

Life Teaches several lessons to each of us



Experience is the life event as it is happening in real time; memory is the individual's internal representation of that experience or event.

Memory is our past and future. To know who I am as a person, I need to have some idea of from where I have come from, journey I travelled, experiences embedded for development and Learnings for future. And, for better or worse, my remembered life story is a pretty good guide to what I will do tomorrow.

Every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home

I believe that life is a journey, often difficult and sometimes incredibly cruel, but we are well equipped for it if only we tap into our talents and gifts and allow them to blossom. If all difficulties were known at the outset of a long journey, most of us would never start out at all.

When I get it into the memory lanes of my career in Paper Industry, and opening the layers from the beginning, I am able to visualize many good memories and experiences of my life . Like a beautifully painted paper, it has many indelible stories to tell.

Significant period with opportunities for progress

Career in Paper Industry, started from early 1980's and still growing, owing my debt to the industry I belong to.

It was in the year 1993, I started my career with Ballarpur Industries Ltd, which was at its peak performance at that time in Indian Pulp and Paper field. I had the privilege to shape up my early stages of my career with good systems like TQM, Career development plans, inculcating management skills, exposure to new technologies etc apart from technical skills. It was a time of believing in improvements through systems.

25 years of golden period in one of the leading industries in its own sphere, has given me courage to face many challenges Paper Industry is facing from time to time.

Life has taken one more turn in the year 2008, and I joined JK Paper Mills, one more leading industry known for its quality standards. Well established, structured and meticulous training programs, development activities, scrupulous projects executions, economic analysis, TPM practices have helped to enrich my base and sharpen my career.

Career in International Paper started in the year 2012 and time was to get exposure to international standards with respect to systems and procedures, ethical practices, safety standards, environmental compliances, manufacturing excellence practices and reliability measures. Experience of managing whole mill operations with a holistic approach keeping the interest of organization as a whole was a unique experience.

Current position in Seshasayee Paper Mills from 2016 onwards, is an experience and learning on good investment practices, believing in strength of building indigenous technology, sustainable operations, socio economic practices and believing in simple living with high standard of performance. Now, I am experiencing practices of green manufacturing, processes and systems.

The Experience – Biggest treasure

With almost 4 decades of experience in this noble industry, stage has come to rethink which is good for self and industry. Concepts of operations and running the business has changed a lot in these 40 years and People and Planet and then Profit (Triple bottom Line concept) is the survival principle for any business.

In all, to put it in a capsule form , essence of business lies in leaner, cleaner and greener operations keeping in view of social and environmental responsibilities..

Ever lasting memories and impact making experiences

1- Quality of decision making and risk-taking ability:

It was in early 1990, s, ERP system was being implemented for first time in Paper industry. Integration of different sections, numerous and voluminous data and interfacing production with marketing functions without disturbing normal plant operation was a herculean task. It was in the last stage of implementation, when the whole server system failed and all ERP activities abruptly closed down. Stock was piling up, recording in system total stopped, manual entry was next to impossible and there was a strong need to take a call on continuation of operations. It was a very crucial time for the business continuity. A bold decision was taken by the unit head to wait till ERP server is set right. This positive and firm decision to successful implementation of ERP for the first time in Paper Industry. Otherwise, reverting to old legacy would have been a disaster and point of no return.

Learning experience is decision making and risk-taking ability in the interest of business. Thrill of success countermand fear of failure.

1. Calcium deposits and Scaling issues in Pulp Mill

A severe quality and scaling issue were faced in pulp mill and normal operation was a dream. Scaling samples confirmed the presence of calcium salts.

Problem was analysed in detail from all inputs to the system like, wood, chemicals and water for the calcium salts. Elemental analysis, source of calcium salts, compatibility of different chemicals helped to eliminate the problems one by one. Streamlining the wood procurement, storage depending on age, bark control, chemicals optimization in terms of dosage and addition points, use of right scaling chemicals were the major steps to taken to find an valuable solution to the problem.

Learning from this case was instead of switching over to conventional methods of using anti scaling chemicals and hydro blasting, step wise root case analysis and process of elimination of cases one by one, will give better and effective solution. My further carry home is that every problem has a solution provided it is approached in a logical way.

2. Use of Bio energy from waste

Everyone is concerned for generating more green energy within their systems. Conventional way of generating methane gas from foul condensate from evaporator is by having anaerobic digesters. We have implemented a simple system to divert this foul condensate and evaporator sealing water with high COD value to existing bagasse pitch wash anaerobic lagoon to generate methane gas. This methane gas is used in Lime kiln as a partial replacement for furnace oil. This has given us benefit of 25 % reduction in furnace oil, about 3.5 Crores saving / annum.

Learning is that, nonconventional thinking for conventional problems, not only gives better solutions, but also huge financial benefits.

3. Believing in self and ability to stand up to the occasion

Tense situation was faced as a Mill Manager when Mill operation was stopped due to workmen unrest. So far, many problems were of technical in nature, but this was totally different. Keeping in view of safety of staff, equipment's and assets, No workmen was allowed inside. At the same time, mill operation was started with 100 % staff which was a entirely a challenging and courageous act. At that time, I realized the importance of physical execution of work. Starting from raw material feeding to Converting operations by management staff and demonstration of Mill operation, yielded the result.

What I want to express is that this has given us learning to walk more confidently—head held high, shoulders back,

Instead of thinking so hard about what kind of memories will result, live in the moment of the experience. Flash back of memories in this field are reminding me that life always gave me many opportunities when I stepped outside of my known zones.

Time is to acknowledge and thank all my peers and contemporaries who have helped in shaping my life and in attaining experience and knowledge.

Experiences build our confidence and improve our ability of communication.

“Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it”

Nothing teaches us better than our own experiences

This paper is dedicated to all Paper Mills who are fighting against Corona in the interest of our country.

Thanks to IPPTA for this opportunity to express my views.

Regards,



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