

Scribbles

Bringing colour to your lives

Volume No. 3

December 2012 - January 2013

Issue No. 8

From the Editor's desk...

My first memory of a teacher is the one who was my class teacher in nursery - she was an Anglo-Indian, old and very endearing. May be that's why I remember her still! You don't forget your teachers fast! Why? It's not that you liked all of them or respected all of them. You actually probably did both. It would be interesting to hear from you why we don't forget our teachers in school and college very easily.

My first job was that of a teacher, hence, I have a soft corner for that fraternity. It is a job that has left an indelible impression. All of us have commented on our teachers in school and college. Have you tried being one? Of course, the days I was a teacher would be considered the Stone Age by today's kids. There was just Doordarshan to watch and no mobile phones! May be I had an easier time than today's teachers have. That I was a teacher for 4 years and then changed track completely did not mean that the Teacher phase of my life died. It still is there. I still get calls from students - many are in senior positions in organisations. If someone meets me, they still talk with pride about 'those days' (I was considered a good teacher!). It is a profession that leaves a mark - good or bad.



After I started working, I thought that there would be no more teacher - student relationship. How is that possible in organisations? You could have coaches, mentors, but not teachers, I thought. I was jerked out of this foolish thinking when on a Teachers Day I got a lovely card from one of my team members thanking me for being a Teacher. That's when it dawned on me that Teachers are there in different forms in your life, right through your life. I became conscious after that revelation that I have a role to play as a Teacher. It has been interesting to be a Teacher in an organisational context. It means that people are looking to learn from you - be it knowledge or skills. People approach you to help them solve their problems - be it personal or official. People expect you to value add, when they get stuck or jammed! The more they learn from you, the higher their engagement and therefore, belonging.

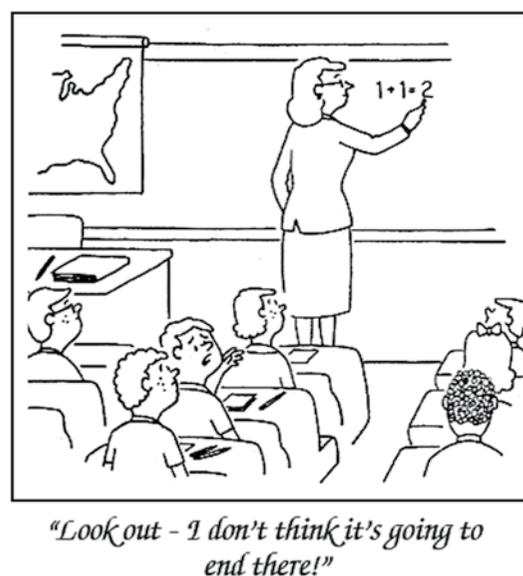
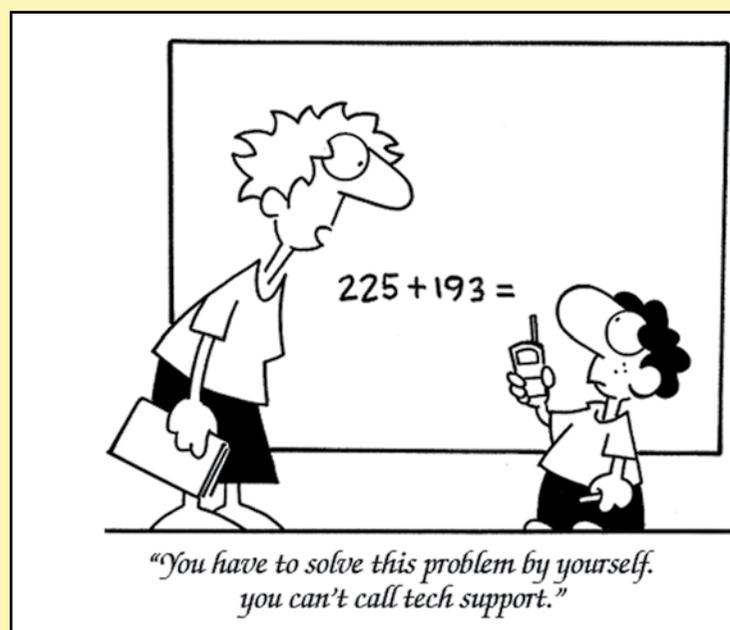
It is in this background that we ran a survey of who are considered good teachers in The Sanmar Group. We got around 80 responses out of the 200 people we asked. There were a few who emerged as 'popular' teachers. We have featured what people had to say about them in this issue.

We also received a good response in terms of contributions about teachers - from colleagues and families. The contributions from colleagues are emotional, nostalgic... goes back to what I said, you do not forget your teachers fast.

So I hope many of us turn out to be good teachers and I hope you enjoy reading this Special Issue which we have dedicated to Teachers.

Ciao until the next issue.

Aravinda Jagann



Guess Who? ! Given at the bottom of each page are the tips that will lead on to the photo of the person on the last page.

