small stones during that house construction. But that scene is not in my memory.

I remember an incident in that a woman came to sell mangoes. A big basket, full of mangoes, was on her head and my father purchased mangoes by weighting in the scale. I remember, we brought the mangoes at our rent house and brought out the mango pulp in a pot. The colour of mango is still in my memory but I cannot remember many other things I had seen. Once, a severe pain started in my eyes. I was three and a half years old then. Everybody told that I had sore eyes. Various kinds of collyriums were applied to my eyes. Many

people who didn't know the names of medicines but they also advised that which things should be applied into my eyes. Many experiments had been done over me and I knew all the things from elder persons of my family. For three months I was kept in a hammock in grass-made hut situated in a plot of a farm. All the treatments were going there. During that period, I was facing a hard kind of fever. My body had become feeble on account of that. People had started talking; "the boy would die either today or tomorrow". Somebody advised to admit me in the hospital. I was admitted in Sir T. Hospital, Bhavnagar. Doctors started my treatment but they said- 'He had lost his eyes. Now he would lose his life too.' They advised- 'Bring him at home or let us give him injection of poison so that he does not have to bear the pain.' They declared, the boy cannot be survived more. Hearing the doctors, my parents had chosen the first option. We would bring our child back to our home. I was placed in a hammock swinging by handle of cycle and we left the hospital. On the way, when we reached at Ghogha Circle, I had heard a boom of a banana vendor: 'Take the banana... Take the banana...' Naturally as a child I asked for banana. I was given some bananas.

From that day I have started eating bananas more and more. I had started eating two or four bananas per day. The numbers of bananas increased day by day. In the last phase, it reached unto three dozen bananas in a day. The bananas came in my life as the divine medicine. Everything was okay now. The God had snatched my eyes but he gave me my life by the miracle of bananas. The doctors had told that I would be survived not more than twenty-four hours. But I believe, the God came in the form of banana and he proved doctor's statement false.

(2) On the Anvil of Exaggeration

0Before becoming a tree, a seed is passed through many processes. Before being sprouted, it faces many catastrophes. Finally it becomes a big tree. My sudden blindness brought big problems to my family. A gloomy atmosphere was spread over my family.

My father Tapubhai was the *Sarpanch* of our village. The opposite members had subjugated my father by ensnaring in judicial cases with false accusations. He passed maximum time out of home. Consequently he could not concentrate his mind in family problems. Moreover, he had his job in Jahangir Vakil Mill. Therefore for long time he had to stay far from our home. Before I understand a little about my vision problem, the economic crisis had entrapped my family. Livelihood was going somehow. Sometimes we had to stay hungry for one or two times. Meanwhile my mother Ajavaliben had lost her health. Her illness grew up day by day. Home remedies worked somehow and she got some relaxation.

Time was being passed slowly. But one day she fell ill suddenly and said: 'Now learn to care yourself... I wouldn't survive for long time...' It was August 1971, on fifth day of month Shraavan. She lost her health in the midnight. A doctor was called and he gave some medicines. Doctor said: 'She would be okay within one or two days.' Her health was recovered in the morning. My sister Rambhaben and my father were cooking food since it was the day before *Shitla Satam*. Father said: 'Eat how we can cook on this *Satam*. On the next *Satam* your mother would cook all foods.' Hearing the words, said my mother: 'Now you will have to cook what

you want... Here I am a guest for one or two days...'

And according to her prophesy, she died after two days. Among her four children, it was too much painful for me. It is called that if house is bent it is not subject to worry but it is subject of being worried if the beam of a house is bent. If the beam is bent it is dangerous for entire existence of a house. A child becomes an orphan if it loses its mother.

After departure of my mother many people and relatives came to my home as the part of their social duty. Once there came a crowd of some relative women and some other kinsfolk. The relative women saw me and exclaimed some of them: 'It was better that this blind boy had passed away instead of Ajvaliben...' And all other women supported them. I was hearing all. My anger was on a high. There was a dustbin near me. I grabbed it in my hand and threw on the women. There was a tantrum. Some of the sisters said: 'Let it go. Now don't talk about this point.' Everything was peaceful after sometime. But the dialogue had vibrated my heart.

I had decided: 'I haven't the vision of eye but I have the vision of my brain. I will prove it.' I was determined to develop myself in the field of adventurous power. I played all the games those were played by normal children. I developed my friend circle. Like normal people, I took part in all the activities. From all these activities, I could learn many things. My father's aunt's son Bachubhai Lathiya came there at my home every now and then. He taught me many new things by telling stories and various talks. He wove ropes from row cotton. I watched that all. I had a great interest in knowing and learning new thing. The wood in front of the cart where bullocks are connected was called *maakdee*. There was a hole in a broken piece of the *maakdee*. Bachu

Dada tied one extreme of the rope with the hole of *maakdee* and put another extreme into my hand. He said- 'Drive the camel...' When I dragged the wood piece, people said - He is driving the camel. Once I asked my grandfather-'Dada! Is this a camel?' He said- 'Yes, this is camel.' But I asked-'Dada! Why it cannot walk itself?' Grandfather said- 'We have to fill the soul in it.' I said-'From where can we get it?' Grandfather said-'For that we have to write a letter to God.' I brought a piece of paper. Put it into the hand of grandfather and said-'Dada, please, write down a letter. I want a soul. I want to see the camel running itself.' Grandfather puckered the paper and gave it back to me and said-'Hold it. Your matter is written in it.' I said-'Now to whom should I give this letter? May I give it to our postman Popatbhai?' But grandfather said-'No... God's own postman will come to bring this letter. Just put this letter into the crack of the door.' I put the letter into the crack. After two or three days, I found that the letter still was there in the crack. I reminded my grandfather-'Dada! God's postman didn't come to take the letter yet!' Grandfather said-'Be cool... The postman has many works to do.' That night my grandfather grabbed the letter. In the morning when I went to see the door, I could not find the letter there. I felt an extreme pleasure... The letter had gone with the God's postman! Now the soul would be filled into the camel. Now I would enjoy driving the camel. But then passed days after days. Nothing had been happened according to writing in the letter. Every day I asked grandfather. He replied -'God will reply... You have to become a good devotee of God...'

I started making small temples of the God. I made a

beautiful swing of Lord Krishna. For a long period I had done offerings and praise of God according to advice of my grandfather. But as a result I got nothing. I made many kinds of hut of grass. During all these activity I had increased my friend circle. I had forgotten the issue of camel and there was a twist in my activity. In the mid-day we all friends played cricket. I had a quality of leadership since my childhood. Though I was a blind, I became captain of our cricket team. We played cricket under my leadership. My childhood friends got benefits because of my frank nature.

My uncle had a factory of diamond. I had watched the diamond factory with my touch. I made such diamond factory made of wood. I kept my friends as the workers and gave them work of making diamonds from red stones. I paid them two to *ten* paisa as the salary. Sometimes I told my father-'Give me money. I want to give pink slip to some workers since they do not work according to my order.' My father always promoted my quality of leadership that was being developed in me during my early age. He never stopped me when I paid money to children this way. He never told that it was a futile expense. I believe that on account of such generosity of my father, my quality of leadership had been cultivated well. The God had snatched my canopy that was my mother. But he provided me a vast canopy in the form of my father. He provided me a great shelter that even a duo of mother-father couldn't provide. That is the milestone of my development, I believe.



(3) The Bestowal of My Father

After the darkness of night, the coverlet of light is spread over the earth. The same is happened in my life. After the two tremendous exaggerations of God, there started positive effects of my father's sensibility and his interjections about leadership. The children games had increased my jest. There grown up economic crisis but there grown up my power of making balance with the situation too. My father had grown up in the family of five brothers including his elder and younger brothers. He couldn't get reasonable benefit of his hereditary wealth because he had a nature of independent mind. The farm was divided after many meetings. My father was given the land of less fertility. It could get lesser produce compared to the cost of agriculture. Except my father, there was nobody in our family who can do work of agriculture. For us it was not affordable to do work by farm workers. My father sowed the seeds by borrowing bullocks and sowing instruments from his friend circle. Then he alone harvested the crop of pearl millet by cutting its ears and by laying those into bale he transported it from farm to home. By the day time, the ears of pearl millet were given hit by sunlight. In the night he thrashed the ears by a beater. He done a pile to sort the pure pearl millet and soft grain on ears remaining after the ripe ones are removed. He winnowed it in the mid-day. He then brought the clear pearl millet to grinding machine. And by making vegetables etc he provided food for us. It ran for long time. Father never was defeated against hard work in any task. He never left an imperfection in any work. With such generous personality, Tapubhai Patel, my father was the mast

of our Sonani family and entire village too. He helped people of village in their little or bigger tasks. He provided either social or governmental aid to many people. He made many people self depended. We know about father's help when we meet some appreciative people who tell us about the helps they received from my father. He never told us about the help he had done to needful people. But from others we know that for life time he wiped tears of so many people and spoke nothing about that. He won the hearts of people by being elected as the Sarpanch of village for three times. He set an example of real public servant by his well performance as the President of Bhavnagar TalukaPanchayat and as the Chairman of Construction Department and Chitra Marketing Yard in Bhavnagar. When the Marketing Yard of Chitra was under construction, he was offered big amounts but he rejected all. Never was he lured by bribe. He never accepted any amount except government allowances. For life time he lived in a house of old fashioned foreign tiles and floor of dung. Yes, once he renovated some parts of the house by our insistence. Hundreds of social workers insisted him to become MLA of South Bhavnagar. He was proposed for that but people's desire was not fulfilled because of dirty politics. Many people received financial help from him but he himself lived a very simple life. For the life time, he never complained about any person. Not only that, he expected nothing even from his family members.

The shadow of such great personality is spread over my heart. This is why I always felt joy in giving but felt hesitation in taking something from others. I always think of giving, not of taking. My sublime nature is the impact of my

father's life style. I was given the light of cultivation in my life. But I believe that I couldn't give appropriate just to the giving of my father. I couldn't remove the darkness that had affected my life. I couldn't respond the truth that was cherished in me. But I go on in my life as the sailor goes on with his boat in the sea by the help of rays coming from lighthouse. My father is my lighthouse. Despite the millions of adversities, I could live a best life because I have the lighthouse in the form of my father. Though I became the victim of blindness and lost the shelter of my mother suddenly, it is the blessings of God that I could live my life with courage and the sense of dedication. I could face abundances of adversities in my life. It was possible due to great and sublime personality of my father. I have learned from his life that there is no scope of complain against anyone. To develop a sense of mercy on everyone is the real religion. He brought me at temples and other religious places. We attended religious meetings too. We went to hear religious discourses and watched RamLeela and folk dramas too. But always the tendency of my father was neutral. He never believed in any blind faith. Never had he believed in ghosts or exorcists or any other religious illusions. Instead of religious travelings and offerings, he consumed his time in human services. He preferred either cycle or municipal bus when he went to any work of human services. He never set in the vehicle of a person whom he helped. The person who got

help from my father went Gandhinagar in his own vehicle but he always went by government bus. When the task of that person is done, my father came back Bhavnagar by bus. I have seen many such examples. I have gotten many opportunities to meet the persons who had gotten help from my father. Once upon a time on Ghogha Road, my father paid Rs.300 for plot for a carpenter. Even today that carpenter's family runs here their traditional business of iron tools and welding. By such great works, he won the hearts of the people. But about that, he spoke nothing to anyone. I salute hundred times to such generous and sublime personality...



(4) Extraordinary Personality

I have seen many great personalities in my life. I have enjoyed meeting big persons. But for my father, the word 'extraordinary personality' would be appropriate due to his extraordinary life style and dedication for human services. Never had he demanded for specific thing. On 5th January 1961, when he was the *Sarpanch* of our village, he brought Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for inauguration of water tank in our village. We can call it a historic event for our village Tarasamiya. By his efforts, Tarasamiya village got the approval of cluster plan for drinking water.

In 1984, Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister after the death of Indira Gandhi. Then after, during his first visit in Bhavnagar, when he addressed Congress workers in Bhavnagar Town Hall, my father was given a special honour on stage. In the election time, he was sent to many areas as the supervisor to select candidates. In the interior meetings of the party, my father's opinion was important. He was a loyal Congress member for life time. By being a Congressman he served many people. He had a great role in giving jobs to youth. Many people were impressed by him. From 8 to 10 p.m. at night at our house, many people visited him for solutions of their problems and there were many kinds of conversations. People always found new kinds of solutions and advises from him. People always went back their home with a pure satisfaction. I always got the benefit of such consultation meetings. Without fail I attended all such meetings during the period of vacations and holidays. Religious conversations also were included in his meetings. Father always emphasized on human religion and human

services. I always liked his talks. For whole day with enthusiasm my sister-in-law served tea to the guests. She cherished me with love like a mother. She took all care of me. She always served the food that she served to her children. I salute her too. There was a great role of such family members behind my wrought. In the election time, radio was the best medium of news. Radio remained on for 24 hours at our house. At the time of vote counting, our home became the house of information. Various kinds of people came to my home and there were various kinds of conversations there. All these entered me through my ears. It developed my power of distinguishing right and false information. According to my belief, experience is the greatest degree that a college or a university cannot provide to a man. For the personal education, man's experiences are very important. As the lunch box becomes useful when a man is hungry, so the education of experiences becomes useful to a man when he is in a bad situation. It provides him a power of perception.

I had lost my vision of eyes in my early childhood but had gotten the power of insight in my teenage. It became the ladder of my today's success. Only it is the experience that gives the power of facing calamities to climb the mountain of success. The book education is like a parrot speaking the name of Ram. As the parrot doesn't know the meaning of Ram, so the man who read only books cannot get its meaning if he has no experience. The insight cannot be opened without experience. It remains closed without experience. Without experience one is not able to analyze the things that come before him. I believe that every student must get the education of experience. The book education might become

a support but it is not the base of education. And where there is not the base, the existence is in danger there. We talk about value based education but we haven't a milestone for values. My father's talks have jingled the chords of my heart. There seeped music from his talks. I always feel that musical dialogues. I know that my father's bestowals would be for my construction. Many people come and go in this world. But there remembered only those tried to understand the world of God. And also we remember the persons who tried to reveal the world. The Creator has obliged the world by the creation of souls. Among his creations, the creation of human being is phenomenal. You will need special kind of insight to understand human anatomy and his brain skills. I have gotten this insight from the personality of my father. He was a great fan of Mahatma Gandhi. He was a courageous person and he did all his works by his hands. He kept a big rifle. He had a police license for that. But he never used this weapon in his life. I believe that he kept that licensed rifle only to live a fearless life. Many times he had to go to desolate places for the works of people. He went such places even in the midnight. So he needed such weapon. In short, after seeing all these, I have gotten a moral courage to live life. I got so many things from his talks, examples he had given and the stories he had told. I believe that that is the precious treasure that I have inherited from my father.



(5) Planting of the Seed

The God is full of love, mercy, pity and blessings. He doesn't stop just by creating the world. He makes it beautiful too. He snatched vision of my eyes, he put collyrium of darkness into my eyes, he send the caravan of black clouds into my life. But in my life, he created a glittering evening too. He didn't fill soul into the camel idol but he gave me the life full of joy and pleasure. As if he read the letter that I wrote him for filling soul in the camel, the God started to rain his blessings by increasing my creative power. Such had been happened in my life like the Earth becomes green after the rain.

A Talati-cum-mantri named Bhattbhai came everyday to meet my father. Their dialogues were full of knowledge and information. I had a deep interest in their talks. I felt, he was fond of radio. On those days, All India Radio Ahmedabad programme Shanabhai Shakarabhai was very popular. There was transmission of many programme of music, drama, information and so many. Once Bhattbhai said, we can write letter for this programme. Very next before arrival of Bhattbhai, I arranged a post card. When he came, before he speaks anything, I put a letter in his hand and said, 'Please, write a letter for Shanabhai Shakarabhai programme and write my name first in the letter.' Very same day the postcard was written and it was sent too. After 8 days our letter was included in the programme. My name was pronounced on radio. It had increased my interest in listening radio. Sometimes I missed taking food but never missed listening radio. I listened all my favourite programme. Once on radio I have heard that a blind person can study through

Braille script. This was enough for me. I told it to Bhattbhai. He was enthusiastic for me. After some days, he gave me information about Blind School ran in Bhavnagar city. I decided to take admission in this school. My father was confused in sentiments. By the guises of festivals, every now and then he told me, 'After month of *Shravan*' or 'After *Diwali*' or 'After *Holi*' etc. But he never came to admit me into the school. And it had been passed almost two years. Now I was habituated of father's talk of festival list. I knew that he never would come to admit me into the school because he did not want to do so. I always thought that how the blind people would be studying? How would be their script? Many such questions arose in me but never got answers. But there is a proverb in Gujarati: One hope is hidden among the millions of disappointments. Very same thing was happened in my case...

Once there was a fund raising programme of Blind School at Ram Temple of our village Tarsamiya. The programme became talk of the village. The talk entered in my ears too. Without asking anybody I reached at Ram Temple at 9 p.m. It was a tremendous group. They were enthralled the people by their harmonium, tambourine, *manjira* and other music instruments. The artists one by one were singing the religious lyrics. A blind artist named Kusumben Mandani told a story in a dramatic style and the eyes of the audience were wet. My father's elder brother Gordhandada - to whom we called big father - was present there in that programme. His wife's sister's son also was blind. And he was present here as an artist in this programme. He was a tabla artist and responsibility of tabla for whole programme on his head. Meanwhile I met all these friends.

Tabla artist Devraj Gopani was partially blind and I was introduced with him by Gordhandada. Gordhandada decided to send me in this school with him very next day. According to a Gujarati proverb, I got food of my choice.

Next day in the morning I got up very early and prepared myself and put a pair of clothes in a bag. But before I go with Gordhandada, my family knew everything. I told them about last night programme. There were tears in eyes of my sister in law when she had come to know that I was going to study at Blind School in Bhavnagar. I started walking before they speak any word. I reached to house of Gordhandada. There a small tea party of blind brothers and sisters who met me in the last night programme. After having snacks we sat in a municipal bus and went towards Bhavnagar. There in the school I met the blind friends of my age. I got information about Braille script and learned it in very short period. Apart from the study, I enjoyed playing games with friends after school time.

I avoided meeting Devrajbhai and other elder brothers. In our group a boy named Giju Joshi was very boisterous. He controlled us by beating. Sometimes he threw down while running swing. Nobody can do anything to Giju. All friends were controlled by him. We were afraid of Giju uncle, too. Many times he came in the school and scolded us. This is why we had to bear the turbulence of Giju. We had to be beaten by Giju. But I had gathered some friends. We had decided to teach a lesson to Giju. When school time was over, we came out of the class and sat on the swing. We started swinging. There appeared Giju as he came every day. He shouted to empty the swing. But today we were not ready to empty the swing. According to his habit, he kicked a friend

down and we started beating Giju. He was thrashed so much. Again and again he told that he would not do so from now. We put some earth in his mouth. And again and again he spoke - 'I am your cow.'

And we believed that he would never annoy us in the future. He took an oath on the name of religion for stopping his ragging. It was the day of victory for us. The fear of Giju's uncle also had been evaporated same day because we had heard the news that his uncle was transferred to another city. Now we had trust that Gijubhai would have to become a wise boy. Such setback comes in anyone's life but one has keep patience to be free from it. Now Giju became my personal friend. He taught us music. Gradually we became fast friends. And I believed that a poison might be transformed into the medicine too.

Very same way, a nutrition might become the cause of death too. I understood poet Kalapi's line in my teenage: "It is the way of nature; the cherisher too can kill you." The line was true in the case of Mr. Giju Joshi. First he beaten us but later he became useful to us. The same happens in everyone's life. For me, my blindness became the divine ray of my progress. It is lighter than the rays of the sun. The sight of eyes can give visual experience but the eyes of soul can be helpful to understand various kinds of mysteries. Not only the eyes but every sense of the body is able to give you the vision. I believe that the person who has lost the vision of his eye should try to develop his sentiency. The traveller who have not his destination, reach nowhere. And the man who has his own goal cannot lose anything.



(6) The Cottage of Maharaj

Education is a lifelong process. It starts from the seed of corpus. A person learns new things every step. My father's childhood friend Vallabh Maharaj lived as a monk in a cottage. Many gentlemen gathered at the cottage of Maharaj and discussed about religion. Sometimes Mahabharat was recited there. Our uncle Dulabhai Meghajibhai was very clever in reciting Mahabharat. He recited Premanand's Mahabharat with music and rhythm. Dula Kaka was known as the Bhagat. He discussed religious books in depth. I always preferred to be appeared in this religious meet. After reading there arose many questions in my mind. My education started since my early childhood. I always discussed my question with my father. Education is not a thing that you can get it just from a classroom. You can get it from anywhere in the world. The knowledge creates a power. Today I get guidance from this power. Parallel to religious book reciting, some saints visited Maharaj's cottage regularly. They discussed about religion and knowledge. Many times there arranged lunch or dinner programme. Still today I remember the tastes of *bhajiya* and *dalvada* being cooked there. Vallabh Maharaj had an extraordinary skill of cooking. There cooked food items like *malpuva*, *parotha* and so on. Sometimes I slept there on the mat of the cottage when they cooked food very late in the night. When they cooked *bhajiya*, they got me up and served me it with love.

