

Hello..,

It is indeed a great pleasure to look back at the history and put on paper... MEMORIES....

Few cherished and nourished memories and most importantly experienced ones. I am extremely thankful to Somaiya Trust to recollect and share.

In schooldays, I was not the best in studies but better in "Liking subjects". To me liking subjects were those in which I got more than expectations. For example, I was expecting 75 out of 100 marks in Maths exam and I got 85. This is something more than the expectations and the same has happened in my life. I never dreamed of tomorrow. In school days, I never dreamed of becoming an engineer. While doing engineering, I never dreamed of becoming a professional and entrepreneur. Only thing, I worked hard at any given stage to succeed.

As I am from typical Marathi family, it was obvious that I should join a respectable Govt or private job. However, my family was in business from 1982. By the time I graduated, there were few opportunities in Govt jobs. As per my calibre I would have easily got the job but the fact was I never applied for any job. My aim was to enter either into business or profession. Of course, it was well supported by my family.

After, graduation, I started working as 'Design Engineer' with Mr. V. L. Vartak, Consulting Engineers, Mumbai. Similarly, I was undertaking civil contracts of small jobs. After 2-3 years, I realized that I should settle in to consultancy rather than contracting. I would have earned more money in contracting field. However, my mind showed inclination towards consultancy job. Meanwhile my boss Mr. Vartak had some health problems and he cut short his practice. I continued my job as part time and started developing contacts in Dombivli and around. It was only an initial job of introducing me in the field. I happened to meet some good architects with whom I developed my professional relations and till date those are maintained. Till date, I have structurally designed more than 450 buildings which include residential, commercial, industrial & institutional. To name a few are Temple for 'Swami Samartha Seva Mandal' at Dombivli, 'Infants Jesus Church' at Thakurli. The clients were MNC's like HUIL, KCLL, RIL, J & M, Govt & Semi Govt like MCGM, MSEDCL, ARCI, KDMC, MIDC, private builders and institutes. Subsequently, I got the registration of "Govt. Approved Valuer" after 10 years of my practice and started practising as panelled valuer of various banks. 'Structural Audit and rehabilitation' is another field which we have entered and as of now carried out audits of more than 200 buildings. Presently, I am on 'Expert Committee' of KDMC for dilapidated buildings.

Right from beginning of my practice, I am follower of good professional ethics and as a result I am always surrounded by so many like-minded people. I am keen rather fond of sharing knowledge, developing relations rather than earning money. This has given me satisfaction in my professional practice. In professional practice, it is not only important to guide your client but also to convince him to make him understand.

I strongly believe in some energy which always inspires to do something good. Few of us call him 'GOD'. He always gives you an opportunity. Your job is to grab the opportunity and complete the work. To name a few, I am structural engineer of 22 institutional buildings including my own school, above mentioned two monuments and few temples.

I had association with Rotary Club of Dombivli East for last 19 years. I was lucky enough to serve as a 'President' of the club in its 'Silver Jubilee Year'. Similarly, K.J. Somaiya Polytechnic invited me to be member of Board of Studies around 10 years back and presently I am chairman of Board of Studies for Civil Engg. This again recalls me an opportunity to serve wherein I am sharing my professional knowledge with the institution.

My wife Ranjana, even though a working lady, takes care of the whole family and our home. We are blessed with two sons. Because of her guidance, my elder son Nishad excelled in his education. He completed his Diploma from K.J. Somaiya Polytechnic and continued with degree. Younger one Gandhar is in school.

I am absolutely satisfied with my life. It may be my education, family, my profession, my friend circle, social institutes. It is a long path of 46 years wherein I came across so many. Every person I met made my path easier and better. K. J. Somaiya Polytechnic was one of those who were like my teacher, guide and philosopher. I call it as a key which changed me from school child to the 'Shaped Engineer'. In addition to an engineering education, it is the "PRAYER", the 'DISCIPLINE', the 'SELF RESPECT', 'HONORING VALUES OF OTHERS' shaped me and my day to day life.

This is how my life was for last 46 years.... "Something more than expectations". Thank you GOD.

Mr Madhav Chikodi
Head & Principal Coordinator
Chikodi & Associates Dombivli (E) Thane