Om Sri Gurubhyo Namaha



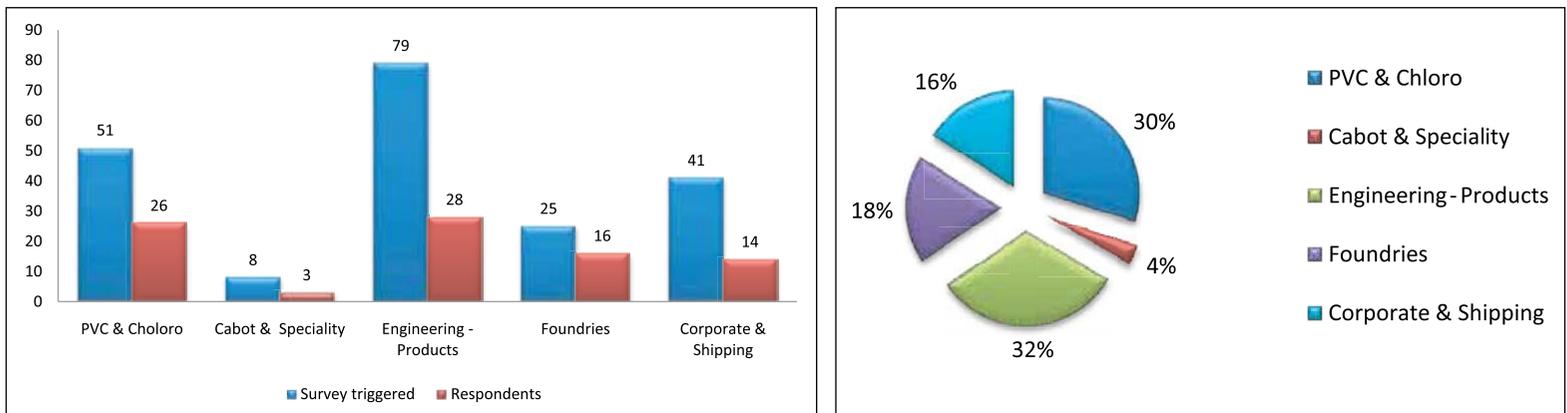
Teachers play a vital role in our work-life. Several teachers have enriched our planet over the centuries - Confucius, Aristotle, Isaac Newton, Maria Montessori, Galileo, Ayn Rand, Stephen Hawking, William Dubois and Albert Einstein, to name a few. The Scribbles team seized an opportunity to gather opinions from some 'grateful students' at Sanmar.

We conducted a survey among a selective group of Sanmarites to find who in their opinion is a good teacher for them at Sanmar. Managers and higher who have been in the Group for over 5 years were the respondents for a short survey. We share their views with you.

Questions in the survey

1. Name the person or persons whom you consider to be a good teacher in Sanmar.
2. What are the qualities in him or her that inspires or inspired you?

Out of the 200 who were surveyed, 87 responded. (Thanks to all the respondents...)



Survey response - Business (division) wise categorisation

Many respondents had mentioned more than one good teacher at Sanmar. It was a long list with 73 teachers named.

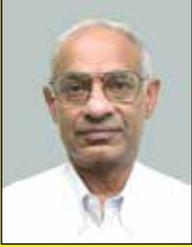
Sanmarites came up with several thoughts and qualities that they found in their good teachers at work.

- ◆ Teaches, inspires, guides and transforms
- ◆ Very confident
- ◆ A passion for perfection
- ◆ Handles critical situation with calmness
- ◆ Driving you to be perfect
- ◆ Practicality
- ◆ Clarity of thought
- ◆ Effectively manage time
- ◆ Continuous effort to impart knowledge/update in latest technologies and systems
- ◆ Ethical in conduct
- ◆ Excellent in leadership
- ◆ Take ownership and responsibility of the work
- ◆ Passionate to share knowledge and experience

(Salutations to Guru)

Teachers at Sanmar who were named by many.

We present verbatims about them.



MN Radhakrishnan

The untiring quest for perfection and detail in everything. Clarity in concepts. Dedication to excellence. Commitment & perseverance. Innovative thinking. Passion for the subject. Role model of ethical conduct. Goes by fundamentals & logic. Excellent in numbers and data based decision-making. Can switch gears from business strategy to execution.



S Gopal

Analytical skills. System development. Clarity of thought. Passion for subject. Good communication. Attention to details. Believes in that 'Things should move on with good systems and practices and not by one individual'. Effective delegation. Shares knowledge without hesitation.



Sarada Jagan

Clarity in communication. Execution skills. Warmth and genuine interest in making others perform. Clarity of thought and conviction in writing. Shares knowledge without hesitation. Her complete 'Sanmar ness' and tremendous knowledge of our people and policies.

Good leader – confident and develops confidence in the team. Ability to handle critical situations with ease. Good communication, delegation and administrative skills. Time Management and effective planning to enhance productivity. Good interpersonal skills. Ability to manage change within self and helps others to do the same.



S Venkatesan

Confidence, patience and dedication to excellence. Encourages learning from experience. Interest to pass on knowledge to others in the organisation to help them excel. Technical Orientation. Systematic approach to work.



R Venkataramani

Knowledge bank and urges the team towards continuous learning. Allows people to work independently and handle situations. Updated on latest technologies and encourages others to keep updated as well. Helps identify mistakes through self reflection and then provides corrective actions.