Once there at the cottage, there arrived a saint. He put his hand on my head and said-'I am giving a medicine. Apply it in his eyes. He would get vision of eyes within two days.'

According to that instruction the medicine was

applied on my eyes. I felt a severe pain in my eyes. I was denying of taking the medicine. Two or three persons held my hands and leg tightly. It remained for three or four days. They applied the medicine on my eyes every one or two hours' interval. They told me Lord Hanuman would do all the best. But I remember that the medicine didn't work. Methinks, there in India, many blind people would have to undergone such conditions. To lose the vision of eyes is not our fault but I believe, it is our fault to try such medicines to get the vision back. But I believe that after such awareness, nobody would have to bear such pain now. At Vallabh Maharaj cottage I have learned about religious books but more that I learned there about the loss on account of blind faith. Once I believed that Saints meet God every now and then. But after my acquaintances with many saints, I came on a conclusion that most of saints leave their social life to save themselves from work or labour. Actually they do not want to get God. They just pretend to abandon the wealth. In a real sense they too are busy with their efforts to achieve such wealth. I believe, the man of selfless human service is the real saint. There is no value of work when one has expectation of reward for that. The work done without any expectation is precious. The man who is busy in human services without any expectation is bigger than the monks and saints. I have learned that from the cottage of Vallabh Maharaj. What I beheld or experienced in that cottage, same would be there in other cottages and monasteries. I cannot understand why it runs in our country. I never got the answer of my question. I would be happy if the reader of this book would give me the proper answer of my question.



(7) Blossomed the Coral Flower of Human Services

The theory of God's world is depended on dependency. Human beings establishes their existence on the basis of each other. It happens in every elements of the world like the Earth revolves relatively around the Sun. Either it is alive or lifeless, the rule applies to the both kinds of elements. I had been cherished in the organization. There is a great impact of that atmosphere in my life. After the master degree in music I thought to manage my family. But it couldn't be possible. I accomplished degree in music from Brihad Gujarat Sangit Samiti - Ahmedabad and Akhil Bhartiya Gandharv Mahavidyalay - Miraj, Maharashtra. Many such degree holder blinds are appointed as the music teacher by Gujarat Government. But I couldn't become a music teacher on account of a phone call.

It was the phone call of Bhavnagar Andh Abhyuday Mandal honourary secretary Mr.Chandrakantbhai Joshi. He ran a local telephone PCO near Bhavnagar ST bus station. I knew him just by his name. We had not a close relationship. In our Tarasamiya village there was only person who had the facility of telephone. He was our family elder person Chhaganbhai Ravjibhai Sonani. Chandrakantbhai contacted him. And he once contacted Chandrakanbhai on phone and gave the receiver to me. Chandrakantbhai called me to see personally very next day at ST bus station.

We discussed for half an hour. He offered me to join the management of the organization. I told Joshibhai that I wanted to become a music teacher. But he said - 'Once join and try the work of service. Later you can do what you want.' A day after next day I joined the organisation. I got the opportunity to meet hundreds of blind people of economically weak condition. My heart was transformed.

Now it was my volition that never to join any government job. Prior to this I had been passed railway exam in written but now I decided that I won't attend its oral interview. I had gave up some more opportunities of job. Since that day I walked only on the path that was chosen by me. The offer of joining Blind School came to me in 1994. Then organization management persons Antubhai Rawal and Bababhai met me every now and then. They told me that they wanted the person who can understand the world of blind people. I always became helpful in resolution of little or bigger problems of Blind School. Many times Antubhai Rawal came to Andh Abhyuday Mandal's office near Bhangali Gait and told me to come at Blind School. He mentioned that he needed me for this or that work. Many such kinds of talks had done there in that time. I remember that one or two times Bababhai also was with him. Bababhai always insisted me to attend the meetings of State Branch of NAB. Finally I joined Blind School activities in 1995. I started to give my contributions in little or bigger works of school.

I had an old desire in my heart that any state level activity of blind people must be in Bhavnagar. In one of state NAB meeting I accepted the responsibility to arrange a state level tournament of cricket for blind people. In the same year I was appointed as the honourary secretary of NAB Bhavnagar. I had accepted the responsibility as the part of my duty as the secretary. Twenty teams across the state took part in this tournament. I had gotten the opportunity to arrange the state level cricket tournament for blind people for the first time in Bhavnagar on 11,12,13 December, 1995. Its fund was collected under my guidance. First economic support was given by organisation president Shashibhai Vadhar. I had been successful since Bababhai had an absolute trust in me. After that many such events were

completed successfully. And still I intend to arrange many such events. Volition and determination are my inner eyes through that I want to see the world. The vision of these eyes is very broad. Like a camera, they want to provide a good flick to God by capturing the scenes of their choice. My inner eyes can see what outer eyes cannot see. Those are the eyes that have no rule of spectacles' numbers or no light or darkness can effect them. I have a proud of the eyes those are given by the God. In the beginning I believed that physical eyes are necessary but now I am on an upper state where physical eyes are not necessary.

Once I went to a training programme for primary teachers. I was addressing more than 300 primary teachers. My talk about education to handicapped children touched the hearts of the teachers. One of the teachers asked me - 'Which day is memorable and full of joy in your life?'

Never had I thought about that point. But within a second the answer of the question arose on my head. I said - 'The day that is memorable and full of joy in my life is the day on that I had lost my physical eyes. Everyone was silence. But someone asked me - 'Why, sir?'

And I replied - 'I am the son of a farmer born in Patel community. According our tradition I would have been either a farmer or a diamond worker. Today I am doing the work of rubbing the rust of people. The man who prepares the diamond is called a diamond artist. Then what the word would you use for me? All were understood. I want to live like that everyday is the day of my pleasure. For day and night I think about it. I want to try for the various programme of education, employment, training and rehabilitation of blind people. I expect the society and the government must try to provide sufficient and efficient technology that can provide a normal life to blind people.

(8) The Planting of Thoughts

People were rarely agreed with the idea that a child born blind in their family also can have a successful career through education. The World Health Organization had given a new education integration programme for handicapped children of the world's countries. Indian Government had implemented the programme. On experimental basis it was implemented since 1974 but majority of states have accepted after ninth decade of twentieth century. A special law for handicapped persons was implemented in 1995. On account that such children were included in compulsory education service. There was a great impact of that law in my life. I studied the law in depth. For implementation of the law, through school and college visits and seminars, I have tried to make people aware of it. I could succeed in persuading people for school admission of such children. For that I visited many primary schools and its principals and teachers in rural areas. Subsequently more than 1300 people were admitted in the schools. We started our efforts for timely education of the children whose disability might not be removed even after a surgery. In that CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) programme was very important. According to this programme, we have collected information about handicapped children through the field workers and started our efforts to provide them educational facilities. To reach the remote villages, we started our journey almost from 6 O'clock in the morning and many times we returned home at 9 or 10 O'clock in the night. The Health Department's CHC and PHC doctors of whole

Saurashtra had given their great contribution in Government's training programme of Rehabilitation Council of India for five years under the banner of NAB, Bhavnagar. Always I'm grateful of all those doctor friends. The CRC and BRC friends of whole Bhavnagar district have fully co-operated such training programme during that period. On account of that, handicapped children education programme had a good response. During the training programme, we had conversed with numbers of teachers and principals on disability management. Subsequently we could get a good support for education, training and rehabilitation of disabled children. Still today the country needs hundreds of such programme and millions of such workers. There is a hope in my heart that Bhavnagar city and district must remain as an ideal centre for services of handicapped person's education, employment, training and rehabilitation. I have seen many dreams in my life. Among them my biggest dream is that Bhavnagar must remain as India's ideal centre for disabled people's development in all aspects. It is the desire of my heart that a blind person must be full of latest and ultra-modern technology and auxiliary equipments so that he can live like a normal person and even he can take a leadership.

For the creative social ideology, every year I try to give various programmes under various titles. "*Blown out the Darkness and Shined the Stars*" is one of the titles. The darkness is a form of light that has lost its status. Therefore you cannot extinguish it. You cannot see the black dot if you do it in the black. That meant you are eliminating the thing that doesn't exist. The darkness extinguishes the darkness - The line had touched my heart when it appeared on my mind.

The blindness of physical eyes meant extinguished darkness. Blindness is not only the fact that you cannot see through your eyes. Real blindness is the fact that you cannot understand the thing even after seeing it with your own eyes. I felt like blindness had been faded out, extinguished and I accepted the title - '*Extinguished Darkness.*' And second part of the title is '*Shined Stars*' that is not hard to understand because they all are the stars who have forgotten the physical blindness and showed their light of insight to the society.

I had given more such titles too. For example: '*Let Me Show My World without Eyes*' that means I have no vision in my physical eyes but I boast vision in my thoughts. One another title is '*Extraordinary Light without Eyes.*' The person who has lost his eyes can see the world though his insight. I pray to the God that the organizations like Krishnakumarsinhaji Andh Udyog Shala, Akhil Gujarat Netrahin Jagrut Trust and Rashtriya Andhjan Mandal, Bhavnagar District Branch must remain as the ideal help station for the handicapped persons.



(9) *The Kamadhenu*

It is known in our scriptures that gods and demons got information about *Kamadhenu*. Many battles were fought between gods and demons for it. The mortals also tried *Mahabhakti* to get *Kamadhenu* and made many efforts to please the Most Gracious God. We read stories of sages in those they are being invaded by *Asuras* to seize the *Kamadhenu* obtained by them on the basis of their devotion.

Lakshmi, swinging on the carousel, asked the most merciful God: 'Lord, why is there so much fighting for *Kamadhenu* between gods, humans and demons? Do something about it.' The Lord said: 'I will give the gift of *Kamadhenu* in the body of every human being and explain to all these people to use it. Then there will be no war or battle for *Kamadhenu*.'

Truly the Lord has created the mind in the human body and has put tremendous power in it. In general, the human body has a total of two minds: (1) conscious mind and (2) sub-conscious mind.

The sub-conscious mind has ninety percent power, while the conscious mind has only ten percent power. The conscious mind operates in the waking state of the person, while the sub-conscious mind remains active twenty-four hours a day. The conscious mind is the master, while the sub-conscious mind is the servant. This servant means *Kamadhenu*.

Every task assigned to the subconscious mind is always successful, because it can use the blessings bestowed on *Kamadhenu*. *Kamadhenu* had the blessing of being able

to give whatever she wanted to give to his master, or so to speak, whatever the master wanted. This means that the conscious mind is the master and the subconscious mind is the servant. It is also *Kamadhenu* so it is able to give everything according to the wishes of the owner. In my experience that is true.

Every task assigned to the subconscious mind succeeds. That requires strong will power, faith and trust. I have had success in many areas as a result of all these strengths. When I was studying in school, I used to gather my friends and narrate my future resolutions in a musical style in the same way that *Satyanarayan Katha* is narrated in a distinctive style. In it, I always said that if I can get a suitcase full of one rupee from the edge of the lake, from that rupee I can make a nice blind school. The laughter of the friends was not limited to this. In my *Kamadhenu*, that is, in the subconscious mind, what was often imprinted and sprouted. The prospect of becoming a good school administrator was established in my subconscious. The result of the brainstorming that took place in your mind through beautiful psychoanalysis is in front of you all.

If a common-minded person living in a village reaches the leading post of a big school, manages it successfully, succeeds in winning everyone's heart, then the credit can be given only to the subconscious mind, *Kamadhenu*. Another reason for this success, I think, is that I never gave in to the worm of doubt that this could happen to me.

When my name was selected from the applications sought by the Labour and Employment Department of the Gujarat Government in 1997, I was convinced by my subconscious mind before the result of the award.

I remember the knowledge of many such incidents of the power of the subconscious mind. The subconscious mind is a unit of God's internet. It is connected to the mind of every human being in the world. The human body is hardware, but the sub-conscious or conscious mind is its software. Just as any computer without software is incapable of working, so people who are not skilled at using their powers of mind always fail to work.

I remember an incident of 1998. In the recruitment of first education assistants, out of the selected education assistants in Bhavnagar district, a total of 18 education assistants were released from duty after about 48 days for various reasons. The reasons given were not related to the qualifications, quality or skills of the candidates. The reasons given by Government were that the candidate was appointed without checking the administrative reasons like over setup, city area.

Among the 18 released candidates there were three disabled education assistants. One of them was my wife Neela. I introduced this question in the District Panchayat. No one was willing to listen. I resolved that each candidate should be re-appointed in a manner that they must be paid from the date of dismissal. Ordering should be in such a way that not a single day breaks in the job.

The disabled brother who was appointed as a teacher in Lathidad was very sad. He barely got a job. He cried for ten minutes as if someone had passed away in my office. I calmed him down and reassured him that he will get reorder. No one's mind believed my assurance.

The authorities were unwilling to listen. My partner Umeshbhai Nandwa and I went to Gandhinagar by bus. At

the end of the day, at 7.30 pm, I met the then Chief Minister Shri Keshubhai Patel. He asked to meet the then education minister. Anandiben Patel was the Education Minister at that time. After Keshubhai's visit, there was no time for the Education Minister to visit. I decided to stay overnight in Gandhinagar to meet Anandiben tomorrow, then to go to Bhavnagar. We arrived at the *Pathikashram* in Gandhinagar to spend the night.

They told us: "Only a government official can get a room at a token price. If you want to stay here, it will be three hundred rupees till ten in the morning." We stayed in *Pathikashram* that night, seeing burnt rugs, smelly beds, I didn't feel like sleeping. We decided to sit on the bed for a long time. For a short time we could sleep due to a late night sleep attack. In the morning, we got ready early and left for the Secretariat. Again we sat in front of the Education Minister's office. 'Anandiben is in the meeting, she has not come yet' - such voices were constantly ringing in my ears. There passed entire day in such waiting.

In the evening, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs Mahendrabhai Trivedi met me in his office. I explained everything to him. He said, "Anandiben will meet you tomorrow. If you come to the Secretariat by eleven o'clock tomorrow, your work will be done."

Then overnight stay was a daunting task for us. There was not enough money to spend for night stay in the pocket.

After much thought I remembered; Neela's uncle (*Fuwa*) lives in Sector-20 in Gandhinagar. *Fuwa* was the judge. Definitely he would welcome us at his home as guest for a night. We found his bungalow. We got a special welcoming like the welcoming of a new bride. A separate

room was allotted to us. There was all the convenience. It was a time of joy for us. It was like a man get heaven after death.

After finishing the night court work, our *fuwa* VK Shah came home. We explained the whole case to him. He listened to me very quietly and then he said in one line: 'Nothing will happen. Not even after full ninety days of the job. So nothing can happen.' Saying this, *fuwa* went to his room. Umeshbhai Nandwa asked me: "What do we have to do now? Do you want to leave for Bhavnagar tomorrow morning?' I said: 'Umeshbhai, we are going to use his bungalow for a day. We did not come to seek their advice. Just listen to him. What we have to do will happen tomorrow.'

By eleven o'clock the next day we reached Anandiben's office in the New Secretariat Block-5. We felt a kind of magnificence in office atmosphere. She was pushing the visitors by words as they went. BJP workers were not even listened enough by her. She was knocking the BJP workers out. What happens when my number arrives? In such atmosphere, anxiety is natural to a common man, but because of the immense power of my subconscious mind, that fear could not peek anywhere in me. I reached out to the Sister and spoke in detail of the case. The Minister of Education, Anandiben, with great astonishment, summoned his PA and instructed him to order of re-appointment. We're done....

We met to her P.A. and I said: 'Anandiben has asked us to give a copy of the order. Along with you need to give us your phone number. So, if the Primary Education Officer of

Bhavnagar District Panchayat does not do any kind of work, your attention can be drawn. '

Within half an hour we received a copy of the order. I also read the order. But there was no mention of the disruption in the eighteen-day job. I met PA again.

I told him: 'I have submitted to the Sister to compensate for eighteen days, you can ask the sister if you want.' He made the necessary inquiries and made corrections as per our submission. All the dismissed candidates were instructed to hand over the orders to the District Panchayat for eighteen days. This success was *Kamadhenu's* miracle. The seed had been planted in my subconscious mind before leaving Bhavnagar for Gandhinagar. That's why I got this kind of decision from the Sister on behalf of the teachers. Everyone must plant the seeds of the resolutions they want to achieve in their subconscious mind to succeed. These sown seeds will one day become a magnificent banyan tree.

In the year 2010, we decided to hold a Mega Rally in Gandhinagar on the issue of disables' problems. Organizations of persons with disabilities from all over the state were present. A large number of people with disabilities joined. Friends from all over the media gave a great coverage. Just two days before the rally, I had a road accident near the school. There was a major injury to my toes. Despite the doctor's instruction not to take a single step for ten-twelve days, with plastered foot I took the helm of this Mega Rally in Gandhinagar. About twenty thousand persons with disabilities, activists and townspeople joined it. This proved to be the largest historical Mega-rally performed by organizations with disabilities. This success

was also in my subconscious mind.

The planning of the rally and its preparations continued in my house. My only eleven-year-old daughter, Nishtha, used to attend calls from different organizations and noted the details and provided me the details when I needed. While we were sitting at home, there was a constant discussion to get more and more people to join our rally. Due to which the outlook of the rally was formed. Through this a network of human minds emerged. That's why we've had such great success - I believe.

The rally organized under the banner of Gujarat Handicapped Institution Managers Association (Gujarat Apang Sanstha Sanchalak Sangh). It was noted by newspapers and electronic media across the country. I believe that I could have successfully led the rally in a wheelchair, in the pouring rain, because of the power of thousands of minds connected to my subconscious mind. Only those who cannot use the power of their mind are truly handicapped.

If Walter of America can win a gold medal in the high jump at the Olympics by determination after his lower body went unable, then only his subconscious mind is the reason behind it. Kumarpal Desai, who wrote the book '*Apangna Ojas*' ('Brilliance of the Handicapped'), is my ideal writer because he has worked to illuminate the power of such damaged people, to ignite the subconscious minds of millions of people, to light the lamp of *Sankalpa Shakti* (the power of volition). In my view, before any story is ready to be written by a writer, one should think about what the society will get from the event or story they want to write. It

is more important to enrich the book with ideas. I have read many books or articles in my life. But after *Shrimad Bhagwad Gita*, if I want to give a place to any book, I will give it only to Kumarpal Desai's '*Apangna Ojas*'. In the *Gita*, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna to do *Karma* without being distracted even in the opposite situation and to do *Karma*. Kumarpal Desai has made a great effort to highlight the same gesture that many disabled people have shown after losing their limbs to continue doing *Karma* with strong morale. I salute him hundreds of times....



(10) Examination of the *Guru*

**The Guru and Govind both are before me,
To whom should I salute first?
It's your blessings, O Guru!
You have shown me the Govind!**

It is believed in Hinduism that a person must appoint a traditional *Guru* in his life. The person who has not set a traditional *dixa guru* in his life is called *Nugra* - the person who have not *Guru*. Therefore every Hindu family is always in search of the *Guru*. That kind of *Gurus* in general, with religious rituals put air of his mouth into the ears of his pupil. I also had been encountered with such *Guru* in 1973/74 in *Guru Fixation* ritual on occasion of my elder brother's marriage. That *Guru* was from Hoidad village of Ghgha taluka. We were four brothers-sisters and that *Guru* called us in a room. He had closed the room and started the rituals. He sat a simple lamp. Already I had lost my vision on those days but I remember that I could see the light of that lamp. He murmured some chanting but I could understand nothing. After that he told us to take volition. He spoke: "We swear on the name of God that never we will speak lie, will not snatch wealth of others, never we will steal anything and never we would do anything that might impute our parents."

The *Guru* was speaking loudly the sentences and both my brothers and sister were following his words. The *Guru* was emphasizing on his word 'not'. The ending words in his sentences were the core of his narration. Instead of speaking clear, he swallowed some words. I alone was speaking every word loudly. During the ritual they were not speaking *Guru's* word 'not' or 'never'. I thought, why they do not pronounce

the negative words spoken by the *Guru*?

But when I grew up, many years after I understood that the words like 'no', 'not' or 'never' in the sentences become bondage for lifetime because this volition is an oath. This is why people prefer to swallow such words. I believe that our ministers in parliaments too do like that. And this is why we are affected by corruption after years of freedom. We could not develop our country because of the vice of scrimshanking.

I want to show some specific things about the *Guru* who had done the ritual of blowing our ears. They have practised various experiments that spread blind faith among the people. They have impressed people by producing red turmeric or lump sugar in the palm or by eating pieces of glass. I never believed such things. Sometimes I met *Guru* and asked him to produce red turmeric but he never had done so. Always he had done so in public.

But after a long time I could understand the mystery of this miracle. He kept the red turmeric between spaces of the fingers before his public show. He produced red turmeric by pressure to fingers. The *Guru* who has to do such *drama* for his existence, his pupils becomes more powerful in making such *drama*. Such mentality in people of our country creates corruption, disloyalty and lack of devotion in our leaders.

