

JOURNEY OF LIFE

BY: AMBALAL J. PATEL

This is as per request of my granddaughter SHEETAL .

My birth was in KURALI at my mama(mother's brother) Mr. Jethabhai Tribhovandas Patel's house on June 9, 1934(??) because at that time there was no system of hospital delivery and as per our Patel's rituals all women go to their mother's home for delivery. My mother Ujamben Jadavbhai Patel delivered me with the help of midwife. There is no birth record of at what time and date but all were very happy because a son was born. At that time every parents desired to have son because he becomes successor and daughter's birth is responsibility of getting her married etc. I was a first child of my parents. My sister Hiraben was born on December 12, 1936, then Kanubhai on December 3, 1941, Manubhai on September 2, 1944, Deepakbhai on May 1, 1950 and Bhupendrabhai on October 24, 1952.

I don't remember much about my younger days but I do remember that my uncle's son kantibhai whom we call Vahlabhai took me to the primary school building for admission. My birth record was not available. But to admit in school one has to complete 6yrs. of age. School starts in June hence I believe that in the school register my birth date was recorded as 9th June 1934. That's what I believe because when I asked my mother Ujamba whom we all brothers and sister call Ujam , that do you remember when I was born. She replied no I don't remember but she told me that I was born one day before Janmashtami(the birth date of lord Krishna) and we know that janmashtami usually falls in August or so, but never in June .As such I concluded that the June 9,1934 was recorded in the school birth registration just to get me admitted in school. I was very sick when I was 5 yrs. Old, almost dead. My mother's prayers were accepted by goddess Ambama and I got up from the death bed. Because of this incident my name was changed from Jashbhai to Amba's Lal – Ambalal.

In my primary education I remember that no notebook was used for writing but a stone slate was used to write with a chalk pen locally made of chalk powder and when you finished writing you rub it with duster and that's your new page ready to write again. Teachers also used to write with chalk on blackboard. At that

time teaching job was considered very noble profession. Teachers were very respected in the community. They taught students with love. They sacrifice a lot. Salary was very low only Rs. 7 per month. However they were very kind and affectionate towards their student. I don't remember the names of my all teachers but I remember one was Mulshanker and other one was Narmadaben, a maharashtrian old enough to have a daughter as a teacher. I used to pickup flowers from my yard and take it to her house in the morning. I saluted my teachers in primary school. I remember one teacher named Jeshangbhai Patel who was residing in my street Jorbhai Falia(street), his face was very fair (white) but he was very strict. He was a class teacher of 4th grade and I was 10 yrs. Old then. I was his pet student so I was not afraid of him. On the contrary he appointed me as a monitor of the class (class leader). At that time class teacher used to teach all subjects and when he had to go out of class I was given responsibility to monitor everybody. I was very happy to have that honour.

My school was about one kilometer away from my house and everyday we walk to school bare feet. We didn't wear shoes at that time. The building of my school was built by King Sayajirao. Even today it is there. Later on we spent some money for some restoration but it is unique and strong wooden building. After the 4th grade in the same building I joined English school from 5th grade. That time English was taught as a language and all other subjects in our native language GUJARATI. Also English school was a private school so you have to pay some fees. In my primary and Jr. High school I used to get top rank in the class. In 1 to 3rd grade we were taught multiplication tables. Everyday we have to recite those tables. It was very useful for calculations. There was no calculator at that time. In USA when i go for shopping in the mall I calculate the amount because I know how to use tables. For example $16 \times 2 \frac{1}{2} = 40$. Cashiers get surprised because I give the price faster than their calculators. Calculator came very late.

I completed school in Sinor, primary and jr. high in the same building and upto 10th grade in the new building, School name was Sarvajanik High School, Sinor. Now it is known as Jadavbhai Chhotabhai Patel Sarvajanik High School Sinor since 1995. In the 11th grade I went to Surat to stay with my uncle's son kantibhai. In surat I stayed at Amliran street near by famous temple of Amba Ma.I

used to walk everyday from our residence to T. & T.V. Sarvajanic High School. In that year I came to know my friend Ashok Jagaseth and Babubhai Jariwala. In Gitamandir temple famous teachers Lakadavada and Anjaria were teaching English and Mathematics for the 11th grade students. I, Ashok Jagaseth and Babubhai Jariwala became good friends. Later on they also became the owner of flats in Joothica Building (Bombay) where masi-mahalaxmiben also resided.