V Ramachandran

It is important to remember that each and every one of us is a teacher. No matter who the teacher is, there are lessons to be learnt and practiced.

"Jayanthi was a Telephone Operator in Sanmar for over 4 decades. Ever smiling, she was invariably the first person that any visitor to the 8th floor interacted with. She would judge the urgency of the situation, and react accordingly. Despite many personal issues, she continued to do her job with a smile. Take pride in whatever you do is what I have learnt from her. One may say that a Telephone Operator's job is dull and boring but she did it with a passion. And she was good at it."

– *Lavanya Venkatesh on Jayanthi, who was a Telephone Operator in Sanmar for over 4 decades.*

"Aranganathan inspires me with tireless smile all through the day."

– *S Murugesan on Aranganathan, 5th Floor Attender.*

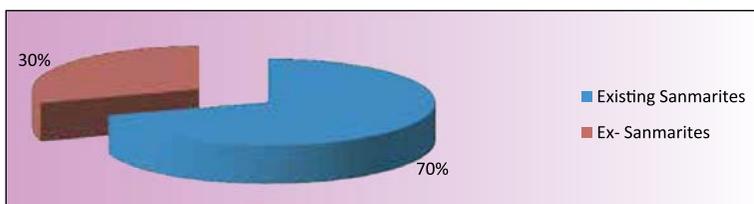
"The way he manages to smile in face of the worst crises."

– *B Natraj on Ramakrishnan, 7th Floor Attender.*



Teacher always

Truly inspirational teachers are a league of their own. They are the ones who change people's lives – forever.



Sanmarites named several teachers who continue to motivate and inspire them even after they have moved out of the organisation. 30% of the teachers who were named are ex-employees of Sanmar who are still remembered. Some excerpts about those great teachers.

SR Seshadri is a role model of ethical conduct and is highly passionate to share the knowledge and experience.

CP Saranathan was a born Chemical Engineer. He has ideas by the dozen and would not worry about sharing them.

P Chandrasekharan was always had a positive feedback to give when one achieved what he thought was good.

R Ramesh Babu treated people well and took unbiased views in any situation, which is a great lesson one can learn from him.

R Sundaresan went with the basic issues while solving a problem and looked into details in depth while analysing.

S Chakrapani was unbiased with subordinates, strict on results, good in identifying and encouraging performers.

N Sivakumar has abundant knowledge and wisdom and ready to share if one is sincere and interested.

P Chandramouli was good in commitment and perseverance. Very innovative in thinking and takes people along with him.

P Natarajan taught about project execution skills and inspired being a great teacher.

R Natarajan always taught to take ownership and responsibility of the work.

SM Sundaram taught about exploring the potential of the team and also made them understand their strengths.

NS, The

This was my first job - and everything was new (Right from the computer, the bell system, the rules on protocol, the in and out trays). Like any fresher, I was idealistic, eager and enthusiastic.

The 8th floor was a good place to start a career since we could get a bird's eye view of the entire spectrum. When I joined in 1994, I was overawed by the variety of assignments that I was doing. But it took almost 18 months to understand and appreciate the work that happens there. Initially I thought I was on a roller-coaster going in all directions, slowly, I began to realise that it was a long drive. It was very exciting to meet senior people and interact with them. The "Kavach" of NS office helped immensely in these discussions – for people had to give me their fullest attention!

While the experience was very rich in diversity, it was no means easy. NS by nature is a perfectionist – and he never accepted any analysis unless it was 100% to his satisfaction. Sometimes, there used to be as many as 10 iterations – initially I found this as a big challenge.

There are many things that I have learnt while working in proximity with NS. Multi-tasking – he could analyse a funds flow statement then in the next 10 minutes discuss a HR policy. NS staunchly believes in logic – all his decisions are driven by logic – and he has stressed the importance of recording the logic clearly for future references. The importance of logic and assumptions over computer printouts! I can't count the number of times I have heard this. A scientific approach to everything - be it leave policy or key clauses in an agreement - "Think like an Engineer" – again a mantra chanted many times. NS is very organised in his day-to-day activities - the way his in-tray papers were segregated, daily "to talk to" and "to meet" lists were maintained. (That's something I have tried to imbibe from both NS and my mother – unsuccessfully). And though he keeps saying "I don't understand computers" – he is very tech savvy – and when he let me operate the new projector in the board room – I knew finally I had won his confidence!

This is my 18th year in Sanmar and except for brief assignments in other functions, I was never away from NS office. There are so many experiences that I cherish – and assignments that I value. Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand. Most of what I know and understand about Sanmar is because of one man.

Lavanya Venkatesh,
Directors' Office, Corporate, HO.

Teacher



Writing about N Sankar (NS) while still working at Sanmar carries with it the hazard of being construed to be engaging in the act of imparting a vigorous shine to a Newtonian fruit. Hopefully, those who know me personally, will give me the benefit of doubt.