Mahatma Gandhi, our father of nation, was a great advocate of truth. In his life never he took support of untruth. When he was a student in a school he wrote false spelling of a word during an inspection. His teacher touched him with point of his boot and gave a sign that he can reform his spelling by seeing in the notebook of student beside him. But Gandhiji had ignored the hints given by his teacher. Today,

Gandhiji is known as a big person in every corner of the world. But nobody knows who the student was beside him. Mahatma Gandhi became a great person on account of his truth, honesty and adherence. The so called wind of knowledge blown in our ears by *Guru* is not actually useful in becoming great. Actually anyone who taught us anything is our *Guru*. In my point of view, it is not necessary that a *Guru* must be a master or a scholar person. We can set anyone on the throne of *Guru* only if one has useful knowledge for us. We should believe them as our *Guru* and we must use his knowledge in removing the darkness of our ignorance. I am obliged by all my teacher who had educated me. Here, I would like to note some lessons those I had learned from my *Gurus* in the form of teachers.

It was my school teacher Devyaniben Pandit from whom I have gotten the opportunity to understand Gujarati language in depth. Those were the days when I was a student of Vishuddhanand Highschool. During my primary education I never could understand that where goes the zeros in the sum of dividing. But I could understand that from my Vishuddhanand Highschool teacher Haribhai Bhungaliya. I always tried to find it out in teller frame through my hand that where goes the zero against zero in the sum of dividing. To save myself from the illusion of zero, I always preferred to count the sum in my mind. It was possible to get rid of Maths in Std. 10 for blind people but on account of my teacher Haribhai Bhungaliya, I had been passed the board exam with good marks. And even I had been successful in getting gold medal in Ahmedabad Andhjan Mandal.

Once I went to Ahmedabad for my admission in Std. 10 in Andhjan Mandal. I entered in principal office and sat on

a chair. And principal Jasubhai Kavi exclaimed with anger: 'Did I permit you to sit?' I could understand all. I apologized. Jasubhai said: 'How would you study in the school while you haven't a little discipline?' It was a big lesson for me. It developed a sense of discipline in me. Even today I remember every word of the sentence of my Sir Jasubhai Kavi.

More such incident happened during my administration of Bhavnagar Andh Udyog Shala. The students of the school were on strike. The blind students had started their strike to resolve some problems. They were determined against school administration. The students had an outside backup. After the memorandum given by the students, a police officer named Mr.Chavda came to me for the solution of the problem. A meeting was arranged with the trustees of the school. The student problems were common and smaller but had discussed on those in details and depth. Police Officer Mr.Chavda said -'Why the students have to do so big fight for such smaller problems?' And I said-'There is outside back up.'

Then Mr.Chavda said- 'The outside people can instigate students to fight against you. They can lead them according to their plan. But why cannot you persuade the students who live with you for twenty four hours?' The words touched my heart. I decided to do maximum for the development of the students. It was my volition to win the hearts of the students for lifetime. I never have seen back from that day and even today I do my best for the blind students. I salute with my heart to both the *Gurus* - the traditional *Guru* and the *Guru* of formal education.



(11) Talent Developed by the Changes

The world is variable. A hydrous place becomes a ground and the ground becomes an aquarium within a second. This is the rule of the world. Established in suburb of Bhavnagar city, Andh Udyog Shala made self dependent to blind people by training of small home industries. In the beginning period, organization's work was limited for training of massage, bidi work and sewing work. But after independence of the nation, the trust was registered under Bombay Public Charity Act and Social Welfare Department of State took responsibility of education of handicapped children. Bhavnagar's blind people got benefit of it. The trust was registered under F-24. It started primary education for blind people. In general the presence of student was 25 to 30. Then Bhavnagar Mahila Mandal ran the classes for blind sisters. Later in 1963, the classes had been merged with Krishnakumarsinhji Andh Udyog Shala and girls and boys started studying in the same class. Then in the classes Braille, music and work of massage was in priority. In 1977, when I was admitted in the school, my number was 33. In the same year more three or four students were admitted in the school. The number of students reached unto 37 anyhow. Moreover, seven or eight girls were studying there in the school.

One day early in the morning rang the bell to wake up the students. The wake up bell rang everyday 6 O'clock in the morning. Immediately after getting up every student stood up in the line and sung the song of Narsinh Mehta: '*Jaag ne Jaadvaa, Krishna Govaliya; Tuj Vina Dhenuma kon jaashe ?*' (Wake up, Jaadvaa, O Krishna, the cow boy... Who will go

with the herd into the forest to feed the cows ?) The students sang the song hurriedly. Students pronounced the words of the song like string pulling competitors pulled the string in haste. This traditional morning song was called the Morning Prayer. One day in the morning I heard the wake up bell and reached in the lobby for this Morning Prayer. Perhaps I was half in sleep. The song was being sung. Before I complete two or three lines of the prayer, I lost my consciousness and fell down. The students got the subject to laugh at me. But the incident was the point to ponder for me.

I thought: The Morning Prayer should be done this way? The students should go for prayer before washing face and mouth? Is it a school where we have to go for prayer like a dog? But it was impossible for me to change the prayer system in that time.

After three years I had been elected as the General Secretary of the students. Once as the GS I called a meeting of the students and said -'From tomorrow the wake up bell will be rung at 6 am and then after an hour at 7 am the prayer bell will be rung. Then everybody will come in the prayer hall and we will sing the prayer in a rhythm with music instruments.' Every student accepted my decision. For some days some students were irregular. To avoid this irregularity I prepared a muster roll. I myself started to note the presence of every student in this muster.

A similar kind of matter was regarding kitchen menu too. *Bajrarotla*, vegetable and curry was the menu of Tuesday and Thursday. I could not understand that should I call it *rotla* or a lump. Students remained hungry for these two days. I protested against the system and found a good success. There started *bhakhri* of wheat and *bajra floor*.

There started *farsan* on one Saturday in a month. Subsequently the students could eat with satisfaction.

Then the festival of Navratri arrived. Then according to tradition, students spread a carpet and set a readymade *Garbo* on a table and in the night time sang *garba songs* with harmonium and *tabla*. That was our simple *Navratri celebration*. But I thought that the *Navratri celebration* must be better than that. I revealed my idea in the meeting of Navratri Committee of Students. Everybody was agree with me but there was a question: From where to bring money?

For the fund collection, students made a committee. Chandu Vaghasiya, Jitu Chauhan, Ashwin Maganiya also were with me in the committee. We started our work very next day. We have been divided into two groups. Chandu Vaghasiya became the captain of the first team and Ashwin Maganiya was appointed as his assistant. Fund collection in Nirmalnagar area was fixed for him. And the leadership of the another team was on my head. My assistant was Jitu Chauhan. Sardarnagar and Ghogha Road were our areas.

For whole day, we wandered for the fund and in the end we could collect just rupees two hundred and eighty five. Another team in Nirmalnagar also tried sincerely but they could get only five rupees at the end of the day. And they had to pay five rupees to come back to school. Therefore that team could contribute nothing for *Navratri celebration*. Again there was a student meeting at the night. All the students have a question: *Navratri* is coming after two days. How shall we bring *garbi* if we couldn't get fund enough. They thought to call off the celebration. But I assured them: 'Friends, trust upon me... We will bring *garbi* on fifth night of Navratri. I will collect the fund anyhow.'

In fund collection we had a big problem that we couldn't give receipt to the donor since school management didn't give us the permission to use the donation book. School management had no interest in *garbi*. Next day in Sanghediya Bazar, we reached to a potter who produced *garbi*. We ordered him for a *garbi* according to our desire. In the cost of Rs.1500 he was ready to produce a *garbi* before fifth night. He said that we would have to deposit Rs.1000 untill tomorrow morning and then he would start the work of making *garbi*. My tension grew high. I borrowed one thousand rupees from somebody and provided him immediately anyhow.

From anyone we requested for the fund, we told them that the inauguration would be done by his hands. But everybody preferred to give us amount like Rs.50 and denied to remain present in the inception of our *Navratri celebration*. We met to Mahendra Shah - the owner of Patriot Type Class at Diwanpara Road in the city. I told him about our *garbi arrangement* in details. Without any more discussion, he put Rs.1100 into my hand and said - 'Congratulations for your big work in this young age. I would not come in the inauguration but definitely I will visit your school one day. And in the inauguration, instead of me, my friend Tapubhai Patel will come there.'

'Tapubhai Patel?', I said- 'He is my father!'

He was surprised with a pleasure in his voice, he said- 'You can tell me anytime if you need more money for this celebration.' That was my first work of getting donation in my life. I am always ready for change in my life. Our school is being developed on account of that. Its credit goes to the cooperation of our staff.

In this book, again and again I have said that education is not monopoly of class room. The education that we get from the school is not the real education. I have gotten a sublime opportunity to get such education. Many of my friends and family members have supported fully in my adventurous works. For such support and cooperation, I never can forget my sister's son Ashwin. He always successfully did all hard works I handed over to him. He had an impressive, unique personality. Many times I kept him with me when I went to see someone. Always he stayed with me fearlessly even though there were tough conditions like big crowd, uneasy ways or sensational atmosphere. He made all my works easy. He had a good knowledge of computer. During my activity of strike and protest against system, he had done all my works very fast. Even he provided our information and reports to media timely so that they can publish news easily. During our Gandhinagar rally he sat in our Bhavnagar office and collected all details and provided to newspapers and TV channels. But when there was handicap people's strike against Government, he left my company forever on account of severe heart attack on 17th August, 2011. I will miss him until the last breath of my life.

After the departure of Ashwin, my wife Nila and my daughter Nishtha had started to cooperate in all my works and activities. After the departure of Ashwin, my missionary activities remained stranger because of moral support of my wife and daughter. We had done picketing against Chief Minister Narendra Modi on 3rd September 2011. On 14th September we had done *Ramdhun programme* at Takhteshwar Temple in Bhavnagar. The strikers picketed in

Amreli on 17th September 2011. We had arranged Handicapped Parliament at Ghogha Gate on 19th September and raised our voice against Government. On 30th September we had arranged a big 'lustration' programme at Siddhi Vinayak Temple, Kaliyabid area of Bhavnagar and prayed Lord Ganesha to provide Government an understanding. We had sacrificed more than 5000 *ladoos* into the altar and prayed that our fasting strike in Ahmedabad between 2nd and 6th October must be successful and all problems of handicap people must be solved.

In Ahmedabad Town Hall, we had started our fasting strike on 2nd October - the day of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. A large number of political leaders, students, workers, organisation managers and journalists gathered there. Political dignities like Shaktisinh Gohil, Narhari Amin, Gordhan Zadafiya, Manish Doshi, Ashok Panjabi and many more visited the camp. We have been permitted for our fasting strike after many visits of many Government offices including Police Commissioner Office. At police commissioner office we had to wander one chamber to another chamber. The meeting with the Police Commissioner could be possible after we expressed our voice in a high tone.

We had completed our five days' fast anyhow. When our strikers lost their health, the news reached to Chief Minister Office and then police officers came to us and dramatically they acted like they were worried about our health. But entire media of Gujarat was in our favour and they made our work easier. The handicaps of whole Gujarat joined with us because of media reports. We stayed and slept on footpath for twenty four hours. Then our trust about

protection was only on media. We had a great trust that on account of media, nobody could misuse the power. Meanwhile we got a great support of our senior student Muktaben Dagali. She cared us in all aspects. Even she took the responsibility of our snacks and lunch. There were hundreds of handicaps in this strike there but sister enthusiastically took care of all. She also observed fast but she didn't tell us. When we broke our fast, she provided us various kinds of delicious food. She served us the food in a vast presence of famous dignitaries and saints.

Not only the newspapers and TV channels of Ahmedabad but entire media of Gujarat had published the news of our strike. This fight was for the equal rights of handicaps. It was our mission to awaken the government and the society. A tremendous response was expected obviously. There was a great impact on the Government.

On 29th November, 2011, state government's spokes person and Finance Minister Saurabh Patel sent me a letter through Bhavnagar District Collector Zalavadiya in that he invited to Secretariat for the discussion of the issue.

I reached timely there in Secretariat. First there was my meeting with the officers and commissioner of Social Welfare Department. Handicap people related 18 problems were discussed there. The president of meeting, the commissioner assured that the Government will solve all the problems by taking appropriate actions. He instructed some officers for immediate actions. After that meeting, Saurabhbhai Patel called me for more discussion. Apart from the previously discussed points, I revealed one more problem that some high school teachers were not paid their salary regularly. After my acute presentation of the problem,

in my presence he instructed some officers to take appropriate and immediate action. Our meeting remained perhaps for five hours. Then I left Gandhinagar for my way to Bhavnagar.

After that on 3rd December then Chief Minister Narendra Modi was going to sit for his one day fast of *Sadbhavna* in Bhavnagar. And against that I also declared my fast at Alfred school ground for the justice of handicap people. I declare to sit on fast there with 10000 handicaps. To provide the information of this programme, I had called a press conference at 4:00 p.m. on 30th September, 2011. Meanwhile the journalists knew that our association didn't get the police permission for our programme of fast. One journalist asked: 'Why the Akhil Gujarat Jagrut Sangh didn't get police permission for the fast?' And I said-'Minister Saurabh Patel has instructed Bhavnagar police that they must not give us the permission.'

Then the journalist asked- 'Then what your association will do if police would not give you permission on account of Saurabh Patel's instruction?'

And I replied-'Nobody's father is owner of Gujarat. We have started our movement for the good of handicaps. Our fast programme is the part of our mission. It will be continue.... And we will show the Government that what the real *Sadbhavna* is.' Then the press conference was over. But immediately after ten minutes there was a phone call of the Minister whom I mentioned in my interview. He said to me: 'Are you abusing the Government?'

'No', I said, 'Not at all... Just I have mentioned the person who wants to run his dictatorship on the name of the Government. If he has any written document in that he can

The king called his minister and instructed him to bring some gold coins (guinea). The minister brought the gold coins. The King gave him gold coins by two hands. Everyone was taken aback. Gift, instead of punishment!

In democracy, every man in power must remember this example. I humbly admit that I am a beggar on behalf of the handicapped people. I pelted a stone on Government in form of my strike. But it was for education, training and employment of handicaps. When I threw the stone, police came to detain me but I couldn't find the King who can solve the problem. To ask for another people is a begging but in a real sense, what I believe, it was my best prayer. Nation's rationalist citizens must do such prayer always. I always salute to Mahatma Gandhi who always prayed for the good of people and he opened the eyes of The British. In my eyes, Mahatma Gandhi's prayer is most important. He started movement for the rights of the other people. I believe that it was a great devotion of God. It is better to live for others than to live for ourselves. That is the real devotion of life. This is why I have prayed Government for the welfare of the handicaps. With my strike, I have tried to set a flame of new era. I hope that the flame will spread the light in life of every handicap and their lives would become sanguine.



(12) Marginalising of Law

The Government had formed Joshi Committee to prove that blind teachers are the setback in education. Apart from the three government representatives, as the non-government representatives Mr. Bhushan Punani - National Blind Association and I were appointed as the committee members. To examine the class work of blind music teachers and subject teachers across the state, the following points were given to the committee. We were going to prepare a report under the supremacy of our chief Mr. T. S. Joshi. Our committee visited various schools across the state. Non-government member Bhushan Punani and I were not agreed with the format that was prepared for report. The questions in that format were as follows:

- (1) Can the blind teacher point out various subjects on black board to educate the children?
- (2) Can they check the lesson and experiment book? Can they check the writing on slate written by students of standard 1 and 2? Can they reform their mistakes?
- (3) Can they do the activities with children according to rule of free and compulsory education?

The committee had a duty to examine all such conditions and submit the report to the Government. It was expected that the report should be prepared according to expectation of the Government. From the beginning I felt that the questions of the format were one sided and it was being prepared to support the Government notification that was against blind teachers. Though we were the members of the committee, our suggestions were not accepted.

prove that he is the owner of Gujarat state, I am ready to apologize for my words.'

After half an hour, I was called at Collector office. I was determined with my principles and I revealed my intention after our fast. Collector told me to change our place of fasting programme. But I said: 'The place and date of our programme are fixed prior to Chief Minister's programme was planned. Therefore you should change the date of Chief Minister's *Sadbhavna fast*.'

The Collector discussed many things with me. He assured me that the Government will solve all the problems of handicaps. But I insisted for written promise. And within 24 hours, the collector gave me a letter in that he promised that all problems of the handicaps will be solved. And within 12 hours the teachers of handicapped children were paid their salary. That was the subject of my pleasure.

The newspapers across the state published the news of our justice fast against *Sadbhavna* fast of Chief Minister. On account of the newspaper reports, more than 10000 handicaps were ready to join our strike. Behind my power of leadership, there was a constant moral support of my family, friend circle and elder persons of handicapped organizations. Despite the fact, I was being forced to call off our strike because there was written assurance of Government to solve the problems of handicaps....

There is a proverb in Gujarati: *The hedge swallows the melon*. But the meaning of this proverb never passed beyond my brain. But I understood the proverb when the Government didn't take any action according to its written promise. A protector became the cannibalistic. There is one more proverb in Gujarati: *just spoke, just forgot*.

Government's promise was in written form but all problems remained as they were before. I believe that the person who is on the peak of power must give promise only if they can fulfil it. If they give just promise for promise, they humiliate their own power, post and prestige. In the old times, the kings always fulfilled their promises. After my study of kings and monarchs, definitely I would like to say that the leaders in democracy must study the biographies of kings and monarchs.

I would like to tell here an exemplary anecdote of the King of Bhavnagar. Once, a beggar was passing by Nilambaugh Palace, the resident of the King. He was very hungry and he saw a berry tree of King's palace. He felt joy by seeing the looming berry fruits on branches of the tree. He grabbed a stone and threw on the tree. Fell the berry fruits on earth. He collected all berry fruits very fast. Immediately he started eating and finished all quickly. But still the hunger was jumping up and down in his stomach. He took one more stone in his hand and threw on the berry tree. But this time, by touching a little branch of the berry, the stone went ahead and inside the Nilambaugh it fell on forehead of the King who was seated in the garden.

The guards rushed to the King. They saw blood-stained forehead of the King. There was a big clamour. The beggar was afraid. But before he ran away the guards caught him quickly. He was presented before the King.

'Why did you throw the stone?' asked the King.

The beggar told his elaborated story of hunger.

The King said - 'If the tree is giving you fruits after throwing the stone, I must give you something to quench your hunger.'

Moreover, in the format of questions, there were only 'yes' or 'no' options and that was filled anyhow on the name of some teachers and principals. Our opinion was not accepted that a blind teacher can use accessory other than black board. A blind teacher effectively used his laptop for his teaching and school but he was not going to be mentioned in our report. Finally the 2 against 3 reports were submitted just after the short period of 8 days.

There was a protest against the report across the state. The committee had made a record of submitting report in shortest period in the history. There was no place for inner or outer talent of blind people in the report. Moreover, the provision of reservation for blind person in section 32 of Handicapped Act 1995 was ignored in the report. The notification written by one person was given importance more than the provision of law. Therefore it was necessary to take decision in favour of the future of blind people.

Therefore we submitted a detailed report in Gujarat High Court and started our fight against Gujarat Government. All representatives of Akhil Gujarat Netraheen Jagrut Sangh had decided to continue the fight by the way showed by Mahatma Gandhi. We decided to arrange a major meeting and rally in Gandhinagar. We had a plan to present a memorandum to the President of Assembly. We had done process for police permission but still they didn't permit us. But according to our decision, we had done our meeting near Gandhinagar Pathikashram ground on 15th March, 2012. There gathered more than 3500 handicapped brothers and sisters at 10 O'clock in the morning. Our open meeting was surrounded by police troupes. All handicapped brothers and

sisters and other citizens were welcomed by our Secretary Deepak Dabhi. A day before this meeting, there was a rumour that Akhil Gujarat Netraheen Jagrut Sangh president Labhubhai Sonani has been taken under detention. Many handicapped brothers and sisters didn't come to Gandhinagar on account of that rumour. Many other rumours too were spread there to spoil our movement. Police has chased me to detain me but they couldn't get success. In our meeting, the leaders one by one raised their voice for the rights of handicapped people. They criticised the report of Joshi committee. We were praying the Government to take back the report.

15th March is my birthday. On that day, I have presented a song praying Mahatma Gandhi on that day:

**Handicapped children are calling you, O Bapu !
Handicapped children are calling you**

**To inform matter of Gujarat Government,
They dial the phone of Heaven...**

Everybody liked the song. Some policemen also became emotional after hearing the song. They put their sticks and rifles down. Now they were peacefully enjoying with us. Then there only the dress code was the difference between police and public. According to our plan, we were going towards Assembly Hall in the form of rally. The police detained us and brought to police station. Many persons didn't know that they had been detained by police. Some of them were talking each other: 'I don't feel good here. Let's go where we were before. There was good feeling. And here there is no mike. People are not coming here. Let's go there back...'

Some of them were saying: 'We should go from here. When shall we go now?'

Even today I am feeling sad that such very innocent blind people had to become the victim of detention for the justice.