I appeared for my S.S.C. exam(11th grade) and I was so surprised when results came out. It was published in the local newspaper. To my surprise I got first grade. I and my family members were very happy to hear that good news. At that time parents wanted their children to become Doctor or Engineer. I was very good in -mathematics. Arts and commerce subjects were considered lower than science subjects, because you can get clerk job or teacher job if you take Arts or Commerce line. So I completed one year in Science and in second year we had two options. Biology-zoology for medical field and Mathematics for engineering. I selected maths, but some how I lost my interest and got bored in college. That time I started to write poems and short stories.- At the end of the second term I left Baroda and went to my native place SINOR. I told my father that I don't want to continue study in college. After 2-3 days he told me that you like to visit theaters why not go back to Baroda and see the movies. So I went back and visited theaters and also appeared in the Inter Science (2nd year) exam. To my surprise, I passed the exam in pass class. May be I passed the exams because my god gifted strong memory power.

Because I had fascination for literature , writing poems and short stories (even today I have preserved those poems in my files)I decided to go to Arts college and requested for Gujarati as my main subject. I was told that as I had studied for two years in science college I was given an option to study Psychology as my main subject and Gujarati as my subsidiary(minor) subject. While studying Psychology for two years in the faculty of Education and Psychology I found psychology was very much enjoyable too. In the election I was elected as a Sport Secretary and I won so many prizes in different games such as Ping-Pong(table

tennis), Badminton, Carrom. I graduated in June 1956. Once when I was playing badminton with my lecturer Dr. Srinivasan, he asked me about my plan after getting B.A. degree. I replied that I'll get married because I don't have any choice. In Patel community then boys used to get married when they are young. But my father was of forward nature and he did not ask me to get married at younger age. But after graduation there were no any further excuse for not accepting offers from bride's parents. Dr. Srinivasan said you have one option if you don't want to get married after graduation, go abroad for further study say United Kingdom country popularly known as England. UK was made of three divisions England, Wales and Scotland. England was known as Vilayat in gujarati language. I told him that we are not rich. We can not afford to go abroad for further study. He told me then to consider to go for postgraduate diploma. You will complete it in twelve months and cost will be about 6000 rupees. My parents did not have that much money so we borrowed from my fua Nagajibhai(brother in law of my father)My dean T.K.N. Menon was very helpful in my getting admission for a postgraduate diploma in Applied Psychology in Liverpool University, England, UK. My grandmother objected for further study. She said why go abroad for study, study in India. She died before I got my passport.

Now travelling to England. I went to Bombay and I and my friend Ashok Jagaseth inquired about booking by steamer boat, because to travel by air was very costly. Only one steamer used to go U.K. But it was sold out. Fortunately travel agent found out that time one Italian ship (steamer) will be picking passengers from Cochin very far from Vadodara. But I had no choice. Cochin is situated at the end of south India. So I returned to Baroda and then I and my father went to Cochin by train. We travelled from Baroda to Bombay and by another train from Bombay to Cochin. It took two days in travelling but no choice. Before leaving Sinor for Baroda, I want to add that in 1956, I was the first person in my district to go to U.K. for further study. So people were very happy to send me off that day. A big procession took place with music band and we reached railway station in Sinor in procession. I and my father boarded train from sinor. Very pleasant experience. Even the train moved slowly. Driver knew about my

adventure so he drove train at very low speed. People put garlands on different coaches.