Some background first – I was all of 26 years old and 5 years into my career when, in 1993, I was transferred to NS’ office as his Executive Assistant. Given the stature of my boss-to-be, and his fearsome reputation of being a hard taskmaster, I was understandably nervous. Little did I then understand what a career-defining and transformational move that would turn out to be. I was in his office till 1996 and this three year period has been the foundation of my professional life since then.

The first thing that struck me about him was his militaristic discipline and absolutely organised approach to his work day. He has this home-grown system of tracking phone calls, papers that come to him for clearance and meetings – inspite of the intense demands on his time, I have never seen a phone call that was not returned, a paper that was not returned within a day with a clear decision, or a meeting that did not start on time. This level of organisation of daily activities is, unfortunately, something I most certainly have not imbibed from him.

NS has this ability to very quickly see the essence of any issue, by cutting through all the peripherals. This is something that I have seen over the years, and is worthy of emulating (that is easier said than done, though). He would take a five page note (which concept, incidentally, he detests – left to him, he would want the Chennai telephone directory on one page) of some supposedly very complex matter, and immediately identify the real issue which needs a decision.

Another thing that left a very forceful impression on me, is his dedication to anything that he took up. He gives to his club or chamber of commerce or charitable trust commitments, the same level of dedication and focus that he displays for work – and it is not as if he has a lot of time on hand.

He is also very passionate about learning new concepts. In the early nineties (the years of the electronic typewriter, PC XTs, and Lotus 123), Sanmar was evaluating a transition in investment appraisal techniques from the simple payback method to the Internal Rate of Return and Net Present Value. NS actually borrowed the CA Institute study material on this subject from us in the outer office to acquaint himself on the concepts. He believes in being completely prepared for all meetings and hates anybody trying to “wing” his way through.

Of course, he has his strong views on some matters. For instance, he firmly believed that only engineers really understand arithmetic. The rest, and in particular Chartered Accountants (the tribe to which I belong) are, in his opinion, seriously challenged in the ‘third R’. Any amount of persuasion to the contrary has not convinced him otherwise (I am still trying though).

He was also (in those three years, and most likely even today) very particular about all of us following processes and would get very upset if we mess up on that. We may get away with making mistakes in our work but, if we messed up on any defined process (like not following the set rules for sending in papers to him), God save us (actually, I am not sure even He could).

I could go on – for there are many things I have learnt from him. Instead, I will end with the closing lines of a note I wrote to him in 1996 when I left his office.

“NS, I entered your office with trepidation. Three years later, I leave with confidence. Thank you for giving me that confidence.”

I am still thanking him for that confidence.

Ramkumar Shankar,

Business Managers’ Office, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.

It was a wonderful experience to have had the opportunity of working for NS at an early stage in my career. Speed, accuracy and completeness of data / analysis were (and are I guess) the norm. The access to NS’ way of thinking and his interactions with top management were, at that time a little “over my head”. However, the lessons learnt then are a great help today.

As a direct reportee to NS the first challenge is on time - not only the start and end time each day but also the time within which each job is expected to be completed.

The next one is on being as organised as he was (and is).

The last but not the least, his memory and trying to counter that is a big NO.

J Ramdas,

Finance, Sanmar Foundries, HO.



The teacher who inspired me was Miss White at the Kolar Gold Field School. She taught us English Grammar and Social Studies in the 5th and 6th Standards.

Very often, it is the fate of good teachers to be cursed and reviled by their students, only to be deified later when wisdom dawns on these very same students much, much later in life. Miss White is one such example.

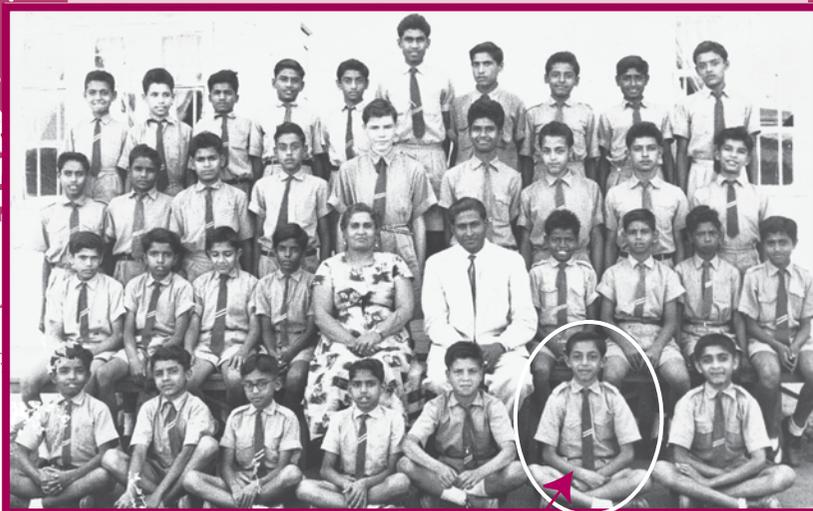
She never forgave even punctuation errors in our English essays. Every dot, comma, colon and semi-colon had to be in place. We literally had to dot our i's and cross our r's. Years later, after I had joined Sanmar, I happened to visit our Interco office in Singapore and the staff there asked me if I had studied in England. I said no. Then they said I spoke with a clipped accent very much like the British. Miss White instantly came to my mind. When we read passages in English, she would correct our pronunciation. She taught us to say where, what, when etc., with narrowed lips and a loud exhalation. I always had to be silent in words like Honour, Hour etc.

