

## A Journey Well Travelled



What is Life? It is difficult to define Life. Because it is different to one and all. No one's Life is same. Life has no explanation, but only experiences makes one's Life. To me paper industry is not different than Life. It is an experience of learning process.

My career begun in paper industry in 1978 as a Lab chemist, in M/S Kabini paper Mill at Nanjangud, Mysore district, Karnataka, it was the first mill to start in the KIADB Industrial area newly started at Nanjangud. When I joined, the production had yet not started. MG Cylinder was yet to arrive, and all other machineries were ready and aligned. It was a Kraft Fourdrinier Yankee machine. Mr. Sujoy Nath Roy was a plant Manager.

We were to use first of its kind of raw material- **Elephant grass**. The forest grass was the main raw material with Jute. Grass was to be cooked in pulper and Jute in Digester. It was a wonderful experience as I was new to paper industry and didn't know anything about paper. All terminologies used in paper industry was knew to me. I was sent to CFTR, at Mysore, where packaging grades of paper were tested to gather knowledge about paper testing instruments and all test methods. Through some contacts, I gained some pulp mill knowledge in Mandya National Paper mill at Mysore, a bagasse-based writing printing paper mill of fame. Yes, after these training I was in command in paper technology enough to manage myself in my first industry.

"My experience in M/S Kabini papers limited begun in 1978 in lab as lab chemist till 1984 and later shifted to paper machine as a trainee-shift-incharge .It was a wonderful experience for me, there I came to understand managing machines and machine crews which was not that easy.Fortunately I was successful as I could control both machine and men and learnt to manage with all problems and break down of machine.Unfortunately a good running mill closed down permanently in the year 1987 due to financial problems. Thus, My first paper mill tenures of 10 years ended.

My second mill was M/S South India paper mill at Nanjangud where I worked in Machine no. 4 making white wove and manifold, as a shift in-charge. After 4 years of workings, left from there to and joined Badheka papers and later Ramgopal papers, worked in various capacities at senior level. Later went to Pondicherry to Nithya paper packaging paper mills, again a Kraft mill. Till 2007 worked there and meanwhile did an erection of a small Kraft paper mill looked after on behalf of my friend who had an erection contract.

Then after in 2007 I joined M/S Saraswathi Udyog India limited in Tamilnadu, Namakkal district a Duplex board manufacturing company. That was my first Duplex board making experience. A good mill making 120 to 140 mt/day. I learnt a lot about surface coating, surface sizing, calendaring which were all new to me. Lot of R&D works done and as MR built coordination, established ISO:9001:2008 system, rectified market complaints, improved quality, and so on. This become my last served company, in 2015 I took retirement to rest in my native at Bangalore and Mysore.

During these tenure of my career in paper industry from 1978 to 2015, I have enjoyed with learning in and out of paper industry, experienced with success and failures, manmade and machine-made problems, success and failures of some managements and some GMs. The knowledge I gained in understanding the pulse of the machine, the pulse of the workmen, and pulse of the management are important learnings to give results.

After 3 -- 4 years of rest and again I re-entered paper field supporting small industries as a consultant for product development, quality development and marketing support sharing my experiences to solve their technical problems if any. So still I am in paper field, rather I would like to say my life journey is going on with paper industry till as on date.

Thanks to IPPTA for the opportunity provided to share my experiences of paper industry.

Thanks,  
With regards

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