I tried to reveal them: 'We didn't come here. We have been brought here. We are going to give a memorandum for our demand of justice. But police believe that our action is a crime. And this is why they have detained us. For our independence, Mahatma Gandhi have gone into the jail every now and then. This way, police have detained us because we are fighting for the rights of blind people. We are doing this fight so that our blind brothers and sisters can get job. Therefore it is our moral duty to support this movement and raise the voice for justice.

The newspapers across Gujarat had published the news of our movement and arrestment. English newspapers too have published the news with broad details. But we couldn't print the news on the heart of the person where we needed to print it in fact. That kind of fight we had given in Rajkot city too.

Then the 1st May, *Gujarat Gaurav Divas*, was the day of our main fight. We were going to arrange big meeting of the handicaps at the Railway Ground in Dahod City where on that day the Government was going to celebrate the Gujarat Gaurav Divas. The handicaps across the state were eager to appear in this programme. Dahod police was on a high alert.

To spoil our movement, the Home Ministry had

instructed all District Superintendents of Police. They had done a special arrangement in every district so that any handicap may not go to Dahod. Then Bhavnagar Police Superintendent called me again and again. He invited me to discuss the issue. Many dignitaries persuaded me to stop the movement. There were police vehicles near around our organization's office, and they had plan to arrest me very after press conference, but I reached Dahod very safe anyhow. But there at our meeting place in Dahod, police started detaining the people.

There in the past in Gandhinagar when police detained more than 1000 handicaps, there was big outcry. The detained people shouted with slogans. But I felt police had learned from the past and this time they had plan to take handicaps at different locations. Before the mid-day they have arrested more than 500 handicaps. According to their well plan they have arrested me too. They have sent a media representative and secretly the policemen have encircled me. They have arrested me this way and without my assistant they have brought me to some unknown place. 'Where are you bringing me?' - I asked the policemen again and again. But they spoke nothing and the vehicle was going far and far. Our local representative from Dahod, Mr. Mukesh Parmar also was with me. But meanwhile the police had separated him.

Now I was alone. Policemen were asking my mobile phone. But I denied. I told them-'You can give me punishment for that but I will not give you my mobile phone. I won't give you, even if you shoot me. But they spoke nothing. The vehicle was going far and far somewhere.

I was brought to a police station. I was being treated by policemen there in a way like they were trained how to treat me. I asked many policemen that which police station was that. But nobody was ready to speak. Every police just spoke *police station* in their communication. Even by mistake they were not speaking the name of police station. Even when they attended the telephone call, they spoke just *police station*, not the name of police station. Till half past two O'clock in the midnight, intentionally they didn't speak the name of police station. So I couldn't know where I was.

The meeting of *Gujarat Gaurav Din* was finished. Chief Minister went from Dahod to Gandhinagar. Then they released me at 2:30 AM on 2nd May. After my arrestment, my handicap friends did a big bustle in police station. They had raised a question that where I was. But police had not given answer. Police always do what it wants to do.

When I was taken in police van, I refused to give my mobile phone. When I was in police station, continuously I was talking with my friends and family. So my phone battery was down. A policeman asked my mobile phone. He told me that he is going to recharge my phone. I was trapped in that guile. I do not remember that policeman's name today. He was very smart. When he urged me for my phone to recharge it, he told me that we were brothers since we were coming from Saurashtra. In critical time they snatched my phone smartly this way and put it in office. It was midnight. My friends who were released were calling me. My family members also were calling me. But they had locked my phone where it was in charging. They kept my mobile phone for three and half hours.

I had done much ado for my mobile phone. They gave me my phone late night. I checked missed calls. I did talk with my family. My daughter Nishtha was very happy when she heard my voice.

I had urged for my mobile phone again and again but they didn't give me my mobile phone. They never think of pain and worries of other person. I can understand when police become cruel towards criminals. But in the democracy, why such cruelty towards a person who is an advocate of democracy?

By the way, I admit that the police took good care of me. What is the sensuousness? To understand the sensuousness, one has to go unto the heart of a thief or a robber. Once there in Madhya Pradesh, some robbers in a train brought food for a blind person. And in one more incident, a bandit helped a blind person in passing the way and asked, 'Where do you want to go' I want to go to railway station but I will have to go back to home because I have forgotten my wallet at my home', he said. And the bandit put a note of five hundred rupees into the hands of the blind person and left him at the railway station. When the persons in power cannot understand the sensuousness of the blind people, we will have to understand the sensuousness of the bandit.

A blind woman too was insulted by the police in Dahod. She had to stay in Dahod for a night to take her mobile phone from police. Regarding this issue, we had registered a complaint but no actions were taken.

Against our arrestment by police, we have done a picketing programme in Baroda. A huge number of blind and

handicap people remained present in this programme. In that picketing, we have exposed our protest against illegal arrestment of blind and handicap people by police. After a tremendous pressure police took our problems in hands. Instead of Rs. 600 the Government approved Rs. 1000 to pay for food grant for the students studying in the organisation. The amount of scholarship and other aids were increased. The vacancies were approved to be fulfilled. According to the order of Gujarat High Court, the Government appointed 34 persons as the teachers in primary schools. That was the result of our movement.

It is not fare to do injustice to any person. But also it is not fare to endure any injustice done by person or the system. To take anything without right is a crime but also it is a crime to give up the thing that is yours, I believe.

Gandhiji had started his movement to remove Britishers from India. It was for the good of nation. This is why it is the duty of every educated citizen to fight against injustice for any citizen. My movement was for the blind teachers whose names were in merit list. I believed the teachers must get job in upper primary schools according to their qualification. I believe, it was my humble effort to contribute something in progress of blind people.

In concern of the movement, my friend Bhaskar Bhavsar says about me....



The Solo Champion

**You're the solo champion compeer to thousand heroes
You're the solo champion compeer to thousand heroes**

**Unhealthy in childhood but defeated to the God of
Death**

You are the solo champion...

Your name is Labhubhai Sonani

You are the solo champion...

You are the angel of blind people...

You are the solo champion...

With blind children, you sit for prayer

From the God you ask -

**My blind children may get extraordinary
accomplishments...**

Nothing for self, everything for blind people

You're the solo champion compeer to thousand heroes

For my blind people, O God !

Provide hostel to stay

Provide food to survive

Stay with the blind people constant...

You are the solo champion...

(13) The Wood-land of Remembrance

When we hear the word wood-land, we sink into the thoughts of its beauty and its usefulness. Today, day by day, we are devastating the wood-lands. Consequently we are facing its bad results. Very same way, we are forgetting the wood-land of remembrance today. Consequently our life became full of struggle, painfulness and irksomeness. Many times I catch up the opportunity of walking into the backwoods of recollections of my childhood in that I had procured love of family and friends. I always like to swallow the old memories with my comrades. And that is why I would like to share some of my old memories in this book.

In my school days, almost every time in winter or summer vacation when I went to my home, my father's youngest brother Veeraji Uncle sent his son to my home to invite me to come to his home. In our family only my uncle had a big bungalow. There were different rooms and different facilities in that bungalow. Uncle had allotted a special room for our reading and writing. There in that room for whole vacation period, my uncle's son Sanat and I read newspapers, magazines and good books. We played many games there. My uncle's daughter served us various kinds of food items every day. Sometimes my brother Sanat forgot to come to my home to bring me to his home. But at that time sister Bhavuben remembered and sent him to my home. For my good education and decency, all credit goes to Veeraji Uncle and his family. For my little or bigger need, he gave me money too. Not only uncle, aunty also took care for me. In my development after departure of my mother, there is great contribution of my uncle's family.

In the period of my college education, I had no guts enough when responsibilities of Andh Abhyuday Mandal activities were given to me. Since 1981, I had started attending general meetings of Andhjan Kalyan Mandal. Therefore I had a little knowledge about such activities. But it is not easy to grab whole knowledge of organization management by attending just one general meeting in a year. Therefore constantly I was in a state of thinking when the responsibility was handed over to me. I had worked with Mr. Shantilal Rugnath Oza, the founder of Andh Abhyuday Mandal. In the sphere of administration, I believe that he is my *Guru*. He was blind and not so educated. He spoke country language but his guts was extraordinary. He was master in appealing the government, replying the notice etc. He always preferred to visit government offices personally. He always inspired me. He always encouraged me to act. Although he was an elder to me and all of us, he always spoke to all of us in a polite and disciplined manner.

One day I was getting ready to go to the office, meanwhile someone suddenly took a 100 ₹ note. I had put in my shirt pocket. The only thing I had was that hundred rupee note. I got worried. It was necessary to catch the municipal bus as it was time to go to the office. I decided to leave home without money. At that time, a visually impaired person was allowed to travel free of charge in the municipality bus. I travelled from Tarasamiya to City Lake and from City Lake to Bhangali Gate by bus! Arriving at the office, I spoke to Shantidada about all the things. He gave me a 100 ₹ note and told me that this will happen many times in life. Forget what goes on and learn to use what is in front of you. Grandpa said

nothing about when and how to return the hundred rupees note. At that time a hundred rupees was a very big thing. For me, the occasion was a lifelong inspiration.

The word sympathy was heard and read many times during my school days, but this was the first day of my life when I got a true understanding of sympathy towards the person with whom I had no blood relationship. I would have a lot of trouble without money, how can I travel without money! I realized that he had experienced many troubles but he gave me a hundred rupees even though he had only two and a half hundred rupees. This phenomenon is not normal in my view. Shantidada was earning only seven hundred and fifty rupees a month. He also had no capital. Housing board instalments were also he had to pay. Light bills, house tax and everything to eat and drink had to be done from this amount!

Today, those who have billions of rupees, those who have earned money any how are running after the rupee like dogs. Will any such suffering ever touch them? To understand suffering, one has to experience the suffering of others.

Today we have not just destroyed forests; we have uprooted the forests of memories of many favours bestowed upon us. We have completely forgotten the help given in the past by our parents, siblings or other family members. Not only that, we do not hesitate to reciprocate the favour by disservice. For land and other properties, today brother or sister make us feel like enemy. The reason is the destruction of the forest of memories.

When disaster strikes, suddenly we start remembering

relatives, friends or well-wishers. When our car is in motion, when the peaks of achievement are one by one, we never remember all these people. On the contrary, we see the faults of these people everywhere. As a result we are constantly running away from them. The advent of calamity is sometimes good for us to unite us all. My 100 ₹ note was suddenly stolen by someone which caused me to reach the ocean of sympathy of Shantidada's heart. I also got nectar from the churning of the sea.

A similar incident took place in Bhavnagar many years ago. This was an event never seen before in almost all years of my life. The epicentre of the earthquake at that time was in Tarsamiya village near Bhavnagar. At 6:25 am on September 12, 1999, a powerful earthquake shook the region. The epicentre was very close to our house. There was a big crack in our building. We lived in that house. All the people turned around and sat down. Large crowds flocked to the city to discuss the quake.

What should organizations and businessmen do if a catastrophic earthquake strikes? They started holding meetings and formulating action plans about it. Trustees, employees and family members of all our affiliated organizations slept on the grounds of the blind school all living together. Frightened people slept in the field like this for many days. Even people who don't know one another behaved with great emotion. The quake affected Bhavnagar for about two and a half years. Periodic shocks trembled the region. Newspaper articles about earthquakes kept appearing. Then Chief Minister Shri Keshubhai Patel announced the setting up of an observatory for earthquake

research in Bhavnagar.

Thus, earthquakes were everywhere. People came closer to one another. At about 9 o'clock in the morning on January 26, 2001, another huge earthquake shook the region. The quake lasted for two and a half minutes. Everyone thought that the centre would be Bhavnagar, but when the news broadcasted on the radio and TV in the afternoon, everyone knew that the epicentre of the earthquake was indeed in Kutch! There was a tremendous destruction in Kutch. The earthquake which started in Bhavnagar did not cause any harm to the people of Bhavnagar. It was a grace of God. It was also God's grace that most of the disasters have not affected Bhavnagar.

There are no big industries here in Bhavnagar but there are socially valuable institutions that can establish a sense that man can connect with man. Our organization PNR and many other institutes started services for the treatment of people who lost limbs in the Kutch earthquake. The Society and many other organizations worked with true empathy. On January 28, 2001, our team visited Kutch to get quality information about the situation of the blind. After getting the information of about fifteen blind persons, we gave them food kits and five thousand rupees to each family and tried best to remove the calamity that devastated them. Then there was Mr. Shashibhai Vadhar, a well-known businessman from Bhavnagar who was also the President of our organization. By his help, a kitchen and medical camp were started for the victims. Treated millions of people and Bhavnagar showed true empathy. It was a significant contribution for the solution of many people's problems.

Shantidada's sympathy gave a unique boat to lake of

my heart. To reach the opposite shore, one needs to get a boat. When I was elected as the Secretary of the Rastriya Andhajan Mandal, Bhavnagar District Branch, in 1995, the organization was going through a huge financial crisis. Many of my friends left the Andh Abhyuday Mandal and advised me that I should be far from joining such responsibilities in the blind school! Shri Bababhai alias Anantbhai was handling these institutions. He was a talented person with a heavy diplomatic personality. My friends told me I couldn't work with him. Some people were even advising me that they will throw me after my use for organization. So I should not join the congregation. All the similar things they were telling me. I should proudly say, I have never had such an experience that these people were advising me.

I believe in Bababhai, the great *Guru* for my invaluable knowledge of the administrative field. He had a vision of every field. He was a scholar in the field of construction who can guide even a good architect. He also had a deep knowledge of literature. The most important thing is his eyesight that can find out good and bad quality of place wherever they go. In each case, he scrutinized everything. Like Gandhiji, he was a big insistent of cleanliness. He had a unique and his own style of working with everyone. That is why he has won the hearts of everyone in the field of management for decades. He looked at things very carefully. Everyone should always take note of the good qualities of the other person in this way.

I remember an occasion of Mahatma Gandhi. Babu was seated on a table and was studying the letters he had received. A letter came in Babu's hand. As soon as he opened

it, he found the text very abusive. The writer used pornographic words for Gandhi Bapu in the letter.

Bapu quietly read the letter and took the envelope and put it in the envelope box. Without hesitation, he reached out to pick up another letter. Mahadevbhai, a follower of Bapu, said: 'Bapu, what was in the letter?' Bapu said: 'I took what was good.' Mahadevbhai's curiosity increased. He picked up the letter from the trash and read it. He said, 'Bapu, what is good in this letter? Bapu said: "The letter had a workable pin, which I put in the pin box. The one who wrote the letter to us has benefited us by giving a pin!" Bapu's attitude towards the person who wrote bad terms was not corrosive and that is probably why he is great. And that is why we call him Mahatma.



(14) Delicious Dream

Usually everyone dreams in a deep sleep at night. This dream might be happy, blissful or even ugly at the time. The dreams seen in deep sleep are not largely according to one's choice. Sometimes a dream seen in sleep is a daydream forever, but a person who moves forward with determination and strong morale has a beautiful dream even in the waking state.

People with disabilities have been struggling for the lifetime. The information we get about people with disabilities throughout history, such damaged people are considered cursed or sinful by the society. Some people believe that there are people who repay the deeds of the previous birth. To whom such children are born also blames fate, becomes miserable. But whenever I ask my subconscious mind, the only answer I get from it is, "Disabled people are not cursed, but they are valuable human beings who owe a debt of gratitude to the universe." Got a definite conclusion after my inner trip, which will be interesting for all of you to know.

At the time of creation, God sent living beings to Earth in different states, in different forms, with a definite message. The last turn was of the human. Humans had to be given something more than other creatures in return. In exchange for the God-given creation for the well-being of all the organs that human beings have received, some human beings have been gifted with the senses, organs or appendages that they have acquired, in the form of which God Himself will take the form of intellect and incarnate in

every human being.

From the above dialogue made by God, human beings were in great distress while preparing to come to the world of death. Some agreed to accept the challenge for the noble cause of welfare, some agreed to donate eyes, some ears or other senses for the creation of the universe. Every disabled person born as a consenting human being, whom we call a handicapped person, is the only valuable human being who owes a debt to the universe! How can such people be called cursed? When we take a loan from a bank, we accept the terms to pay a little more in return. This extra amount is interest. The extra amount of loan received from the bank of God in the form of human beings is the disability challenge that comes to human beings during or after birth. The challenge that is the interest of the loan received from God is not a curse.

We are repaying the loan with interest when we take duty for our upliftment from any bank. We take care to pay this amount on time so that our branch can be maintained, but we have never been deeply concerned about the people who are constantly trying to live a challenging life by sacrificing their organs for the mankind created by God. Some people have found invaluable thinking in this field, which is probably why our world is going on! Bankruptcy is not over yet. I am optimistic. I have faith. Anyone who reads this chapter of this book will think in this direction and resolve to make any contribution for the welfare of the disabled people.

There are borrowers like Vijay Malya who can uplift the banks, just as there are cruel rulers who can uplift the universe! As long as the dominion of such people is over the world, the handicapped people who have to pay the debt of

God's creation must suffer! Just as the amount paid in interest for a loan taken for luxury happiness cannot be the adornment of a householder. It cannot be placed in the household yet it is taken for the benefit of the householder. Very same way, every disabled person has to pay for the interest of creation!

I am running a mass consciousness movement for the noble cause of giving a bright opportunity to the disabled in every field through the revolution of social ideas. The aim of this movement is to introduce the special powers of the disabled to each and every person of the society. For which it is planned to go among the society through new programs day by day. In other parts of the world, people with disabilities do not get some benefits, facilities or special rules. Comparatively Indian disabled people get very less benefits.

The benefits of the provisions of the country's laws, rules and bylaws are not as great as those seen on paper for the disabled. People with disabilities have to struggle to get the benefit of different schemes. Evidence is often sought from people with disabilities by government offices. No unique criteria are seen to benefit the disability scheme. Different rules and standards apply in the states of the same country! There are also some discrepancies in the interpretation of the provisions of the Disability Act 1995. Rarely the people with disabilities get benefit from information about plans for them from newspapers, TV or radio. I want to start from the bottom to deal with such a heterogeneous situation. Special efforts should be made by the social organizations and the government to make the boys and girls studying in school or college aware of the

problems and strengths of such a special class and to cultivate sensitivity in them.

Any person or organization never could achieve the expected achievement. So we all should become organized and give our noble contribution by joining hands with body-mind-money to accelerate every activity of rehabilitation of the class which is facing physical or mental damage.

People with disabilities also have some special responsibilities as they are the benefactors. There is greater joy in giving than in receiving. When we have sacrificed our limbs or senses in the great work of creation, we should use our maximum power wherever society needs our service, we should remain functional. If this happens, our sacrifice for the creation will be invaluable, which will make even the Most Gracious God happy.

I believe, life is also a dream. Thinkers also call it fleeting. Sorrow or happiness are the guests of a moment. There is never happiness or sorrow for entire life. The fact is that one enjoys every moment of life with joy, always striving for good deeds. Giving someone something to make their life fragrant is great. Someone asked the flower blooming in the garden: 'You give fragrance to the world, what do animals, birds or human beings in the world give you in return?' Then the flower laughed and said: 'Whatever you give in return is called trade! But what you give without any expectation is called true hospitality. I give fragrance to make others happy without expecting any reward. You will see my true joy in my squeaking.' From the example of the flower, we all understand that there is more joy in giving than in receiving.

The beggars on the way are constantly taking. Some

beggars even have large bank balances, yet always look miserable when you see them on the road. He can never enjoy giving. Even a person who earns a little does not fail to make his life happy by giving food to someone from the remaining amount. Happiness and prosperity are not limited to enjoying it, it is just as important to share it. No disaster can stop our happiness. The way a student who fails a board exam is not said to have failed in life. In the same way, even if there is a small or big difficulty in carrying out an assumed task, success can be achieved by overcoming that difficulty through determination. In the same way, even after the limitation of physical or mental damage, the development of the power of the remaining senses or organs can be achieved.

Helen Keller, a blind, deaf-dumb woman from America, is a beacon illuminated for the handicapped by her strong morale. Many such pillars in different parts of the world have shown their unique powers. To whom I pay my respects, John Medcaf, a completely blind man from England, gave the world the noble idea of building the world's first paved road from broken stone, which has led to the construction of millions of kilometers of paved roads in the world today. Although Nicholas Saunderson was a complete blind man, he succeeded Newton, made many scientific discoveries, and his research on the hive succeeded in attracting many scientists. So John Milton who is considered to be the best poet in the world who created an epic called 'The Paradise Lost' after losing his sight. We find many such examples in history. We continue to study history and the present to create an environment in which people with disabilities receive timely service in all areas of

effective education, training and rehabilitation without any discrimination.