She attended the rehearsals of our annual concerts just to make sure that our pronunciation was correct since we were speaking in front of our parents and other guests.

It wasn't just the English. She taught me punctuality, civic consciousness, respect for elders, religious tolerance and many, many other values which have made me what I am today. A group of boys of the Class of 65 met up for a reunion in KGF recently. Some of my friends had come over from England and Australia. All of us had fond memories of Miss White even though she was a terror (or so we thought!) when we were students.

May her Soul Rest In Peace!!

AH Kesari Prasad, *Business Managers' Office, HO.*



AH Kesari Prasad



A good Teacher is a person who not only imparts the concerned subject (that has been assigned to her) to the student, but also who can also enlighten thoughts, which makes the student a successful person in his/her career.



I have come across such a teacher who taught me Mathematics during my Engineering College days. The first teacher whom I met in the college during my admission was this

teacher, who gave me the confidence and positive words when I first went into my class room, where I met a whole of lot of students who were totally new to me.

I was the department topper for the first 3 semesters and when I got low marks in my 4th semester (when I clearly knew that I had written my exams well), I was totally shattered and shocked. Generally the 4th semester marks were published in the mid of 5th semester, it was about to take a toll on my studies for the remaining period. When this happened, this teacher gave encouraging words, advised, guided me through that phase, which I still feel was one of the low points of my life.

This really helped me get out of that bad patch and propelled me in my studies and I became the college topper (of all the 4 departments that were that time in my college) in the 6th semester.

It has been a decade now that I have completed my Engineering, but I still maintain contacts and get advise from the teacher, which I value to a great extent.

Rajesh Jagan, *Purchase, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.*

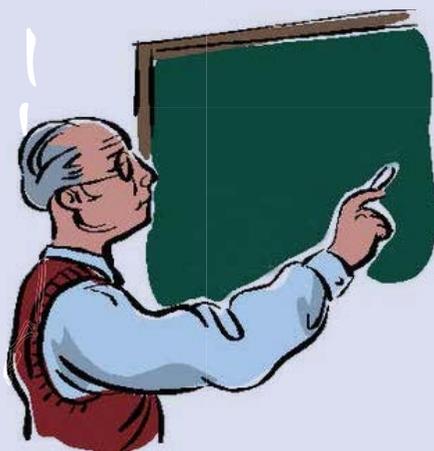


Parthasarathy Iyengar, my teacher for the class (VII Std & VIII Std), English & Maths) – a tall lanky man, steely built, always clad in white khader dhoti, a long white khader jubba (long enough to make us crookedly wonder why he should ever need a dhoti), and

a white towel hanging on the right shoulder, which we have never seen him using. The very name used to send an uneasy chill up our spines for no reasons as quite a few of us were obedient, disciplined. Occupying the front 2 rows we were always among the top ten in the class featuring in a staggered manner, besides volunteering to run errands for the teacher, so that we can loosen our nerves a bit for some time away from him.

In my school days, the 3 vacations (after the quarterly, half-yearly and annual exams) used to be very electrifying. We used to occupy the streets from morning till late evening playing all sorts of games and in-between scurry home for lunch. Parents used to make us sit for some time every day in between and made us do the holiday homework in such a way that we did not become pale and jittery on the last day of our holidays.

It was during one such holiday, a huge portion of Maths paper was still incomplete.



Finally, I decided to leave a few blank pages, write the last answer, present the last page to the teacher for his signature along with other open notebooks. When I met him

last year, I collected myself to boldly disclose this fact and all that he could do was a hearty laugh and a mock knuckle punch in the air.

N Srinivasaraghavan, *Support Services, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.*



As the old saying deliberates – the order of importance is as follows. Mother, Father, Guru and God. Experiencing spiritualism (Him) is impossible without the guidance of a Guru. Only a Guru (teacher) can help us understand / experience divine.

Man needs wisdom. Only if a 'sishya' seeks will the 'guru' find him / her. One such great soul who lived among us is spiritual guru 'Shri Vethathiri Maharishi'. He was born in 1991 in Guduvancherry near Chennai. He has blended both Advaita & Rajayoga. He guided many laymen like me. He also taught technology and spirituality together. His outstanding contribution towards human race is offering of Kundalini yoga exercise to women.

Gu means darkness

Ru means light that chases darkness in us.

Guru helps us to chase the negligence (darkness in us) and guide us towards light (Spiritualism). They lead a life, which is no different from their teachings.

P Prabaharan, *Production, SSCL, Berigai.*

5 September is Teacher's Day

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, was a philosopher and a teacher par excellence,



whose contributions towards Indian education system were immense. Dr Radhakrishnan believed that "teachers should be the best minds in the country". On one of his birthdays, some of his students and friends requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday. In reply, Dr Radhakrishnan

said, "instead of celebrating my birthday separately, it would be my privilege if September 5th is observed as Teacher's day". From then onwards, Dr Radhakrishnan's birthday is observed as Teacher's Day all across India.

