

## Reward of life



**D**eetu, a 21 years old guy, was enrolled in a graduate course in a business school and Dr. Geloom is the course instructor for this course on business communication.

One fine day in college, as usual, Deetu was busy with his mobile phone when suddenly he heard his name being called loudly. A shrilled voice called 'Mr Deetu, if you are not interested in the discussion going on in the class, you may please leave the room'. A classroom session was going on where one 'guest speaker' from a reputed company has been invited by Dr. Geloom, to discuss a contemporary management practice with students. On being reprimanded for his seemingly inappropriate misconduct, Deetu stood up with a ques-



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tioning laconic face and perplexed that whether he should apologize and stay back in the class or should he grab the opportunity to leave the classroom? He decided for the latter option which seemed to be a win-win situation for all, Deetu, his instructor and the class.

Deetu came out of the classroom and went to the student's canteen area for some consolation. He often found solace and company at this place as there were many students puzzled by a similar situation. There used to be various types of discussion in the canteen but one common and running theme was 'classroom experience'.

Deetu, speaking to Resee: *You know Resee, I was thrown out of the class today also.*

Rapu (a 20 years old girl): *Deetu, that is very common with you.*

Resee (another 20 years old girl): *Even I was asked to leave the accounting class, today. Sometimes, I try to understand the problems and issues involved with these sort of situations but haven't been very lucky so far. Why is this happening to us? Are we the problem or the institute and its processes are the problem or the problem lies somewhere else?*

Deetu: *I think there is a mismatch between our expectations, institute's expectations and our parent's expectations.*

Resee: *Yah. I was asked by my parents to join this business school, but, I always wanted to be an athlete. Although, I have done decently well in examinations but I am simply not interested in it.*

Deetu: *Same here. I wanted to be a social worker but I am forced to study these subjects and forced to attend these classes and guest talks. This is compounded inefficiency as it wastes our time and energy and also the institute's resources.*

Fensh, a 22 years old serious looking boy, was listening to the conversation in a pensive state. He intervened.

Fensh: *I think you all are touching upon a very important and common issue being faced by every student now days. There should always be a match and connect between interest and career. It is always good for a person if a hobby or passion becomes a profession.*

Deetu: *Yes, I agree. In cases like myself and Resee, where we have eventually joined a program which is not of much interest to us, at least, the pedagogy and processes should support us. We should not be forced to sit in lectures and sessions which do not interest us.*

Fensh: *You should also understand the institute's perspective. You need to know the subjects and topics before you make a decision about attending or not. Also, the institute may have statutory requirements for full time programs. Moreover, you need a basic education and then you are free to choose your career path. The institute does not forces a career path on any student.*

Deetu: *Yes, I understand. It was nice talking to you, Fensh. At least we have a broader perspective now.*

Resee and Deetu left for respective hostels.



As usual, next day also Resee and Deetu met in the canteen. This routine and regular meetings gradually brought them closer and eventually together. They started to like each other's company, they shared a common disliking for their academic program and they had a similar approach towards career and life. They eventually became close enough and finally on the day of graduation, Deetu proposed to Resee for marriage, which she accepted.

Resee was from a rich upper class family and Deetu was from a middle class family. Both the families had their aspirations and expectations from their children and as usual they failed to understand that there was a mismatch between their expectations and the aspirations of their children. Persistence, patience and arguments had their way and subsequently the two families agreed to accept Deetu and Resee as a couple.

Consequently, they got married and moved ahead in life.

Deetu joined a non-government organization at a modest salary and started to work towards his interest of being a social worker. Resee got placed with a management consultancy firm with good perks and salary but very different from her interest of becoming an athlete. Their married life was doing fine. Resee earned more than Deetu and the later gave more time to their relationship and home. Deetu was contended with life and work and played as a



pacifier when things got tough in their relationship. Resee was a sports freak and gradually Deetu also developed interest in sports. The couple hardly missed any sports event being held in the vicinity. Watching sports and contemplating, Resee used to repent that why isn't she into athletics and following her dreams. Deetu always tried to bolster her passion and was the opinion that she should quit her job and follow her passion but somehow she could not take this courageous decision.

Life moved on and time passed away.

Resee and Deetu had a daughter after two years of their marriage and they named her 'Delly'. The parents were excited and at the same time they were very concerned and had difference of opinions over career choices for Delly. Since, both of them had different set of working experience, they looked at life differently. Deetu looked at a work from career perspective and was of the opinion that whatever career Delly chooses, she should have keen interest in that work. On the other hand Resee was more materialistic and was of the opinion that a good standard of living is an indicator of good life lived, although, she was not very convinced about this opinion. However, the two were in agreement that no career would be forced upon Delly and that they would enable her to make her own choices.

Life kept on moving with different pace for Deetu, Resee and Delly but on the same time line. Deetu flourished as a social worker in his professional engagements. After working few years at local level, he took an assignment with an international resettlement agency. He often took his daughter along with him on these foreign trips. This enabled Delly to develop a holistic and integrative perspective about life. He believed that such a perspective about life is very imperative because every decision in life has branches of serial repercussions and an understanding of these repercussions improves the efficiency of decisions. Deetu was even awarded with a civilian honor, a coveted trophy, for his contribution to social service.

Resee also did exceptionally well in her professional career and became an expert in consulting on business restructuring. She was also appointed at a committee by the local government, recognizing her contribution to management science. Time galloped quickly and constantly as ever. As Deetu and Resee were working in their respective domains, Delly was growing at her own pace without any significant external interferences. She did decently well in academics and excellently well in extracurricular activities. Upon her graduation she was selected as best all round student in her college and was awarded for her achievements.

When Delly came home that night, she placed her trophy adjacent to her father's trophy and looked towards Deetu with admiration. That night, the expressions on the faces of Deetu, Resee and Delly were full of admiration for each other. Deetu looked at Resee and back to Delly. There was mutual admiration amongst all, for each other. Delly thought that whatever she is today it is because of her parents. Deetu thought that Resee's support and Delly's dedication made all this happen. Resee thought that same about Deetu and Delly.

Awards can be many but the real reward is to be contented and happy in life. A contented child is the best reward for parents.

That look in the eyes of Delly that day was mesmerizing and stayed with Deetu and Resee forever. Deetu always thought "I wish I could turn back the clock and bring the wheels of time to a stop at that very moment when I got reward of life". ■

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