When we see a happy or ugly dream in the deep sleep of night, we do not even know that this is a fact or a dream! In the same way, when the time between birth and death passes, we do not even know that what we saw was a dream! That is why some poet has said, "This world is like a dream" and if this world is really like a dream and we have a good dream in our hands then why don't we choose to have a good dream? Today man has run away from man. Joint families are falling apart. There is no peace even in divided families. Violence is everywhere. The only reason for this is the desire to get material wealth anyhow. One keeps collecting it for life. After the collecting, there comes a sudden farewell. He cannot take anything with him. Eventually he leaves the universe by coming sad, frustrated and disappointed. Rather than working for the happiness of others from birth to death, if he goes, he will be able to leave with happiness. But why can't we say goodbye? I am very surprised. Just as a flower gives off fragrance, so does an incense burner end up giving fragrance to others and sacrificing itself to make others fragrant, becoming brighter before it goes out. From the fact that each lamp has more light at the end, we can understand that it illuminates the other, saying goodbye with enthusiasm and happiness. Every creature that comes into the world has to go back, but before it goes - how much does it give? That is the true meaning of burning up of bad psychic imprints.

My journey after my understanding, I have tried to move forward according to my happy dream. It has been my resolve to work for the welfare of others as long as I can. At

the age of seventeen, I was a member of the founding committee of the Bhavnagar District Branch of the National Association of the Blind, established in the 1984. At that time, village-to-village "*Santvani programs*" were conducted, information about various facilities, training and educational programs available to the blind was given during this *Santvani program*. Fund was also collected from the villages. As my father Tapubhai Patel was the Taluka Congress President, he assisted the organization in arranging programs in every village. On account of that I was given a position in the committee of the organization. I collaborated in arranging village-to-village events, meals, bringing and taking artists, etc. My teachers Shri Chunibhai K. Joshi and Ramanikbhai R. Chandarana gave me special inspiration to do this work. He always told me: 'Your father is a great worker. You should help in the work of service for the blind. It is your responsibility to organize village-by-village programs, you will also have to make efforts to get a large number of people to come to the program. Chunibhai and Chandarana Sir used to tell me many such things from time to time. Chunibhai Joshi was running Andh Utkarsh Seva Mandal at that time. He prepared an English short book. It was to be printed in Mumbai Braille Press by NAB. The Blind Service Board did not have the fund to print the book. Joshi Sir assigned me the responsibility of raising fund. At that time it cost about nineteen hundred rupees to prepare such a hundred English short books. I collected that amount with the help of my father. Both the masters were a great blessing for me.

In the same way, I used to hold various competitions

with some of my classmates from time to time to enhance the skills of my classmates. At that time no such competitions were organized by the school board. Collected amount through our friend circle, Braille reading, oratory and music competitions were held. Mr. Vinubhai Shah, the humble volunteer of the organization and our mentor at that time, always came to teach us different activities every Sunday. We got a lot of cooperation from him in such competitions. I also published a regular daily in Braille to keep the students informed of current trends. The newspaper provided information on foreign affairs, city and school matters. A large number of students read this published news regularly. I would write the Braille of late night newspapers in a way that not a single day would fall. For this I would take special help of radio. Visiting officials and students for organization news, I prepared the details. Thus, from my student days, I have been dreaming of doing the right thing for the overall development of the blind and achieving achievements through that work. I am always working to make my dream come true. I would like to pray God make my dream a reality without discrimination and with insight...



(15) The Train Compartment

Everyone who travels in the train of life has their own train compartment. Every human being in the universe travels with a constant speed like the coach series of train connected one another. *The Sansar Express* also runs on three types of roads as per the established train travel structure for our convenience. Everyone becomes a passenger at some point on a train running on a three-lane route. Sometimes on the narrow gauge of his train, sometimes on the meter gauge and sometimes on the broad gauge at some stage of life. We are mostly accompanied by train passengers running in narrow gauge. In real train travel, our station is fixed, but the station or landing time of any passenger of the worldly three-way train is not fixed.

My long journey on the narrow gauge train from the beginning of my life has given me the invaluable opportunity to get acquainted with many fellow travellers. The acquaintance with the passengers in the train car becomes like a family for a while, but when the passenger suddenly leaves the train at his station within minutes of counting we begin to forget it, sometimes the bridge of relationships with such acquaintances is even longer for our business, job or friendship. But such formal relationships prove to be momentary satisfaction. Memories of the distant narrow gauge train of my life is the subject of chewing.

After the death of my mother at a young age, I tried many times to get the affection and feeling that I had lost but I did not get the desired sensation, affection or feeling. Even school education and higher education did not give that

result. Voice of ecstasy was not heard even after many relationships were established. Sitting on the fence in the student stage, I could not get the cuckoo's nest, the wetness, the sweetness. In order to get, what is heard, as the deer runs behind the musk in the direction of the fragrance coming from its navel, but nothing was achieved! Excellent books have also been read and listened to in one sitting but could not touch any sensation that could satisfy my desire. I chose to work day and night in conjunction with activities to get out of all these situations. At Shri Andh Abhyudaya Mandal - Bhavnagar, responsibilities of various activities were on my head. Many victims were seen in the distance. I found out how many people are yearning for the same feeling. The same feeling, affection and hunk as I had been searching for years. The pace of activities increased day by day. Meanwhile I got opportunity to take on new responsibilities. In 1995, when I was handling my responsibilities as the Honorary Secretary of Rashtriya Andhajan Mandal, I had to meet the Director of the NAB Shri Jagdishbhai Patel. His wife was Bhadraben Satya, a totally visual woman

I had an idea after meeting the couple. To what extent is it justifiable for a physically blind manager of a large organization to choose a character for his own convenience instead of relying on a blind woman? I will not do that, I resolved it. In a few days, I, along with my elder brother Vallabhbai and sister Rambhaben, reached Petlad near Anand to see a girl as shown by my friend Chandrakantbhai Joshi. There were long talks. There were some clarifications before the evening. It was decided that the answer of yes-no would be found through our mediator

Joshibhai. Mobile phones did not enter India at that time. STD phone had a new charm. PCO booths were opening.

There was no response for a long time after the talk. I reached Tarsamiya and I did two tasks: wrote some poems and letters to Petlad in Braille two-three-four times. There was no special reply from Petlad. Sometimes I would get a letter from her father in a postcard. He also asks about the health of the family members but does not write a single word about the one who has been waiting. So after reading the letter, I would babble a little and sat down to write a letter again....! A year passed this way.

Our mediator Joshibhai offered to show another bride. Now I was not interested in seeing any girl. I denied him to see another bride. Within a few days, I received a telephone call from Petlad. At that time I took our nephew Ashwin with me as my assistant. My niece Pushpa was also with me. Pushpa handled my writing work. I taught her regularly. When I went to her school and met her teacher to discuss her studies, the teachers said, "This girl is ranked 22 to 25th in the class. If you pay a little attention to her, she will pass the board." I said: "What is the percentage of the first number?"

"No one can break the trio of three girls," he said. You should not live in the number one daydream. ' There was a big challenge in front of me. It was also to solve my perplexing question rather than handing over the responsibility. I put my heart on the board and made Pushpa work hard. Ever since she passed the board exam at Tarsamiya Secondary School, she was more valued by me than her parents, so she was always ready to do whatever task she was given.

According to the message received by the telephone,

we reached Petlad. That evening we all decided to go to Ambaji. Our journey lasted for eight days. This was the biggest trip of my life. I didn't get the answer. I was hoping for after the trip. All fell apart. I didn't hear from the girl or her parents about the marriage. Now, two months have been passed. There had been frequent telephone conversations. The STD bill began to rise month by month, but I did not have the courage to get clear news even after so many telephone calls. Eventually a postcard of his consent was received. They agreed to come forward for the wedding. It was November 19, 1996. Then everything became easier for me. One lakh rupees was to be received in the land business at that time. I thought the money would pay off the wedding, but after the work was done, the money went to our family instead of me. On which my father decided that he would give fifty thousand rupees to my elder brother and fifty thousand rupees for my marriage. I persuaded my mind even then. Mavjibhai, older than me and younger than elder died a few years ago. He did not get a girl for marriage. It was decided to arrange his marriage with a girl from Jalgaon in Maharashtra by giving some money.

We were happy with that arrangement. My father demanded back the remaining fifty thousand rupees from me. I had this money so I had planned to celebrate my wedding with fanfare. Suddenly I had to give money back... I didn't know to whom I should talk. Wedding cards were printed, it was time to give them clothes, jewelry. What should I do in such circumstances? I couldn't find my way. Days have been passed. The bus was to be decided for *Jaan*. Arrangements were also to be made for the reception. From

where to get money and how to repay even if the money is borrowed? It was not understood. Eventually I met a businessman. It was decided to borrow twenty five thousand rupees from him. He was to return the rupees in a month or so. Right now, my work was done. I decided to pay some of the rupees after collection of *Chandlo*, the cash gift given by friends and relatives on the occasion of wedding.

With great diligence, crossed the occasion and stepped into married life with Neela. At the reception, we had to rush to collect money for rickshaws to get it from Tarasamiya to Blind School. A reception was held at 9 pm in the ground of the Blind School. A lot of people appeared in the function. The *Chandalo amount* was also good. Almost as much as to offset the cost, people gave souvenirs. Big celebrities also came to the reception. Sending greetings to us, it was a time of joy for us. In 1997, February 9 and 10, both days, were the beginning of our new life. We were able to overcome our money crisis on account of wishes of the people.

In a few days, there was severe pain due to glaucoma in the eye, severe pain like blood dripping from the eye. In a position that could not bear even for a second. We reached at Dr. Maltibahen Mehta. She examined that the pain was due to glaucoma pressure. She said it is more advisable to remove the eye if you do not want to suffer frequent pain. According to her advice, my eye surgery was done and then the eye pain went away forever. Happiness was added to the life of our husband and wife on November 9, 1999 with the birth of Nishtha. We experienced the gratitude of being parents.

My wife Neela has not been given the justice by me

She wanted to set my life, as I had mentally criticized Dr. Jagdishbhai Patel's behaviour. That man is a connoisseur; he makes conjectures very quickly about one's behaviour after listening to anyone. To a large extent, was prediction is also true. My wife Neela contributed a lot to bring on a proper way to a wandering man like me, to send me in the right direction; it is possible to keep walking on the right path. She has been instrumental in making me strong and capable by introducing her strengths. The true identity of all her powers came out during my illness. In November 2013, as if God had decided the station of my train and sent me the ticket, from a seemingly ordinary illness, sent me into an extraordinary state, making me completely incapacitated; constrained from where I was pushed into a state where I could not take care of myself, when I was bedridden, there was a real vision of the character of Sati Ansuya in the scriptures.

I was in a conscious state when I was admitted to the PNR hospital. But from there I've been taken to Sterling Hospital. How? Who took me and where? It is unknown to me at this time. She took on all the responsibilities, took a long leave of absence from her job, stood on the cliffs, and arranged all for my treatment. It was only when my last breath was about to be completed at the PNR hospital that she mustered up the courage, instructing relatives, friends and elders to seek immediate hospital treatment. The pain did not subside even after several reports. She consulted doctors about one-on-one reports, my daughter Nishtha also played a very big role during this period despite her childhood. The doctors at Sterling Hospital took my breath

away, saying: 'This is a neurological problem, so only a neurologist can treat it properly.'

They advised to take me to Dr.Gurumukhani. I was moved from there. After CT scan and other necessary reports, Dr.Gurumukhani got the correct diagnosis. According to him, he had a discussion with my wife Neela, his elder brother Sandeepbhai, Vipul and our nephew Kanji about how a small tumour of TB in the brain would dissolve with the drug. All agreed to proceed as advised by the doctor. A few days later we were allowed to rest at home. One night I got out of bed. Suddenly I felt that my left leg and left arm were not working, but I gathered as much strength as I could and as I stood up in bed, I fell down late night. Hearing the sound, Neela and Nishtha woke up and ran immediately. They both lifted me up and put me to bed. The next day in the morning, I was picked up in a rickshaw and taken to the hospital. Dr.Gurumukhani investigated. I had to go to Ahmedabad immediately saying that I had a paralysis attack due to a brain tumour and advised Dr.Sudhir Shah to seek treatment. He said to reach Ahmedabad as soon as possible. He called Dr.Sudhir Shah and requested him to treat the patient in an emergency. We reached Sterling Hospital, Ahmedabad by a four wheeled vehicle in just two and a half hours from Dr.Gurumukhani's hospital. Dr.Sudhir Shah checked in emergency and started treatment. In about 45 minutes, the limbs began to move. A huge amount of medicine was given in Ahmedabad Hospital. Numerous pills, injections and bottles kept going on... I was getting very tired from the constant treatment... I was getting bored ... Any attendant was not allowed to stay in the hospital

specially. However, Neela herself and one other person kept me together and supervised the treatment given to me. Even with devotion, she did her duty in all the treatments without getting tired. The sensation that I had been running after till today that was in my house, I found out that in my hospital bed too.

We act according to the satirical verses written by poet Akha during our lifetime.

**“Blind father-in-law and face-covered bride,
All went to listen to the Sermon.
There said something and the understood
something else
The collyrium of eye rubbed on the cheek
Deep well and broken bucket,
All in vain what they said and what they heard”**

Although the father-in-law is blind, bride stretches out a long veil, holds her father-in-law's hand and walks on the path of listening to the sermon. Why is it necessary to stretch the dome even though the father-in-law is blind? Besides, she has to hold his hand, then why such a custom? In the same way, we understand the opposite of what the narrator says - we rub the collyrium that needs to be applied to the eye. The well is deep. If the water-sucking box, which is made of leather, is cracked, how will the water come out?

The buck is emptied by the time the buck comes out of the well, resulting in no water being available to quench the thirst. We lose time in understanding what we get during our lifetime, as a result we cannot benefit from the things we get. I would like to give a brief introduction of the strengths

which I have not been able to understand till now ... The blind daughters of the school are able to get training so that they can take care of their own house after completing their education. I do not give a chance to such a chaste woman Neela, I understand my fault in depriving the blind daughters of life useful training till date. This is just my example. Their powers could have been used in many such fields. There is a very nice saying in Gujarati. 'Morning since awakening' My morning is that I fell into a sick bed. Normally everyone's morning starts from bed, but my morning is unique. I did not rise from the mouth of death, I really came out of my dull nature, out of my ignorance. The work that I did till 2013 was done in the form of the right and power of my position. But after recovering from illness, I want to become a *Prophet of God*. Especially in the field of education, employment, training and rehabilitation of the blind. For the upliftment of the employees working in the field of disability, the government and society should jointly take steps in various fields to work towards the establishment of infrastructural facilities for their happiness and welfare. My desire is to find the pearl of success by diving into the *worldly ocean*. I want to start my train journey with the enormity of heart in broad gauge train. This will be a train where there is no room for any kind of narrowness. In general, I dream that such a train journey will be satisfying for everyone as well as speed and progress.



(16) The Grand Celebration of World Disability Day

I presented a number of complex issues to the government through the presentation of various schemes like work of education, employment, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. After the written and oral presentation, there was no response from the Government. Then in several cities, we started agitation with the way showed by Mahatma Gandhi. A suit was filed before the Gujarat High Court to seek justice. Following the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court, it was planned to start a constructive movement with the objective of getting the cooperation of the society and the government in more effective work in this field even after the deprived blind candidates got jobs as per their qualifications.

First of all, to give impetus to the movement which started from 11th to 14th September 2012, we decided to celebrate the World Disability Day on the 3rd of December in 2014. The title of the program was "*Eradicated Darkness and Shined Stars*." The Chief Guest of the event was the Governor of the State Shri Omprakash Kohli Saheb. Accepting the invitation, the Governor remained present at the World Disability Day celebrations. He meticulously visited each zone of the exhibition prepared by the blind students and established a bridge of dialogue. Giving time for more than an hour, he visited each of the zones and watched the demonstration to understand and know the latent talent of the blind students.

It is the fact that the Governor spontaneously complied with the request of a written letter without any

political affiliation or pressure. This special event for the disabled can also be marked as a unique event. The event was attended by a large number of businessmen, officials and educators of the city. It is His Excellency that the Governor addressed to all at the event:

I did not realize how important it was to come to Shri Krishnakumar Sinhji Andh Udyog shala until I came here. But when I came here, seeing the activities of this organization, I felt that if I had not come here, I would have been deprived of a valuable experience of life!!!

These are the extracts from Hon. Governor's addressing.

The activities that take place here can be called rehabilitation activities for the disabled. It can also be called a social activity but instead of saying that I would prefer to call it a religious activity. This is because we have defined there the religion that holds the society, on which the society survives, depends, and takes support - that is religion. If there is no religion, society and social work will not last. The function of religion is to assume society.

All the activities that I have seen here are - in fact, to sustain the society, to support it. That is why if these activities have to be given the same name, then I say that religious activities take place in this organization. Religious activities can take place in different ways. It is also a religion to quench one's thirst, to teach someone to stand on one's feet, help one to see, to learn, to instil confidence in someone. This organization works to instil confidence in the minds of the disabled children of our society. This work is so great that it is impossible to compare. Sensation is a word that I would like to say.

Sensation means seeing the suffering of others and realizing it. Society is made up of many people but the work that connects them is sensational. No building is made of sand and cement alone. It needs water too. In the same way, the formation of an excellent society requires empathy. Awakening of this feeling is a hard task. No matter how many garlands we chant, go to the temple, do *tilak*, but we cannot become *Vaishnavjan* unless we know the definition of Narasimha Mehta's sensation.

We can call the *Vaishnavjan* who knows the pain of others... (*Vaishnavjan to tene re kahiye je peed paraijane re..*) We cannot become true *Vaishnavjan* unless we join the pain of others. One is true human being who wakes up seeing the pain of others. A healthy society cannot be built without empathy. Even a society without empathy is futile. God's grace is needed to awaken the senses in the mind. *Prajavatsal Maharaja* Shri KrishnakumarSinhji of Bhavnagar in 1928 saw the pain during a ceremony in Mumbai and a feeling arose in his mind. As a result, this institute was established in 1932. There are a lot of activities going on in this organization, which I have called '*Religious activity*'. There are many definitions of religion, but to put it simply, philanthropy is the only religion. This organization is following this religion in an excellent way. *Daridranarayan's* (poor person's) service is the best service and the best work. That is why if one wants to take a vow, one should take the vow of service of *Daridranarayan*. There is no virtue better than this.

Although we got political freedom in 1947, we still have to turn it into economic and social freedom. The

country is being rebuilt. It requires different talents. This multi-purpose development requires the cooperation of all the people of the society. There is a need to find ways and means to rehabilitate people with disabilities in the society. It requires the use of technology. This is an area where a lot of work can be done and there is a need to increase the amount of research.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the administrators and workers of the organization are doing an excellent job and bring these children to *Gandhinagar Raj Bhavan* at a time when they feel fit. There we would like to welcome these children and also greet the administrators and workers of the organization. By doing so, the *Raj Bhavan* will also be connected with religious activities.

Congratulating everyone, His Excellency the Governor completed his speech. In his speech, he invited the students of the entire school to come to the *Raj Bhavan* and expressed his condolences. Not only that, the works of the cultural program "*Dipping in the Art of Divine Vision*" (*Divya drastina Kalasagarma Dubki*) organized on this occasion where there was a feeling of gratitude. This was a milestone achievement for the organization. The purpose of this program was to arouse the ideological change and empathy of the officers working at every level, school college students, teachers, professors etc. It was very successful.

As per the invitation sent by His Excellency the Governor in his speech, we visited the *Raj Bhavan* along with the students and staff of the school on 09-07-2015. It was an event that was written with golden letters on the pages of history. This was the first time in the state that students and

staff of a blind school had received an invitation to visit the *Raj Bhavan*. The visit was attended by 119 students, 26 employees and 6 trustees. Not only this, every student was given a gift from *Raj Bhavan*. The workers of the organization were also welcome by *Raj Bhavan*. I salute eldest person Shri Om Prakash Kohli of *Raj Bhavan*, who was sitting at the top of the state, for his condolences.



WORLD DISABILITY DAY



(17) How Will Be My School? Let's Find Out...

The subject of word picture of the conversation given for the development of the organization on 27-6-2015 was 'How will be my school? Let's find out.' This topic is to present a picture of what a school should look like in front of you. Before that, I will discuss a little bit about how a school or an institution comes into existence.

Usually when any social need arises an organization is formed to meet it and from that the organization emerges. There are two elements in an organization - the human element and the physical element. The humanitarian element includes students, activists, trustees, social activists, leaders and the government. When the physical element includes land, building, furniture and other equipments. This combination of human beings and materials means organization. Human beings do the work of keeping this organization alive.

We also talk a little bit about history and the current situation when it comes to divination. History is about keeping alive the purpose that this organization started with.

Shri KrishnakumarSinhji School & Home for the Blind was established on 6th January 1932. *Hon'ble Maharaja of Bhavnagar State* Shri KrishnakumarSinhji had to attend the award distribution ceremony at Victoria Memorial School, Mumbai. During the ceremony he had a dialogue with a student and the idea came to his mind that there should be such an institution in my state too. He invited the student: 'When you come to Bhavnagar, to meet me. We

want to start such an organization in Bhavnagar in the same way as this organization works in Mumbai.

When that student Natu Dolat Ojha (today known as N.D. Netarwala) came to Bhavnagar and he met *the Maharaja* and gave him an idea about the institution. If there is such an institution in our state, blind people can get education and get a foothold and he gave the idea that they do not have to live on the basis of others. *Maharaja Saheb* was very much impressed by this idea and initiated efforts in this direction. He called the best people from the state and put the idea. There were two brothers named Manhardas Chhagandas Shah and Vitthaldas Chhagandas Shah (Lodhavala family). They allotted their bungalow for the organization without any rent. This was the beginning of the organization and the process of development began.