The Teacher who inspired me



My teacher Ms. Santhi taught me Zoology from 6th to 12th standards at St. Aloysius School in Rayappanpatti, Theni. I did not study well up to 10th standard. When I was in class 11, our teacher called my parents for a meeting.

She spoke to my mother and my mother broke down and confided with my teacher on the family circumstances. Understanding the situation my teacher gave some sound advice “Maharajan, please understand your family situation. You need to study well and do not get into bad habits.” That day I promised her to do so. Till date I have kept my word to my teacher.

In my 12th standard, I stood first in class and scored the highest marks from my village. Due to family circumstances I chose to discontinue studying and started working at a cotton mill.

Around that time I met my teacher again and though she was not in a position to help me financially, advised me to pursue my graduation in Chemistry. With the help of my uncle I completed my graduation and post graduation. I also secured a job through campus selection at Sanmar.

My teacher’s advice has helped me settle in life and support my family.

M Maharajan, *Quality, SSCL, Berigai.*



I remember my younger son Pravin’s teacher when he was studying VIII Standard in Amritha Vidyalayam, Trichy. Ms. Balaprabha remains his class teacher from VII Standard till date.

Like all children, my son too wastes lot of food and vegetables during lunch. The School does not allow parents during lunch break.

One day during lunchtime his teacher saw him throwing away carrots. She sat near him and spoke for few minutes. She explained to Pravin, “See your mother struggles so much and works hard to prepare the dish. Think of how much cost is incurred for preparing this. Your mother thinks you will eat all this and become energised. But you are wasting your strength, your dad’s money and your mother’s feelings.”

Pravin came home that evening and narrated the incident to my wife and me. For the past one and a half years he has never wasted any food and has also taught the same to his younger brother.

Hats off to his teacher who inspired not only my son but me as well.

E Pasupathi, *Production, Sanmar Foundries, Viralimalai.*

Throughout my life I have to be grateful to two teachers.



First teacher is my mother. During my elementary schooling (2nd/3rd Std), we used to buy “Sudesamithran” a Tamil fortnightly. From that my mother used to tell two stories, one is Mahabharatham (By Kripananda Variar) and the other one is “Sunduviral Seema” (a story by Kalvi Gopalakrishnan – about a boy who accidentally became the size of the little finger. My mother instead of reading the story from the book, would ask me to read the sentence and explain the meaning!) This has helped my reading and enhanced pronunciation, besides developing my imagination.

The second teacher, I wouldn’t forget in my life is Mr. Ramdoss (High School Maths Teacher of Bharathi Vidyalaya (Junction), Salem.) During my 10th/11th Standard, although I scored above 70% in all the subjects, I would fail in Mathematics. Because of this I would not get a rank as ‘passing in all subjects’ is a pre condition for awarding the rank. This gave me an inferiority complex and also damaged my self confidence considerably.

Then in 11th Std., after checking with some of his friends, my father fixed tuition classes with Mr. Ramdoss, who was a well known mathematics teacher in Junction Bharathi Vidyalaya. He had a long stick in his hand and during the initial week, I was not comfortable with this. Mr. Ramdoss explained the reason why he held a stick which was to point out at the mistake in my note. He further assured that he would never beat students and was open to teach them the sums more that 100 times as long as it was done correctly the 101st time. In subsequent exams my mathematics marks improved and I started scoring centum in Mathematics. Mr. Ramdoss had not only taught me mathematics, but had improved my self confidence!

R Shreeram, *HR, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.*

Teachers’ Jokes

Teacher: You promised me to submit me a paragraph, right?

Student: Yes Sir.

Teacher: And I also promised that if you fail to submit it, I will punish you, right?

Student: Yes Sir, so it will be fair if you break your promise too.

Teacher: Tell me an example of a creature which can live on water as well as the land.

Student: Frog.

Teacher: Another example.

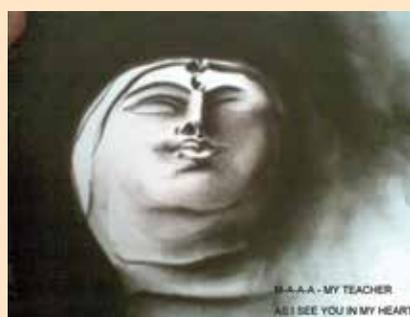
Student: Another frog.

The teacher who ignited the spark in me

School days are the most memorable days and all students must enjoy it. My teacher Ganga mam clears all the doubts with patience. She is a jovial person who becomes serious when necessary. She was our class and English teacher. She made me get a limpid vision about the life ahead. Whenever a student is in a dilemma she will help the student to solve his/her problem. I have cherished so much after a year with her. She felicitates me every time I did something good. She takes care of a student in trouble. She mingles with the students as a friend rather than a teacher. If our class wins in any competition, she gets equally excited and happy sharing the joy and pride with us at all times. Having a teacher like her is sheer luck.

She encourages me in academics and she has and will always have hope on me, which makes me want to improve in every aspect of life. To do great things in life we need three important people who will stand forever to support us those three people are mother, father and teacher. I'm so grateful to have a teacher like Ganga mam. She is quintessence of a perfect and clever person in handling students. Every day has been a wonderful day during the year and every day she would bring new things to our attention. The time spent learning from her were the most memorable in my school life. She is the one who inspired me a lot.

S Gayathri, IX Std, D/o V Subramanian, Central Accounts, Corporate, HO.



A Charcoal Drawing by Ms. Somdutta Das, NIFT, D/o Gautam Das, Sales, Flowserve Sanmar, Delhi.



“A single great professor, a single great lecture, even a single challenging question by a master teacher can be the spark that ignites a flame that will change the life of a student forever.”

When I was in school we had a science teacher named Mrs. Mayura Parikh. She used to teach science from class 8 onwards.

One day she explained the science behind seed germination and the dormant life within seed, which inspired me to learn science, understanding the principles and hidden facts. She was an angel to me. She not only taught us the basic science but also the art of living and many other skills for better life and how to climb the ladder of success.

She has sown a seed of dream for future scientist and said “look this girl will turn out as a scientist one day”. I was not able to understand the meaning of it then. But today her forecast has come true. With her blessings and my determination and hard work, I have achieved my dream. I have been awarded Doctorate degree in the field of Life Science. I salute my honourable teacher.

Dr. Darshika Shah, W/o Nayan Shah, Sales, Flowserve Sanmar, Baroda.

A “Guru” really means “one who reveals the target to us”.

Though my target was not clearly explained, but the way to reach the target was explained to me by my Medical Transcription Faculty, Dr. Riyaz. He was only 23 at that time.

Education, which was tough (ofcourse it was) to me till then, was made easy by “LOGICAL



THINKING”. This concept of thinking was inculcated in my mind only after 10+2+4 years of education (I am a B.Pharmacy Graduate).

Dr. Riyaz was a good punishing teacher. His comments were rude but civilised. The “IMPOSSIBLES” are “POSSIBLE” now only because of his good teaching and comprehensive definitions. He made me a master in human anatomy and physiology within just four months.

After undergoing all the pains and pressures of learning, when I completed the course. When I turned back to see the rest, I was leading others not only as a “Medical Transcriptionist”, but also as a good “Faculty”.

I learnt the secret. The simple way to keep the whole lecture room attentive, keep the students engaged with simple questions to solve which is not possible until a faculty knows the subject well.

Thank you Dr. Riyaz. My passion for learning is still on only because of you.

Vanaja Mathan Raj, W/o T Mathan Raj, Production, Sanmar Foundries, Viralimalai.

Many teachers have inspired me and also my duty towards my parents that helped me to achieve what I have done in life.

I was in Meghalaya (Shillong) during my childhood. The local language is Khasi and in school only Khasi and English were taught as main subjects.

Unfortunately, being a Bengali, I did not get the opportunity to learn my mother tongue.

After my marriage, I moved to Kolkata. Staying in Kolkata, made me realise the love towards my mother tongue and how much I would love to learn it.

As said by Albert Einstein “Love is a better teacher than any duty.”

Love for my mother tongue prompted me to try and start learning Bengali language. So out of this love and support from my family, I have achieved my goal and today I can communicate and read Bengali language. At present I am teaching my son who is learning Bengali in school and is excelling in class.

So my love for the language developed because of a teacher who ignited the spark in me.

Sujata Nandi, W/o Bhaskar Nandi, Sales, Tyco Sanmar, Kolkata.

Teachers Divine

Spiritual Teachers of India



India is a spiritual land. Great spiritual teachers have lived in this country and spread the message of peace, compassion, righteousness and truth to the people.

Adi Sankara is one of India's greatest spiritual teachers. He played a momentous role in the historical development, revival and spread of Advaita Vedanta and founded the Shanmatha tradition of worship. He travelled across India and to Nepal, preaching to the people and debating philosophy with Hindu, Buddhist and other scholars and monks along the way. Adi Sankara, Madhvacharya and Ramanujacharya, are important figures in the history of Hindu philosophy. The doctrines formulated by them are followed widely by their respective sects even today.

The 12 Vaishnava Alvars and the 63 Nayanmars (who hailed from varied backgrounds, ranging from kings and soldiers to untouchables) are known as South India's 75 Apostles of Bhakti. Their Tamil hymns – the Nalayira Divya Prabandham for Vaishnavism, and Tevaram for Saivism are a treasure.

Buddhism – a popular religion, is based on Gautam Buddha's teachings. He attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, gave his first sermon at Sarnath, established the Sangha, and preached about the Four Noble Truths, the Middle Way or the path of moderation, and enlightenment.

The 24 Jain Teerthankars spread the message of Jainism, preaching non-violence, self control and renunciation.

In the Punjab region, Guru Nanak founded Sikhism and was the first of the ten Sikh gurus. The Guru Granth Sahib is a vast collection of revelatory verses recorded in Gurmukhi. Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth guru, established the Khalsa panth.