If we talk about the current situation, there is a lot of emphasis on students in education today. Some students cannot bear the burden. They turn off their lives. When the board result of Std. 10 SSC and Std. 12 HSC in our institute remains 100% for the last seventeen years. The result of the board, since the beginning of Higher Secondary, is 100%. Apart from this we have also achieved many peaks of achievement in co-curricular activities.

Behind these overwhelming achievements is the hard work of students and teachers. Congratulations to all for that. But don't be satisfied with it because satisfaction is the end. So with congratulations, I request you to set special goals and work hard to achieve them.

There are hundreds of general education institutions in our country, but most of them only provide information. There are very few educational institutions that truly develop

personality. We want to teach students to develop their inner strengths. If someone's personality is very good then there is no need to copy it. The focus is on developing dormant powers rather than running after fleeting benefits. For that inner strength develops and through that what can I give new to my organization and my country? That is to think. Even if there are visual limitations, they should not be a hindrance to us. When will it not become a hindrance? This limitation cannot be a barrier if we have confidence. Students and teachers need to be aware of this.

21st Century is the Era of Information Technology - IT Century. Computer usage is on the rise. There are no visual limitations in computer use. Every blind person can perform every task on a computer. All you have to do is use its specific software. There are many other software like this software and new ones are also coming. Through which we can do many things. Circumstances are now taking shape that the blind students will have to cancel the provision of writer for the examination and instead he will have to write the papers himself through the use of computer. This requires learning from the use of technology. To be able to do that we have to compete with a normal person and also must win. We all have to be aware of the fact that technology is constantly evolving in the world to acquire new knowledge to be updated and to make this work uninterrupted.

We have to bring this new technology in our organization. It is expensive. For this we all have to do new programs, go ahead with the plan and reach out to the donors. Only then we will be able to introduce this new technology in

schools. We all know that it is very important to know and understand English language to use this software. As such software is not readily available in regional languages. It is imperative that students and activists work hard to understand English. We have to adapt new technology to our framework according to our needs.

Music is a very important subject for blind students. There are many instruments in music. They have their own uniqueness. Their voice and power are different. As it is in instruments, the same is in students. Every student also has different strengths. If we can understand this thing of every instrument, if we can take it to heart, then in the coming days we will be able to understand every person of the society and we will be able to mould ourselves according to their demand.

Mr.Nanjibhai Mistry's contribution in violin playing is great. He rendered his services at the All India Radio, Rajkot Centre for years. He gained a big fame in the field of violin playing in the country. In the same way, Narendrabhai Mehta has the same dominance in tabla playing! Both of these musicians are our Blind School students. They have made the organization great. The goal of the students studying here should be to develop the strengths in us and enhance the pride of this institution. The staff is looking for students with such talent. They have to provide a platform. For this, the employees have to keep in their heart a part of the line of the *famous Bhajan Vaishnavajan* of the everlasting devotee KavishriNarasimha Mehta, '*Samadrashiti ne TrishnaTyagi*' (Abandoning prejudices) is to do this work by giving up any kind of personal cravings.

So this institute will be able to give thousands of students who can be proud for the country and the institute. The goal of the teacher is to make the student live a proud life, to give something to the society and family.

There is an old social-family belief that "what can a blind person do!" He has to show that he can break the belief. Now even this atmosphere is changing. Parents are now showing more interest in students. My request is that students and staff should not just expect to get something. But the *Vaishnava position* is to create a life that is 'not greedy and free from fraud' (*vanlobhi ne kapatrahitchhe*). When all these things come true, no one can stop this organization from moving forward.

All of these efforts require a large team to succeed. It has administrators, activists, donors and well-wishers. Administrators are not the owners of the organization but the custodians of the organization. They are to manage the organization with foresight and play the role of mentors. The goal is to focus on the process, keeping an eye on everyone and also to find people and well-wishers who are useful in management. They have to be involved in this work. If this does not happen, the organization may lose its existence. Many such examples are found in today's society. Therefore, a new management team should also be formed. This team should be full of high quality, impartial, without personal expectations and selfless. The new team should have not only the second row, but also the third, fourth, fifth row must be there. So that the organization continues to move forward at the same pace, with the same capacity for years. Keep developing, keep making progress and become immortal...

External help is much needed for the development of the organization. But with it there is an importance of inner strength too. According to Mahatma Gandhiji, the school should be "self-sufficient". This means that the school should be able to cover its own expenses. If the people who have studied here and settled down in their own life continue to lend to the organization, then the organization will continue to make uninterrupted progress. Its speed can never slow down. Internal strength is more important than external strength. My resolve will be fulfilled when the desire of giving to this organization will be in all. What is my resolve? I will explain it in a few lines:

**Beautiful my school,
Looks so pretty...
In the rain of knowledge
Everyone here gets wet...
Pretty, funny my school...
Here is the delicious fragrance
Flowers of nyctanthes blooming everywhere
Not one but many gardeners here,
Feeding water everyday
Beautiful my school...**

To fulfil this vow, many gardeners, that is, many individuals, whether they are from the country or abroad, each makes their own contribution. In order to sustain the organization in the modern age, everyone has to contribute according to their ability.

Ideal school - beautiful school is made not only by talking but also by working. No matter how many songs

of beautiful school are sung, the school can never be beautiful and smooth unless everyone does his or her best. So everyone has to contribute according to his or her strength. The school is not just a building but an organism - alive. It walks, feels proud, and even cries. The school family works to come alive the blinds. The school family has to contribute as much as it can to make the organization proud. In order not to forget this, keep in mind the example of the soldiers deployed for the defence of the country who are defending nation under many hardships.

Internet services are expanding in today's modern age. So many services are becoming available at home today. The field is still expanding. Many employment opportunities are emerging in this sector. The wave of privatization has spread around the world and the private sector is expanding. There are many opportunities to get employment in this sector. Degree work alone is not enough to get this type of employment. For that one needs to be adept in one field, one needs to be skilled. Students have to develop many qualities in themselves and also acquire expertise in any one field. Must be able to keep pace with the country and the world. For this, the institute will have to set up such projects, courses and training centers for the preparation of existing public competitive examinations. So that every student who leaves this institute after study can stand in the society with self respect and make the name of the institute bright. If the name of the institution becomes bright, the pride of the student will increase and if the beauty of the student increases, the beauty of the institution will also increase. This role is complementary.

The administrators and workers of the institute

are appealed to organize programs so that the students get more and more experiences. Expert people must be invited here. Students must be taken to places where they get more and more experiences because the best education is obtained from experiences. This is the best way to get out of cowardice. Students also should awaken their inner strengths - mental powers. Mind what you want to get, what you want to achieve. The illustration should be vivid of what is to be achieved. This will automatically create circumstances that will lead you to the goal. Strong resolve achieves, but there should be no room for doubt. From my own experience, I say, 'The success rate is one hundred percent. Many of my dreams have come true this way. All dreams come true in this way... This is my pray to God.'



(18) Divyang - The Person with Divine Organs !

Due to any physical or mental disability among the large human community, any person being forced to live a life dependent on others due to its limitations becomes a matter of concern for the entire human society. There have been many welfare activities for the disabled since pre-independence in India. But for such a class of people, all these activities could not just go beyond the spirit of welfare. History has shown that education for persons with disabilities is more of an act of mercy for them than an act of their rights.

First of all, the whole year of 1981 was celebrated by the United Nations as the year of disabled people. As a result, awareness towards disability was created in the society and in all the countries of the world. Consultations on education, employment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities were held at several world conferences. A number of papers were presented by experts with in-depth studies on various topics. Countries around the world have agreed to take steps that children with disabilities should also receive timely benefits of all effective services.

In 1986, new National Education Policy was formulated in India, in which, first of all, the education given to the disabled was given the status of education by accepting it in the form of their right. Chapter 6 of this new National Education Policy was written for the education of persons with disabilities. These include special schools for persons with disabilities, integrated education, inclusive

education, research on educational tools and methods for persons with disabilities. After the 80's, there were many attempts to speed up the rehabilitation services for the disabled in India. The first 'Mental Health Act' was enacted in 1987. The Parliament of India approved the bill and proved its commitment to the upliftment of persons with disabilities. With the help of many experts, a bill for the disability section was drafted with the objective of making the benefit of all effective services available to the entire disability world in 1987. The draft has faced a number of conflicts between the Union Cabinet and Parliament. The draft eventually found a place in Parliament's cupboard. Time began to flow like a flowing stream of water. Meanwhile, in 1992, the RCI Act has formed by Rehabilitation Council of India for the noble cause of providing quality and effective education services to children with disabilities across the country. In addition to children with disabilities, a number of training courses have been developed by the Indian Rehabilitation Institute for teachers who train them.

Setu syllabus for teachers who have been working for years also was an important step to equip them through in-service training. Later, many good results began to be obtained in the skill development and educational expression of children with disabilities.

The bill which was drafted in 1987 and has been facing dust in the cupboards of Parliament for years, was likely to get a legislative form. The long awaited bill was introduced in Parliament on December 22, 1995. This bill is called 'Person with Disability Act-1995' (Viklang Dharo-1995). In this law, the rights of persons with disabilities have

been elaborated in 74 sections of 14 chapters. This act includes seven types of defects. (1) Completely blind, (2) Short-sighted, (3) A person with impaired leprosy, (4) Hearing impairment (5) Bone deformity or movement disability, (6) Mental retardation and (7) Mental illness.

Disabled persons with any of the above disabilities are legally placed in the definition of disability. Definitions of disability are given in Chapter-1 of this Act. As well as an explanation of the terms used in the law are included within. The arrangements made by the Center and the State for the implementation of the law as per the Law are explained in Chapters 3 and 4. Extensive provisions regarding timely diagnosis, prevention, education of children with disabilities, employment, rehabilitation, barrier free environment, facilities available to them etc. are subjects to this Act.

Apart from this, in 1999, the National Trust Act has also been framed by the Government of India for some of the serious disabilities. The golden age of the disabled can be noted to the decade of 1990 to 2000. Because, during this time period, there was an era of revolution for the disabled all over the world. As a result, people with disabilities started calling them 'Differently Able' instead of 'Disabled'. It provided them with the necessary facilities to cater to the physical or mental capacity. While the society and the government give an excellent opportunity to introduce their powers among the general society, only then does the word '*Divyang*' used for them becomes appropriate.

As we have seen, the Disability Act 1995 provides a whole chapter for a barrier-free environment. If the law had given as much attention to the physical barriers to the

disabled as to the mental barriers of the society, they would have been able to go much further than the progress made by the disabled today. The last decade and a half has seen a number of discrepancies in the rules for employees working for the education of people with disabilities, which is pushing us towards a gloomy environment. On one hand, the 21st century has proved to be the century of technology. Many devices and electronic technologies are contributing to the well-being of the people. Even people who have lost their eyesight are now proving to be just as capable and powerful as the average person with the help of a computer. However, they lack the infrastructure to receive such training and expert services. WHO By educating children with disabilities with normal children makes them more powerful and capable. Even after giving such an opinion, there is no proper outline for this program or accurate infrastructure facilities or administration for it. As a result the traveller without a destination is crossing the road.

Our popular *Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi* has made a great effort to give respect to the disabled by using the word '*Divyang*' for the disabled. The word '*Divyang*' has been used by people in the streets and alleys. I often say: 'It is a good thing to honour people with disabilities with the term '*Divyang*'. But if this word becomes limited enough to give such literal respect, this word will have no value with the passage of time. I remember that even after the blind persons were allowed to work as teachers from primary school to college under section 32 of the Disability Act, the Gujarat government formed a special committee to examine the abilities of working blind

teachers. The following Form was outlined in the report prepared for:

- (1) Can the blind teach Gujarati, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science subjects by writing on the blackboard?
- (2) Are there any errors in the textbooks or slates of the students' textbooks of Std. 1 and 2? And if so, can it be improved? And whether they can check students' maps and experiment books?
- (3) Whether they can fulfil their duties under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009?

Examining the details of the format given to the committee by the education department, we realize that how can anyone with 100% visual impairment show the details on the black board? We challenge him for such a test and denigrate the dignity of the word '*Divyang*' used for him and that also by a System. Apart from this, if alternative sources were considered to solve this problem, how could even a candidate with complete blindness try to satisfy the students' concepts by writing the syllabus material in advance on the roll-up board or in the age of technology with the help of laptop or computer?

The word '*Differently Able*' or '*Divyang*' can be judged in the true sense of the word if the blind teacher can present the demonstrated educational concepts and if he has a little look at the equipment he needs for this, what arrangements can be made for training. In view of the issue of vacancies under Section-32 of the Disability Act, the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in the merit list has filed a suit for justice in the case of 34 blind candidates who have filed a suit for deprivation of employment. As a result, all the 34 visually

impaired candidates with respect to the rules of the Government were honorably appointed. Only when so many people are following the word '*Divyang*' of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be able to follow the prestigious Gujarat High Court, only then what we call '*Viklang*' will prove to be '*Divyang*' in the true sense. That is, they will get '*Divyangta*'.

The Disability Bill-2016 has been prepared to embody the concepts of the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention Act) for the upliftment of the disabled. The bill is designed to address the challenges of the 21st century with the aim of highlighting the capabilities of persons with disabilities. The aim is to fully achieve the human rights, fundamental rights of persons with disabilities without any discrimination due to disability. In order to realize the concept of a developed nation, it is imperative that even those who face physical or mental barriers get the benefit of effective services. Employees who serve such challenging children and individuals in particular continue to take steps for their welfare with the economic benefits that they can keep up with in the mainstream of society. Like the developed countries of the world, our country's children with disabilities have the opportunity to advance in every field of education, the necessary facilities are available to suit their easy access, a proper and non-discriminatory environment can be established for them in the direction of human resource development including psychosocial aspects. Separate measures should also be taken for children with disabilities and women with disabilities. As well as statutory facilities should be made available for all these effective

services. Political parties and the government should consider giving political rights to people with disabilities. In particular, the right to liberty, the right to justice, the right to communalism, the right to protection against violence-harassment or exploitation, the right to privacy, the right to speech and expression, the right to home and family, the right to vote and public office. It is everyone's responsibility to see that it is achieved according to the concept of the Constitution.



(19) Criticism and Praise

The words '*criticism*' and '*praise*' are two sides of a same coin. It is inevitable to criticize for one's progress as much as a person is praised. Otherwise it can harm the society. Or so that it can be said that one might be burden for society. It seems to be inherent to adverse activities rather than becoming sarcastic to society. So a person's balance requires both criticism and praise for the development. We know that every element on Earth is behaving with a double act. Neem taste is bitter but the lemon juice is sweet.

The Earth also works from the theory of uniformity for the existence of the world. All the substances coming to the Earth's perspective are caused by the property of the Earth's gravity with it. Or even say that it is attracted too. The earth has its steady place due to uniformity with the sun. Every substance of the universe, the planet is attributed to the principle of attraction and dis-attraction. It is applicable to our lives as well. Every person who criticizes person has to do so much appreciator. Because the person's criticizer does a limb to our faults, which we can plan to remove our weaknesses. We have to spend millions of rupees behind any research. Our critics do it without any cost. I'm glad to call critic a researcher.

We can say a special searching person to critic. The scientist finds our faults are our critic. So I salute from the distance to my critics. A more praise can be a poison for us. The way the person takes over diet and becomes ill, the same thing is applicable to our falsely praising person.

Generally, people of our friend circle living around us

are often appreciated by us. It is cause to be more close to us. Such praise makes us feel heartbeat and pleasing. But at a long time it is very harmful to us. Those who are often praised by us are like warning more than the armoured enemy. The enemy thinks many times before we raise weapon but the sweet enemy who is praising us every day is not hopeful. Frequently when the person is criticized, the person has to be cautious of his face.

They say, 'You do not know this and do not know that. What can you do? You can do only... only that...!' All this was the evacuation for me. It was my desire to exceed, so that I could continue to move on despite my blindfold. People had a business to criticize me. Some people are still able to do needless criticism. But I always continued to be running on my fixed manner without seeing such people. As a result, the achievements are getting today, the energy received from the power of research. What I believe is it.

I remember an example to understand this. Student's movement in school was running. At that time a few administrative changes were made. I had take admission in the course of B.Ed. because I wanted to make blind people's education more effective. At the same time a rumour was run by people that Labhubhai Sonani wanted to be the principal of the Blind School. He wants to get the huge amount of government's payment. I was studying at Andhjan Mandal, Ahmedabad at that time. Some strangers also clarified with me about this. I told them: 'I do not know this thing, I do not think about doing government jobs. Years ago I have decided not to do government job.' There will be many people who run this rumour, but when they were clarified, one friend

said: ' You wanted to do such administrative changes; therefore I thought you want to be the principal! 'This doubt was not only of a great one person. But it was suspense for the entire society.

The way the germs enter a healthy body and cause disease, the same way in a healthy society doubt creates bad atmosphere. The criticism executed about the working person is distracting the person. As a result, the benefits of such people do not get enough to society. The person who does true criticism is good. But some people of the society are bacteria of the society. They raise false criticism. They break the society. Makes the society distracted. Some of my friends always praise me when I meet them. But when all of these people get to know from outside that they are big critics of me in my absence.

From this, I have learnt that either we are criticized or praised; we have to be neutral in the entire situation. Do not be hurt from criticism. It is the right way to keep working on the advancement of our neutral values. The people who criticize are not our enemy. We should always keep in mind such matter. Each person who serves truly has to face the above mentioned two situations.

Those who do not want to move forward, never criticized by people. You are able to get jealousy and criticism if you get success. Similarly, the class of your appreciation also seems to stand after your success. You are going to come against the people of both one class. One class criticizes and another class appreciates. Both of which are good. Use the truth that you need to reach to the peak of progress. He is considered as God's prophet, who has reached to the peak of success.

After reaching the top of any one team in cricket, if suddenly one match is lost, it is accused of match fixing. And if it wins the match as usual, people for the team say 'This team wins! What's new in it? This team has X player and Y player.' Saying like that no significance of his victory is given. It is a way of World to say like this if you do any good work. What did he do in it! But when the same person cannot deal the work, the criticism is about it. Some people are working in service. They are working for the interest of another. Although it is discussed that it is okay, it will also be beneficial!

From 2009 to 2013, when I was leading movement against the state government for the interest and welfare of the disabled, some people say: "He is running this movement because he wants to become handicapped commissioner.' Many such loose talks came to me about it. I continued my work without any attention on it. Some people doubt that a political party is behind this movement.

All these people got my same answer that this movement is not executed due to any political or personal reason. The movement is run for interest and welfare of the disabled. This is the fight run on the path of Gandhi for basic right of the disabled. It is my humble attempt to speak on behalf of handicapped. I understand that particular people did not understand this. But some doubts take time to give answer. There is time to wait for some doubt to be resolved. Some also said that this movement was for teachers working in integrated education. Some people said that this agitation was just for the blind people. While the application was formed it was focused on the well-being of each of the

disabled classes.

Our main demand was to remove some limitations in travelling by ST bus. There were some limitations like free bus travelling facility in express buses was specifically provided to handicapped with the only annual income of two and a half lakh. Our demand was that there should be no income limit for free ST bus pass. The state government has taken an important step by accepting a special circular dated 21-04-2016. For that I congratulate the state government from the conscience. Some people were miscarried to the agitation with arbitrary beliefs. I also want to say by the medium of this book that this is our true win.

God has given us the triumph due to our true spirit. Your desolately beliefs and doubts have been deadly defeated. I hope, in the future, you will not suffer from such an arbitrary suspicion.

Every sector of my human service activity, I have been able to work with balance between both continuous criticism and praise. There is also a chance to consider with many people. Positive people's ideology has seen me over-time. However, due to some of the narrowness of certain people, sometimes people were going to meet with people without reason. Such people also have expertise to find errors from good work. Due to their mentality, they criticize tremendous. They also showcase their intelligence power from good work to find errors. Especially in the field of service, people who want to do something special should be able to act by neglecting some negative criticism. And the criticism should be approved, if it is neutral. According to the opinion of *Shirmad Bhagvad Gita*, every person should act without the expectation of fruit. The fruit of the success

received by excellent act should be offered to God.

God has given this opportunity to act like a telephone receiver to understand his *Creation*. If you act this way, any commentator will not make hindrance in your work area. We should always beware of our fanatic class that can diverse us by flattery. Despite the two sides of the same coin of criticism and praise, both of them are quite different from the work system. The effect on person also differs.

To get benefit of both sides of the same coin, we will have to develop ourselves in our field. When the coins are included in both sides, it can be placed in currency and we can get the right value. The person has to accept both sides of life coin to get the right value of it and enjoying life. Understanding the values of life, the benefit of valuable life, criticism or commentary perspective is to give society. What we get in exchange from a society is not important but what we can give to the society is more important. This is the only true concept behind *the Creation of God*.