In eastern India, the religious school of thought of Ramakrishna Paramahansa led to the formation of the Ramakrishna Mission by his chief disciple Swami

Vivekananda. They were influential figures in the Bengali and Hindu renaissance during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Sri Aurobindo developed his own vision of human life into life divine. His teachings synthesised Eastern and Western philosophy, religion, literature, and psychology. He was the first Indian to create such a major literary corpus in English. The Mother, his spiritual collaborator, played a major part in the founding of Auroville – an international township near Pondicherry endorsed by UNESCO to spread the message of unity.

In western India, mainly Maharashtra and northern Karnataka, there were a host of preachers called "sant" who were associated with the Vaishnava bhakti tradition of Varkaris who worshipped Vithoba or Vitthala. Sants like Dhyaneswar, Namdev, Tukaram, Chokhamela and Eknath spread the message of moral behaviour through bhajan and keertan.

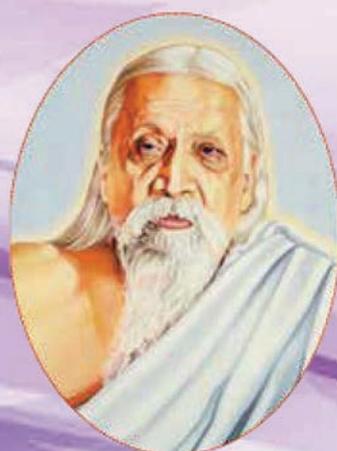
Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti is the most famous Sufi saint who established the Chishti Order in India and in South Asia. The initial spiritual chain comprises Moinuddin Chishti, Bakhtiyar Kaki, Baba Farid and Nizamuddin Auliya.

According to Indian Christian traditions, the apostle Thomas arrived in Kodungallur (also Muziris), Kerala, established the Seven Churches and evangelised in present day Kerala and Tamil Nadu. He founded churches and preached Christianity to the masses.

Shirdi Sai Baba was a yogi and fakir. His teaching combined elements of Hinduism and Islam. He taught a moral code of love, forgiveness, charity, inner peace, and devotion to God and guru.

There have been many other spiritual teachers in India where spirituality is a way of life.

S Janaki, *Executive Editor, Sruti.*



Tenali Rama Series - VIII

The Three dolls

One day a wealthy merchant came to the court of Krishna Deva Raya. He was from some other country. After saluting the king, he told, "Great king, people tell me that you have lot of wise ministers. If you permit me, I want to test them." The king became curious and agreed.

The merchant then gave three exactly similar looking dolls and told him, "Sir, these dolls look same but they are different. Please ask your wise ministers to find out the difference. I would come back after 30 days. If none of you can find it, I will assume that you do not have any wise ministers." The king agreed and merchant went back.

Then the king called all his ministers except Tenali Rama and gave them each three days time to find out the difference between the dolls. None of them were able to find out. The king started getting worried. Then he called Tenali Rama and told him that he did not trouble earlier because he thought it must be very simple.

Tenali Rama accepted the dolls and spent three days with the dolls. He was also finding it very difficult. But at last he found out.

Next day, he went to the court. The merchant also came that day. Then Tenali Rama told him, "These dolls are different. One is very good, another medium and another bad." The merchant, the king and all other ministers asked, "Which is which?"



Then Tenali Rama showed them a tiny hole in the ears of the dolls. He took the first doll and put a very thin wire through the hole. The wire came out of the doll's mouth. For the next doll, the wire came out of its other ear. For the third doll, the wire went in and never came out.

Then Tenali Rama told them his explanation. The first doll represents people who hear and teach it to others. So they are good. The second doll represents people who hear and do not understand. So they are medium. The third type, are those who learn things and do not teach it to any body and keep everything secret. They are bad people.

The merchant and the king were pleased by Tenali Rama's finding and gave him lot of presents.



Drawing by Prerna Kumar, IX Std, D/o R Sai Kumar, Administration, Tyco Sanmar, Viralmalai.

Guess What? Where?



Where is this well-known University in South India ?

Write in to
scribbles@sanmargroup.com



Velankanni Temple - Nagapattinam

Congratulations first correct respondent:

S Bhaskar, Wipro, SETL, Karapakkam.

Scribbles School

Takshashila, the ancient Indian University is the oldest in the world and is dated back 5th century BC as per the available references. Hindus and Buddhists consider Takshashila as a place of religious and historical sanctity. This university is located in the northwest corner of the sub-continent, which is the modern day Pakistan.

Students from all across the world used to come for specialisation in over 64 different fields of study like vedas, grammar, philosophy, ayurveda, agriculture, surgery, politics, archery, warfare, astronomy, commerce, futurology, music, dance, etc.

Students were admitted to this university at the age of 16 after they had completed their basic education in their local institutions. Every graduate who passed out of this university was well sought after scholar all across the sub-continent!

Chanakya who wrote *Artha Sastra*, world's finest work till today on political duties, statecraft, economic policies, state intelligence systems, administrative skills and military strategy was a student of this university.

Vishnu Sharma, who authored *Pancha Tantra*, a great book that teaches the art of political science in the form of simple beautiful stories was also a student of this university.

Charaka, the famous ancient Indian ayurvedic physician was a product of Takshashila university. He originally authored the *Charaka Samhita* simplifying an even older ayurvedic work called the *Agnivesha Samhita* and formed the root of modern Ayurveda.