**PRAISE
MAKES YOU
FEEL GOOD
CRITIQUE
MAKES YOU
BETTER**

(20) Impact of Early Childhood games on entire life

There are so many secrets of life in the games of little children. Life is not the travel of our choice. It is a program of a specific period that is fixed by God. Little children have made different sports playing to present their own lives in the house of game around our real houses. Some children try to manifest their home, jobs, business and anything that they think for their future. Pass the time in such a sports, spends all day in a small playing homes. Little children, nature, human beings etc. are found in little children's house games. We need to understand how to play their own sports of small houses. The effects of people in the family are found in childhood games. We find imitation of the childhood games in their lives when they grow up.

In my childhood I got the opportunity to take leadership among the little children. I always wanted to take leadership. I'd search for fellow children who can help in my work. Society is required to study the child's understanding. How the children play games! Every parents need to know that. The child, who likes adventurous games, becomes adventurous when he grows up. When timid children do not even leave fear in youth. If we study the information that a man who succeed to setup an industry, we know that they were very adventurous in infancy. Those who want to live safely without risking their life; they cannot be more than average. The venture to get more is inevitable.

Playing adventurous games with friends in my childhood was a special attraction for me. Although I had no sight, decorating cradle of Krishna was my main activity at

that time. The month of *Shravan* was a great religious month for us. We used to wander four or five kilometres to collect the decorating material including a variety of flowers, maize grass, banana leaves etc. Thus, due to the development of the adventure from childhood, there has never been a fear in my life. I believe that every child should get advantage of playing such wonderful sports.

When we see children studying in schools, I sink into those thoughts. Every child is given homework by teacher as they cannot raise head for entire day! Children who do not carry homework are punished. This makes the child loses double (1) Because of the homework, it cannot play games. (2) Because of the fear of punishing it can be a coward. (3) To be deprived of sports, it cannot become adventurous.

When we keep expectations of the child's physical development in the name of the so-called education, how I can hope for the best society! The teaching between two collapses of the book is the true education or is the true education that develops a person who can support the person to live life? I think we don't understand true thing. Any textbook cannot give true education to any person. The book is the medium of creating hunger but not a meal satisfying the hunger of education. The way that the smell of the delicious dish wakes up the instinct of taking food in our mouth that cannot satisfy hunger. That cannot feel taste until we have that dish. Similarly, that is in education too. Those who understand the education, person can show a way to live life, understanding every moment of life. It is not possible to live life according to all our needs. In my eyes, true education is not in book or classroom. It is available from the

experience of life. Children where play in childhood, are the initial experiences of life. It should facilitate every child more and more. It is responsibility of every parent and school teachers that child should remain away from wrong speaking, wrong doing with others, stealing etc.

Here is one example to note down. There was a boy named Suresh. He had two pencils when he came home from the school in that he was studying. When Suresh went to school, his mother gave him a pencil. At present, he had two pencils instead, although his mother did not inquire about him. Suresh then became a big thief. One day he was caught in theft. The case went in court. Suresh then convicted punishment of hanging until death. Suresh was asked by authority to whom he wanted to meet. Suresh expressed the desire to meet his mother. Mother came to meet him. Suresh said: 'Mother! I would have not had to see this day today if you had prevented me when I had stolen the pencil when I was in the school.' Mother cried a lot. Everything she realized! From this example, we can understand that how much childhood habits influence entire life. So we should pay attention to cultivate our children's habits. As well as child care arrangements by excellent games, there is a need to create a suitable environment for school-education and our family. Only the best society will be formed this way...



(21) The School Speaks...

School is a factory of various techniques of education. Innovative materials are produced in the school to adopt innovative approaches about students' creativity. In which the knowledge that nurtures skill development is created through new ventures. Keeping in view the physical and mental limitations of special children, new tools, assistive devices, specialized training, special training skills, literal memorization skills for their fulfilment, special educational programs to awaken the dormant powers, special children are prepared to live like normal class people.

I too have been a student of one such school. During my student days, despite many attempts to adjust to the school's educational system, I had to face many difficulties in reaching out to new teaching techniques in order to stand in a competitive age with the general class. Not enough paper or quality of writing tools was readily available to write in the Braille. As a result, educational materials had to be prepared by using the ordinary tools. I saw the strong morale with determination through my two eyes. I worked hard to reach the destination in my youth. As a result, I knew and enjoyed all the sensations of school. The sound from every wall of the school touched my heart! I humbly tried to understand the problems of the student state.

The problems of every student who came to study in the school were the same. I always felt that every student's parents and their family were facing a severe financial crisis. To a large extent, all these families seemed indifferent to the needs of the students. I not only blame their financial crisis

for this situation but also the irresponsibility and indifference of the people of each family towards the blind children. I have also seen people who paid much attention to their normal child and neglected cares for development of their abnormal child. Some of our parents did not come on time to take their children home on holidays even after school vacation. Sometimes the school staff had to drop such children off at their home! I constantly wondered that why parents do such a thing! That question would have embarrassed me.

I always felt that something needed to be done for the visually impaired students. After several family studies I came to an opinion: Every family in which a visually impaired child should be given an understanding of how to take care of such a child. Special public awareness, parental guidance programs, contacting them to know the problems of such people, work to some extent to solve the problem through the communication bridge. Of course it can happen. The seed sown in the student stage germinates and gradually grows and become a banyan tree.

When I was selected as the Honorary Secretary of Shri Krishnakumar Sinhji Andh Udyog Shala in 1999, a proposal came before me to collect some kind of fee from the students. The proposer intended to receive from the guardian the same amount as the guardians normally could afford. But what I did know was that parents with poor financial status may choose their blind child from the following two options and pick them up from school and enrol him in a school in another city. Or option two: Stop educating such a child. I was afraid most parents would choose option two. So I did

not accept the option of charging fees from the students. I want every student to be able to stand on their own two feet and be able to help others. I have received complaints from many naughty students during my tenure. I have always resorted to small-scale punishment options before taking drastic action against them.

I have largely avoided expelling such students from school. No, never I had chosen to release the student from school. Many people have criticized my approach from the back door, realizing my weakness. But I guess I can give any naughty student a school leaving certificate in a minute. But because of the student's future career, I have always avoided doing so. Parents of some students have also been found to be behaving very irresponsibly and arbitrarily. But I have never seen such people considering the future of the student. To me every student who comes to school for education is the same. I want to see the light of knowledge in the heart of every student. My *mantra* is that every illuminated heart removes the darkness of the life of others and help to make the world luminous.

At school, when a student steals another student's belongings or damages someone else's belongings, I feel the same upheaval in my heart. Just as we get butter from buttermilk, so the true sensation to understand the student comes from the churning of my heart. That is why my future aspiration is to introduce employment oriented programs that give such students a chance to earn some money during their school days for their development. My future dream is for every student to avail employment education along with general education so that he can earn a little money for

himself and the school. In the age of technology, it will be my lifelong endeavour to prove that every blind student is able to work in every field with the help of computer just like a normal person.

I am working day and night to provide proper facilities to every blind person who wants to pursue higher education pursue a career in economics and earn for living. Especially for such students need a hostel for higher education, professional rehabilitation after education. It is my dream to build this hostel. For which I have been striving for the last few years. Effective access to higher education services for the visually impaired living in this hostel will enhance their strengths, enabling them to live a normal life. Once his educational needs are satisfied, he will be able to stand on his own two feet financially. I am confident that he will open the door to new professional fields, leaving behind the common man, and will surely reach the pinnacle of achievement.

Strong morale and determination are my eyes. In the same way faith and trust are both my ears. I always listen well to what I hear and have faith in what I hear. I have faith in everything I do. Thus, what the faith receives through the believing *karma* is *the holy Gita* of the restoration of the blind. Every verse and chapter of this Holy Gita is my life. That is why through this book I present to you all my demands. This is why I present these demands for my own school through this book. The school is the Vidhata of every student. She is also our mother. It is the duty of every child to take care of the mother. So every student who has got something from this school should be debt free by offering as '*Gurudakshina*' ('a flower petal if not flower') to the school.

School is not someone's monopoly. The school means the institution that is no one's firm, no one owns it. So everyone has the responsibility to keep the school alive. Every student who has got a foothold in education should continue to make his due contribution to keep the school alive. It is the duty of every student to take care of the school in the same way that those who are able to support financially take care of the school as the gardener. The gardener waters the flowers, beautifies by cuttings. In the same way we should make a proper contribution to the development of the students growing up in the school garden. This is the true message of God. We should do this work not for any glory but for our own pleasure, for our happiness. A lamp that illuminates others is just as eager to contribute to the manifestation of another lamp. The flame of each lamp is always ready to ignite the flame of the other lamp. In the same way we have to keep lighting the school lamp for the knowledge of others.

The school is living, it speaks. We have to respond to him by listening to its words with faith and trustworthy ears. Our true response is our contribution to the development of our school. It is my prayer to the Most Gracious God that in the days to come we will be able to establish a business centre for the future students of this school and a hostel for its upliftment. I am confident that the dialogue of this prayer will be supported by all of you in a melodious tone.

Established in the world of hearing art (*Shravan Deepakala*), every *Karmayogi* staff of this school, the devotees of *Shravan* who have lost their eyesight, will overcome the bright stars in the open sky, the blue ones that

will be able to shine with the light of knowledge to make the sky bright. The human will be able to reach the pinnacle of success in the divine court to give the right response to the sound of the word from the walls which constantly strikes the faith with the diagonal. To make the aspirations of every student a success, the dialogues of the school were made heart touching, so that every talented worker would get a proper opportunity to blossom in the garden, every worker of *Karma Yagna* had to prove his 'gardenship' to spread the fragrance of humanity.

Along with school education, the character of the student is shaped by the teaching of the characters, the bright stars without the eyes; the implementation of educational programs to enlighten the society, *the Mahayagna* continued to ignite with his *karmic sacrifice*. Education is not a fixed curriculum. Education is a parasite to awaken the dormant powers in a person. It is a discovery of gold metal lying in iron. In fact the teacher does not teach any student, he works to awaken the hidden strengths in the student. I am confident that my school teachers will continue to work to awaken such strengths in the students.



(22) The Subtle Insight

The divine eyes given by God have the perspective about things, individuals, animal-birds, trees etc. This can be slow or sharp. People with low vision cannot fully see the above things in perspective. This is our outer sight talking. I am going to talk about vision of soul in this chapter.

Every person has an internal sight in a more or less proportion. The sight of those who experience distance attention could be seen in advance stage. Many questions arose in my mind in my childhood. My thinking run for every answer. As a result, I started the special effort to cultivate the subtle vision. My poem with the pen name 'Zagmag' is given the title of *Subtle Vision*." Very important questions, in the poem, have been presented against God.

Subtle Vision

By using my subtle vision,
Seeing your world, O Creator!
Asking you the question... Guess, O Madhav !
Why you have made male and female?
Shining stars in the night, the Sun on the day.
Ask you Question, O Mahadev
Why all the heavy Mystery? Why?
My vision is my....
So beautiful rainbow! I'm Feeling fragrance of the
flower...
Asking you the question, O Vishnu
Why did you create dark night?
My vision is my...

What is this subtle vision? The question is natural and it can affect the heart! It is called in a stanza: 'What is the need of creating male and female?' Trying to know the reason that why it has been represented in poetry. There is a lot of bright visibility of life in the effective lines of the poem. Beautifully decorated roses bloom between thorns. Meaning; there is a big bunch of bad people around this fragrant flower. The person who achieves achievement should never be disappeared from his path. Today, those who are on the throne of power, they should work with balance. If they want to fill the world by their fragrance to others through their roses, they should become neutral. The bacteria develop themselves getting food from the same dirt. Similarly, children who were born in a very weak category, children who are suffering from physical and mental limitations should be further progressing. This is the vision of my own insight. Everyone who has been able to move forward should accept some details shown here :

(1) Those who have received the power of full organs, instead of paying the karma of the prerequisite, instead of having the case of taxation in the amount of debt, the God send them in the world with some challenges.

(2) After the soul came to the universe, beautiful actions of their prior births, their pre-born rewards offered, the peak of the great life achievements is the only objective to seek excellent humanity. With which other humans also receive inspiration. This and many such purposes, the Creator sends the soul with a different body shield, and for that he gives enough energy for a certain time. So that any person who has

gained it, he shouldn't take pride for success. The success of a person is only God's grace towards him.

Although lost eyes in early childhood, he plays with normal children, he take part in all the games, can take part in all sports, like a normal child, he also achieves energy in the heterogeneous situation. When allowing everything, it is sent to the challenge of some situations when it is probably possible to harm the objectives of insertion. All those are God's grace for him. As well as those challenges, the specialty can be received by the grace of Creator only.

The Creator himself takes care to make him super person in his life. I have felt so many times in my life. I felt snakes passing through the space between my two feet moving in grass farms. They have never bitten to me. The situation in that snakes between the two-footed spaces of a person who are unable to see is done by God. I never have, even mistakenly, put my feet on the snake as there is only God is the reason. There are also a lot of incidents in my life in that I have been defended when passing through some of the sharp things. So I believe that more important is God's grace than external or internal sight.

God gives the same life and he himself puts a full stop on it. Despite the whole notion, we do conspiracies to get everything. Sometimes we create many kinds of guile and fraud. On account of all of these things I always feel fear. The mankind has been created for care of Creation of God. We have forgotten that thing absolutely. If not today, then tomorrow, God's rebuke is to meet us. I have penned that thing in my poem titled *Zagmag* :

My heart feels fear where the thorns of fraud are

spread
God feels pain where comfort of others are snatched
My heart feels fear...

Who remembers the blasts of balloons?
Truth is abandoned and bad religions are cherished
there
My heart feel fear where...

Which seems to be existed in the world is different from the reality. There are so many guiles and intrigues. Perhaps it was possible to see the reality with my physical eyes. I have seen the world's reality with my subtle eyes. The physical eye sends the worldly picture to the brain. But inner vision becomes helpful by providing light from metaphysical pictures to the heart and brain.

It is my invocation that each person might become able to get such subtle insight...



(23) The world of hypocrites

Human being is an extraordinary creation of the God. The human being has a special art of captivating everyone by presenting something special than anything else he has. I have always seen: so-called leaders, authorities or officials show as much gentleness and sincerity in their speech as they are not really gentle or serene in their duties. Sometimes even people who insist on being very disciplined are not self-disciplined. People standing in line at the ration shops are seen trying to break through the queue and move on. The same is done by the devotees at the temple.

As much as people are eager to take photographs of people who have been hit by a fatal accident on the road, they are not coming forward to help them. People who spend millions of rupees in clubs in the name of service do not take care of their parents in time. Some families push their parents to old age homes and join such clubs to pretend to serve. Some leaders give speeches on peace and discipline, but they are always "red-yellow" when it comes to meeting such people! Arrogance seems to have become an alternative to their behavior.

Even in organizations working in the name of service, no proper action is taken or work is done in most of the organizations for its true beneficiaries. But when we see documents, websites or videos of such organizations, such organizations appear to be ideal organizations by activity. If we listen to the beneficiaries, they are saying something different. The same is true of government representatives who talk about democracy. Citizens who come for their

actual demands or complaints do not get proper answers from the offices. No proper system for solution of grievances is working. The system that shows on paper does not actually have an existence. It takes days for a file to be submitted for demand or approval from one table to another. And that's why some corrupt person suppresses such files. These are the same people who are talking about something different in public meetings!

After my years of study on the above, I have come to a conclusion: keep yourself active and ignore the faults of others. If this saying is implemented by everyone in life, then all the problems of the world will be solved automatically. We must always be active, even when God tests us. Only hardworking people can succeed. That is why there is a saying in Gujarati that "*there is no alternative to hard work.*" Even in difficult situations, one should not give up hard work by remaining active. We must keep moving forward, even ignoring natural disasters or unforeseen difficulties.

That is why I have written in one of my lines that, "Even if you have snatched the doors of the eyes, o God! You have given the court divine ..." That is, you didn't give the brightness of the eyes, the most merciful God! You have given me wisdom, you have given me diligence to work, you have given me the goodwill of special people, it is even more special to me than *the kingdom of Vaikuntha* when you have given these all to me. That is why I have written: Because, after losing my sight, I had to face many struggles in life, as a result of which I got a chance to differentiate myself from the hypocrites.

Step by step, hypocrites were introduced with me at one or another stage of life. Some people are fasting. It is

called fasting even after eating three times as many calories as you do not take in your daily eating. In the same way, rich people are invited to take meals or dinners and starving poor people are avoided. Meals are served to rich people with hospitality. And the rests of food is given to poor hungry people like they serve it to stray dog.

The world is full of hypocrites. It is also very difficult to take a breath of truth. Man does not get life according to his choice and often does not get human incarnation. Yet we waste our precious human lives. We never thought of a precious life. Assuming that we have to wear as many pieces of untruth as we can to get ahead of others, we run like a deer. Therefore, I pray from my heart to make the journey to the most merciful God from the world of hypocrites successful.



(24) My Contribution to the Development of My School

America's blind-deaf-mute Helen Keller who has made a name for herself all over the world through her special power has raised the pride of the entire disabled world. I think it is appropriate to include in this book the written speech of the same speech given as part of the celebration of Helen-Keller's birthday for the noble purpose of increasing the interest of the students, staff and workers of the institution towards work, so I am literally presenting this speech to you in writing

A school or organization comes into existence because of any situation that appears. Primarily, such an organization consists of two elements: (1) Physical (2) Human.

(1)Physical: Land, building, furniture, computer, various science experiment equipment etc. are considered as material things.

(2)Human: Students or beneficiaries, teachers or other employees, workers, donors etc. come into the human element.

Today the school has enough material resources to meet our needs. We still have a lot of work to do for the development of human resources, including its socio-psychosocial aspects. This is why Technology is being invented day by day. Every day new technologies, new resources and software are coming into the market. We have to learn to use each of them. Thus, we can open new horizons or windows

of school development.

Phases of School Development:

(A) Physical: The school building and furniture have to be fitted with every technology that comes in the market. Proper care and cleaning of the school building or compound has to be taken care of.

(B) Educational: Programs for the development of textbook teaching as well as co-curricular activities have to be prepared. In order to develop proper mental capacity, sports have to be given enough importance in life to prepare a healthy body. While working for holistic development through music and cultural activities, the school will have to make efforts to achieve the top position.

(C) Social: Every student who is rehabilitated in the society after getting education from the school has to be educated in the school so that he becomes aware of the activities of the society in advance and becomes capable and strong in the mainstream of the society.

(D) Economic: In order to meet all the above activities, the organization has to increase the attractiveness of the donors by giving place to result oriented activities which get sufficient financial support. As well as the school has to establish a system that can earn a little money through its own students.

(E)Spiritual: The tree bends downwards when it bears fruits. That is to say that it introduces its own humility without fail to show respect to others after acquiring fruitful wealth. it is necessary that every student educated in the school treats everyone with respect. Every teacher in the school has to provide a spiritual education to the student to

respect others and also honour them. The degree obtained by the student does not become meaningful unless the teacher can inculcate the qualities of discipline in the student. So the institution has to establish a special emotional environment for the spiritual education of the student.

Preparation of Making Adjustments by Adopting New Approaches in Changing Times: As time goes by, the needs and characteristics of a person and customs of society change. In order to adjust all these things, the school and everyone working in the school, has to be changeable. Only then our school can survive in the changing times and make progress. **Acceptance of New Results and Scope for Improvement :**

We have to understand each challenge of the changing situation and accept the new results. As well as the necessary improvements - be prepared to make additions. Only then can we reach the destination on the step ladder of school development.

Motherhood of School:

Every student of the school has to cultivate a feeling that the school is our mother and work for its upbringing and development.

My school is My Embellishment:

Everything a person learns is due to the school that teaches him or her. Anyone is shaped by his or her educational schooling. That is why our Kothari Commission has said in its report that the true future of the country lies in the four walls of classroom. So we all have to make every effort to beautify our school until the rest of our lives. This is why my school is my '*Shrimad Bhagwad Gita*'. Also, my

school complex is the place of origin of the *Vedas* for me. Also, every one of my teachers is *Guru Sandipani* for me. I have come here by the command of God for the welfare of myself and my society. So I will give my due contribution in the development of my school. I am a student, employee, worker or donor of this school. I am proud of that. My school is the most fragrant flower of the worldly garden. It will spread smell all over the world, I have faith in it. So my school will spread its smell everywhere with the fragrance of progress.

"In *the village of Bhavena* and in the abode of learning, a beautiful school appears, how beautiful is my school"!

I think it is necessary to mention one thing here: every year more than 11,000 secondary schools functioning at the state level by the State Education Department examine the school environment, results obtained by students in public examinations, social support obtained by the school, classroom management, grounds and school cleanliness. The best organization is selected for award.

In the year 2016-17, Shri Krishnakumar Sinhji Andh Udyog Shala has been selected as the second best institution in the state. The school has received the award of first best institution in the district and second best in the state. Congratulations to the students, teachers, trustees, activists, donors and well wishers of the school through this book.



(25) Journey on the Way of Welfare

Human life is an invaluable gift of the Nature (God). It's got after the austerity for the millions of years. It cannot be said that a person be a human by his or her incarnation as a human being. Those who have feelings of others sensation can assume the humanity.

I was totally failure in getting such humanity from my birth to year 2013. I would like to say that, there is no little exaggeration because that period was full of darkness of my ego. Because of the carelessness and ignorance to know or to understand others suffering, I could not be successful enough in getting the significance of life. I should accept this politely.

The day of 7th November, 2013 remains a golden day for me. I fall in fatal fever, irremediable illnesses. The God has provided me a golden opportunity to live new life by saving me at last moment with a golden message.

There were spread of lights of the soul in my life. I was introduced with the pain of materially lighted world. The ego is the reason of all sorrows. Avoid it totally in life to live life for the sake others is a real humanity. With the valuable human life to welfare of the soul by self acts (*karmas*), there is a bright opportunity to do well of others. After getting well from illness, to take ahead to the comprehensive development of the life of the blind gave me particular motion for their re-establishment, preparing various programs have been put to the government and the society. As a result, the Gujarat government has accepted the year old demand of the total blind involving as *Vidya Sahayak* recruitment. As it is informed in previous chapter, the state

government accepted many demands this way; it has accelerated my journey on the way of welfare. For it, I heartily thankful of those who were being part of the journey anyway like all the blinds friends, other physically disables brothers-sisters, social workers and the government.

The roots of welfare of all my talks beard witness of my childhood with so many feelings. On the evening of 7th August, 1975, by my eyes, feeling of only light had seen the golden twilight. It was delightful and exciting experience. The mindfulness was whirling with the whirlwind of idea. Going from Maharaja's palace to the house, the twilight was watched was unique. There was a rainbow in the sky. The sight of my eyes were not just like it felt its colours, but I felt its sensation at all. The people passing here were talking about the wonderful descriptive rainbow with full information. All this is refreshed today. It has awakened the emotions. The every colour of the rainbow inspires to begin to serve such distressed class people of society as their necessities. The numerous people have been victimized of rejection. Some have needed a house for living, some have need of grains. Some have need of help for getting facilities in the government offices. Some have need of training and education to develop their talents. I feel like all this information like feeling the colours of dyed twilight as if being a rainbow is inspiring me continuously. So I think that all these experiences should be included in *My Voyage into the Memory - Beats of Life...*

My experiences will be useful to the reader to cultivate his life. Running with regular motion, my journey of life remembers me continuously that, 'your life is an occasion of the blinds and rising of joy,' after the illness, I

always felt happiness despite so many physical limits. Day today new works, efforts to open new horizons, begin undertakings that can increase others confidence; it has become the volition of my life.

Making ecstasy the every heartbeats of life with energy of progress by the light of activities to make the world shining is the mantra of my life. I have seen the world through my finger tips. A successful try has been done to understand the material world by finger. I have enough satisfaction of it.

People can't understand the world by their naked eyes. I have seen it by finger scratch. I have efforts to understand the specialities and limitations of the world by finger scratch because our fingers tips are our special eye!

By them the world can be known and enjoyed. We have the luxury world of voice that I mean that by hearing power, the knowledge and information can be achieved. The work which cannot done by sight of eye, more than that our hearing power can do. All these powers a blind man can be used for his development. As a normal man, he can go ahead by use of above mentioned powers. I want to implement some programs to develop the powers of the blind people.

I have a desire to establish an advanced audible library that each blind person can use for knowledge which they need to get for life development. Apart from power of hearing, smelling organ also is a very important for any sightfulness because aroma and fragrance is a landmark (sign) for the way. Here it can be noted that the identity of the restaurants, gardens, washhouses or other places providing different aroma on the way can be identified from this type of power. Academic programs to develop such powers of blind

have been implemented in the school. Still I will continue the efforts to go further in this direction. For our school students, for the development of the above senses, I will say that these children's finger tips, which we call a unique eye, the colours of art are bloomed, have evolved.

Today, by the usual wonderful cultural works, like the general persons, spells them on the platform and fascinates. I have to fall into discussions with many friends. They say, "You cannot see, so you cannot understand." I told everyone that I understand everything, just you should elaborate perfectly. The God snatched the sight of my eyes, but he has given the unique insight to me. To explain this, I made a special volition to give a special program against society. '*By the Closed Eyes and Wings of Progress*' After losing my eyes, I achieved much success by the use of Wings of development. If it is allowed to present here, I need thousands of pages.

By today, in many many big fairs I have delivered many messages by dialogues with many people. In many rules I was able to do the necessary amendments. For beneficiaries, I have been successful in creating fluxions that benefit them. I got a golden opportunity to cultivate personal relationships with many people. As a result, I am able to establish divine sight art splendour. This is a very unique world, in which I could create a leading organization of the state that can give many of the gates of vision. This organization is the school of the blind named Krishnakumar Sinhji Andh Udyog Shala. Today, the school has education that starts from pre-primary to Std. 12, and many professional courses, computer training, music, home science and children are taught many other skills. Apart from

this, beautiful orchestra and chorus are ready. Many blinds have been economically self dependent after challenging training like electric motor rewinding. Apart from this, under my leadership, organizations like Rashtriya Andhajan Mandal, Bhavnagar District Branch, Akhil Gujarat Netrahin Jagrut Trust, Street Andh Abhyuday Mandal, Bhavnagar etc are educating for employment, reinstatement of blinds etc. There are many schemes such as the integrated education plan of handicapped children, inclusive education, and community-based rehabilitation. I am continuously trying to get the collaboration of society to implement such schemes. Personal talent has always showed the platform that gives the opportunity to bleach their skills to the power of blind people. As a result, the progress of many blind people is moving on the earth. They are on the path of progress in computer, commerce, academic or industrial areas. In the religious field, state's one and only orator Mr. Kunalbhai Joshi who is fascinating the listeners by his recitation of *Shreemad Bhagwad Gita* and other religious books. In a same year, two programs of his *Katha* reciting have been successful in the collaboration with many people in Bhavnagar. That is why I believe this a court of divine art of my life. Because after losing my eyes, I got a chance to develop so many arts. Many people have become known because of art in different fields. This is a luxury world, which I have enjoyed! The journey of this path of welfare will always move forward. The occasions those are presented here are just the glimpse of life. Real life is among the activities. This world is amazed for life to be a living. I have known rainbow colours of life and rainy colours too, and have developed colours of others too.

(26) The School of My Domain

As some educationists believe that our present education does not work to teach anything new, the way, I believe that one cannot teach service or dedication. As education works to awaken the internal powers of a person, the same is of the service sector too. New experiences of life work to sprout seeds in a person.

I don't know how did the service field start in my life but the real school of my service sector is the Andh Abhyuday Mandal, Bhavnagar. What a sensation in this institute! I got this luck to understand and know it.

Shri Shantilal Rugnath Oza whom I can establish as my Guru under whose leadership I got training of working in many sectors and fulfil all work. At that time, office of our organization was near Bhangali Gate in a rental building. There were diamond factories around it. The diamond workers frequently visited the office to do telephone or receive their incoming calls. So there were considerable establishment of relations with them. The beneficiary blinds visited often to the office. The diamond workers did good works to carry them to the bus stand. I always have strong affection for their service instinct. For such great understanding of the uneducated people of village I always felt feelings of honour.

Sometimes there passed strings sensation on my mind for those. At our office, there visited economically very poor blinds and some of them were totally illiterate. The problems and painful matters of these people burned my heart.

The trust office had the time from 10 a.m. to 6 p .m. but I had to come at 8 a.m. to get the benefit of the bus coming

at every two hours interval from Tarsamiya to Bhangli Gate. This bus went first Gangajaliya Talav, Changing the bus from there; I had to reach Bhangali Gate. An hour or a quarter had passed in travelling of these two buses. So I reached the office at 9:15 instead of the 10:00. Before I reached, one or two needy blinds had reached the office. Coming from far, the diamond workers had adjusted them to sit before the office had been open. As I reached the office, the people had already come there. They heard their pains. Some of hungry persons told that they had no facility even for breakfast. As far as possible, I used to help them by my saved pocket money. I always preferred to travel by the municipality bus so that the saved money could be used for the distressed. On those days, the trust had paid me Rs. 700 per month as an adhoc. From the office I went to Gangajaliya Talav and then to Tarsamiya. Some time if the route is changed, I had to go by the bus going to Avaniya or Akvada till Gaushala and from there I had to walk about 1.5 km. to reach my home, Tarsamiya. Sometime I reached my home at about 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. There was no any member who note of coming late because I had lost my mother at very younger age. Sometime, seeing got slept all at home, I preferred to sleep hungry. If calculate slightly, six or seven days had been passed this way. Although at morning, a sweet rebuke was given by home members for not informing them but I didn't want to spoil sleep of anyone. So I preferred to sleep when I reached home late.

All these habits have been useful to me afterwards. There was continuous cultivation of quality of patience, dedication and service spirit. There was a cultivation of mind

to care of others than myself. As a result, I remain effortful to meet more and more people.

I call my service field to my school named Andh Abhyuday Mandal, where there arranged annual congregation every year. Numerous blinds share their problems in the congregation. Some of the members believing the trust a Supreme power presented their problems loudly that the trust can't solve.

The members who are spending their lives any way who have no one in the world, have no any wealth when come in the congregation present their problems believing us their saviours. Some of their problems are domestic, social and political or government system related. They are incapable to do anything and have a great faith upon us. I politely accept that we could not do anything special as per their feelings and demands.

I learnt sublime virtues from my school and I want to go ahead carrying them. Hearing patiently, console any blind person is an important contribution. I have learnt this in my school. Our Shantidada heard every member patiently. Yet many times they insulted him in conference. The general meetings also were disturbed by them many times. It was very difficult to pass the proposals in the meeting. In 1994, before the general meeting was started, *Dada* called me and said that it is very difficult to go through it. XYZ persons have arranged the union to break the meeting down. So that those people might not continue our meeting, our accounts or annual reports might not be passed on. *Dada* was very frustrated and disappointed. Those were the days of my youth. My physical and mental powers were very strong.

I said- "*Dada*, Leave everything upon me. I assure you to pass all the proposals unanimously." After consent of *dada*, I contacted to leaders and discussed with all of them. I handed the responsibility over the same opponents to work peacefully to pass the proposals. I made them bigger. They were happy. And all the proposals were presented by the opponents. All the proposals were passed quietly. The work of entire meeting was finished quietly. *Dada* was fully happy and satisfied. He admired my capability so much. After that I had taken leadership for the most of meetings this way. When I write these experiences, I should tell that the trust has progressed considerably. I have got the opportunities of winning the hearts of all members. Shri Amarshibhai Patel was in charge President of organization for many years. After his death this responsibility was given to me by more than 800 members. I am highly doubtful of every member. Many experiences in the sphere of service have been provided to me by Shri Andh Abhyuday Mandal. I am very thankful of my organization. When many such institutes will spread its fragrance in the field of service, the society will get real service minded soldiers. Hundreds of salutes to my school...



(27) The Search of Truth

Every traveller of Life journey has to reach to the truthful stairs to reach to the enlightenment; otherwise he can't reach to his destination. My life is full of many activities; so many problems were obstructing my journey of progress. I would like to note some occasions here. On 3rd December, 2011, I had to sit for fasting against Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's Sadbhavna Upvasa to get justice. Ten thousand disables were with me for this program in Bhavnagar city. We had arranged a press conference on 30th November, 2011 at 4 p.m. to pass on the information of it to the people. The journalists who were present there, asked me so many confusing questions encircling me. They asked questions like how to survive against the system, how we would stand against the system. I have answered to every journalist courageously. After assuring to the journalists that public movement will be continued without any shame, pressure. But the Government has started to pay to the special teachers of the disables by releasing the grant overnight. The Government has started preparation that any way, the fasting movement must not be against the CM's Sadbhavna Upavasa. Not only consultation has been started with us but the respondent authority has also assured to solve our problems on behalf of the Government. Keeping this fact in consideration, our union has decided to postpone the movement. Thousands of disables who came in the fasting movement on the 3rd December had to go back.

Till today I could not decide that the decision of keeping the movement on hold, was right or proper or not.

Some people told us that the decision was improper. The numerous disables who appeared with us did not know anything about the decision. Some of them were saying in our support that when now the Government has given the assurance in written, then there was not any reason to keep movement continued.

There was a different attitude in solving the problem, then the Government has given the assurance on the agreement, but after long time the Government has fulfilled our demand at the end. It shows that our fight was right. The truth was with us. Gandhiji got the victory in Africa first, then in Champaran and in the Kheda movement. It was all because of Bapu's *Satyagrah*. He always kept insistence of truth. So he could identify all his movements as the *Satyagrah*. So I also named our movement the *Search of Truth (Satyani Shodh)*. To name the *Search of Truth* for the movement, which was for the deprived is the honour of the movement that was for the people for whom there is a legal provision as per act to have eligible education, employment and re-establishment opportunities are necessary. When I am writing this chapter, before some days, the Government accepted theoretically; those who are 100 % blinds are included in the list of *Vidyasahayak*. That also is the result of our movement. If Mahatma Gandhi can independent us by bending the British rule, we also can be helpful to the deprived who are physically or mentally disables. Keeping this principle into the centre of my heart, I started to do good work to yield justice to the deprived.

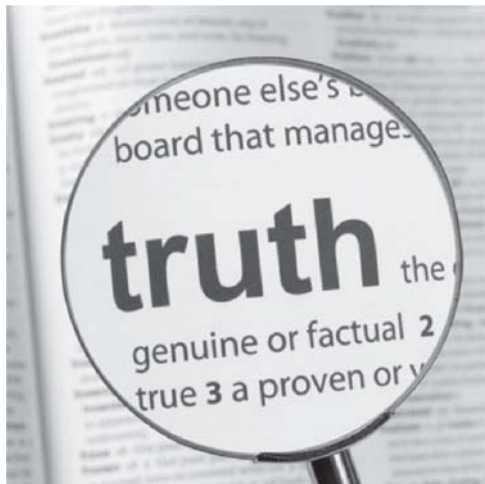
To continue the public interest movement there is necessity of so many people in it. So as to the disables can be

a part of every fields like normal people. They need specific instruments and education places which can provide them quality education. Colleges and universities should fulfil the requirement of special teachers for them. As the darkness of night goes away and the world becomes shiny in the morning, the same way by the light of education, the deprived and the distressed people can be unlighted. By involving them in main stream, the people might become integral part of the society.

So my fierce search for this field will be continued. People talking the truth follow so many untruths. Such a way the authoritarian showing literally sensation, in real life, provides proper opportunities to the disables. I am always disappointed about the fact. To get out of this situation, there is a requirement of culturization.

For the purpose of sowing the seeds of sensation (emotions) in the heart of the students, both the boys and girls, various programmes are planned every year in which the blind can perform their art skills and abilities. Its good results also are found day by day. New visitors come here every day. For small or big programs, they provide economical help also. As a result of it, very good programs can be planned during the year. I understand that it is the credit of the school or institute. The school or institute which can plan such programs getting enough public help is a good institute. It's not important that how much bank balance the institute has in the bank but it's more important that collecting fund from public help at a time and complete the plan successfully. The good institute should keep its accounts transparent. To involve so many people in the

activities, they should classify the work. The people who assign responsibilities as much as possible can become the active participants. Consequently the encouragement of such people is increased. They can feel that they also are an important part of the institute. Thus the institute's union will be strong enough. The institute which has a strong union, every member honours each other, applaud each others' work power, and is a healthy institute. As a strong body feels healthy, the institute full of throbbing activities shows real unity. This is the real search of truth.



(28) And This is My Will...

In this ephemeral world, when the travelling of a traveller goes to the end, it is certain to depart for the last destination. That means, it has to land in the holy place, the soul has to be ready for the re-travel of new birth on the earth.

Before destroying the assumed body, the soul that goes up and down, should prepare a will and only then he should depart from here by being a guide to their inheritors. As my point of view, every person should prepare a will of the internal wealth instead of physical one.

I know that I am not an owner of a big materialistic wealth, yet a thought of constructing a will come to me. It's not a surprise to me because I don't believe the materialistic wealth as a valuable wealth. So there is not a question of forming a will of the material wealth. The internal wealth is the invaluable wealth. Its responsibility of the whole human being not to be wasted it. So as a little member of the world, I am presenting my will so that the internal wealth which I got can be used by my next generation inheritors properly.

It is my humble request to all my relatives, friend circles and familiars that don't weep at the time of my death. Instead of weeping, the works which I have done some of them which I could not finish or some of them could not be done as per expectations to be complete them. Avoid the rituals totally. The money which saved from these rituals, keep reserved for those who are distressed, ill, and weak and for all those who cannot develop themselves because of lack of money. And reserve for them who have a need of a big amount of money to open the horizon of education. The amount which has been kept reserved should be used for the purposes mentioned here.

- 1) Birth and death are two sides of the same coin, so both are holy. In our society both of them are believed unholy (*sutak*). Avoid the false concept; accept both concepts as a normal life.
- 2) Every person is a human. Don't evaluate them by their caste. Classify them by their education and quality.
- 3) Instead of enjoying holyday on the day of death or birth, do some special good work and make the memorable.
- 4) By framing some days of Life in the certain time table, plan to use every moments in welfare of the world.
- 5) They all are inheritors of this will with whom I got the opportunity to cultivate acquaintance in life. So its my polite request to every inheritor to make invaluable human life fulgent by following my will.

I politely inform to the relatives that *varshi, shradha* are the concepts of the mankind (*mrityuloka*), so don't accept them because I am a traveller of having travelled of numerous births. This travelling of mine is to be continued forever with certain motion. During the time period of the travelling, I have never remembered anything of the pre-birth. Being of so many births, we all are paternal, yet never ate *shraddh* being a crow. So there should be no place for these rituals in life. Those who are busy accepting these rituals, I salute them. I am not any atheist person. I understand the God's wonderful world formation is its grace to me. So throwing a coin to the step of God's legs I understand it's our pride. If you want to offer wealth to the step of God, it should be offered to the unhappy people because every struggling human being is a part of the world formed by God. Sending these people in the world, He wants

to know how much we are emotional. Thus He threw a challenge asking us to write the paper of the examination. So I don't accept the rituals which are being followed by us traditionally. Here I remember an example. There was a great master .He used to do the *shraddh* of his paternal on the full moon night in the month of *Bhadarava* regularly. He used to bind his pet cat in advance so that it can't touch the *Dudhpaak* (liquid made of sweet milk). After some time the master died. Now it was turn of his sons of doing the *Sharddh* for him. But the cat was died before the master. So there was no any movement of the cat in his house, yet they found a cat from village at the time of *Shraddh*, before the ritual the cat was bound. Someone asked; why is the cat bound here. The sons replied to united: “Their father also used to bind the cat at time his father's *Shraddh*, so we also bound a cat so that the *Sharddh* can reach to their father. This type of traditional rituals might enter in following blindly. I believe this firmly. So I request to all my inheritors not to give place this type of any rituals after my death. As the traveller keep change the bus, and as the travelling get ends or reaching the destination gets down the bus, the same way when the days of life get end, the immortal soul leave the body to assume another body. Behind it there is no place for any rituals. If there is a place, it's for the good karmas done by the person. Leading ahead these works, we have done the real paternal *Shraddh*. It's my opinion. I know that it may hurt to the people who have faith and belief in the traditions. But it's my humble request to the people who have religious belief behave as their belief. Here I have presented thoughts in my will, they are bound and limited only for the inheritors of my ideology.

**There's no digital summation in the Mathematics
of life struggle...**

**There's no letter of permit to reach to the destination
of goal...**



SENSIBILITY

The great is sensibility of your touch
You salvaged the woman Ahalya

So ubiquitous is your skill
Opened the window for the eyeless

My heart wobbles always
Sings your eulogy always

The queen of nerves
Became the ladder of this man

So achieved the capital of letters
'Zagmag' writing the speech of poet

કોરોના ભગાડો

કોરોના વાઈરસને ચાલો ભગાડીએ...(૨)
આખા વિશ્વને બચાવીએ રે ચાલો ભગાડીએ,
કોરોના વાઈરસને ચાલો ભગાડીએ... (૨)
ઘરમાં રહીએ ને બહાર ન જઈએ, લોકડાઉન નિયમનું પાલન કરીએ,
સોશિયલ ડિસ્ટન્સને અક્સીર અપનાવીએ,
કોરોના વાઈરસને ચાલો ભગાડીએ... (૨)
પાણી ને સાબુથી હાથ પહેલા ધોઈએ, સેનિટાઈઝરને ઉપયોગમાં લઈએ,
છીંક, ઉઘરસ આડે રૂમાલ રાખીએ,
કોરોના વાઈરસને ચાલો ભગાડીએ...(૨)
આવેલ આફતને આપણે હરાવીએ, સાથે મળી જંગ જરૂર જીતીએ
દુનિયામાં દેશનો ડંકો વગાડીએ, કોરોના વાઈરસને ચાલો ભગાડીએ,
કોરોના વાઈરસને ચાલો ભગાડીએ...(૨)

- **લીલાબેન એલ.સોનાણી**