Italian Ship (steamer) picked up about 200 passengers out of which only 7 were Gujarati. Fare was cheap .so I went to Cochin and boarded the ship. First day travelling was horrible one. Most of the passengers got sick, vomited lot because of rough sea. I was lucky with no problem. After passing Indian Ocean and then Red sea, we reached Port Suez in Egypt. Ship has to pass through this narrow canal owned by Egyptian Government, previously occupied and owned by British Government. When ship reached Port Suez, Egyptian Government offered us a package – picking us from dockyard by new car and drive upto Cairo(70 miles drive)- gave us a good lunch in Cairo hotel and after that visit to a museum, where we saw many mummies . Human body preserved with spices and then sewed. After that they took us to famous Pyramid, one of the wonders of the world. There were about seven pyramids.

Before we visited these places I must narrate my experience in ship. My father was very hardworking man. He used to wake up 4 o' clock in the morning and go to field, cut the grass and bring it home for feeding buffallow. Then he open the shop in the morning. In the beginning he used to roll the bidis (Indian cigarettes) made of Ashitri leaves and tobacco. Later on he hired more people to make bidis. He employed 51 workers in three different factories. He used to go out of Sinor village to buy tobacco leaves often for 5 to 10 days. During that period I used to take care of shop, attending shop and not going to school. Even during festival (fairs)I used to take articles for selling in festival fair—displayed articles on the floor and sell them. I helped my father by attending the shop in the evening and also during vacation. So business was in my blood.

So in the ship I noticed that I had an opportunity to make some money. In the ship Lira an Italian Currency was official currency. My co-passengers played cards on table. At that time there were two different rates for converting Lira into Indian rupees. The ship cashier, in charge of the currency will give 130 Lira for one rupee if you give pounds, but for Indian rupees only 90 Liras. I bought the Lira by

cashing the pound traveler checks and selling that to co passengers when they need the lira while playing cards. Before we reached Port Suez, Egypt I earned about 65 rupees. As I said earlier Egyptian Government were charging only 60 rupees for that trip to pyramids and sphinx monument, museum and dinner in the hotel. At the end of the trip they will drive us to the next port – other end of the canal. By that time ship will arrive there. But passengers were reluctant to travel even though Egyptian Government assured us that if we missed the ship they will fly us to England. Only eight passengers paid and took that trip 4 in one car. So I paid 60 indian rupees which I earned earlier in currency transaction. We had very nice time. Very much surprised to see the Pyramids- Nobody knows how this Pyramids were built with giant stones- 10 ft. long and 3 to 4 ft. wide- without using cement. It is a mystery and scientists tried to find out by removing some stone but could not find the answer. We had to climb the steps to reach the top. But it is inside the pyramid. Guide took us to the top and we saw some mummies lying there and the place where the king used to hide the treasures. I do not recollect much but it was fascinating one. After visiting Pyramid we visited Sphinx-monument and later on they drove us to the next port of Suez canal. The ship arrived and we boarded. Very happy to have this adventure , risky but exciting .Our ship arrived at GENOA. From there I travelled by train visiting POMPEY destroyed city by volcano then to Paris and other cities

Finally we arrived at London harbor crossing the English Channel. I came down from the ship but I could not see the brother of my friend who was supposed to receive me at the harbor. So I had no choice but to hire the taxi and go to his house in the city. Fortunately I had his address so I was able to find his house. When I reached there I found the brother with his girlfriend. So I decided to leave his room, took taxi to railway station. I purchased a ticket for Liverpool City. Very nice and comfortable train. After about 4 hours journey train reached the Liverpool Station. I got down with my tin suitcase a heavy one. I was a stranger and I did not have any idea where I will go and what I would do- A scary situation – but I did not panic and left the suitcase in the corner of the platform. I had known that British people are very honest. They will not steal or even touch

other peoples stuff, and I experienced that later on also. Milk delivery man will leave milk bottles outside the house near the door and the occupant of that house will collect later on when he finds time but no one will touch it. So I left my bag on the platform and went inside the city by walking to find out the accommodation. After a long walk I noticed one house with a Room for Rent sign board. I went inside house and paid rent for one week and started attending university by walking every day. I found out during that week that house is not for me because I saw drunkards were occupying the other rooms . So I looked for the other accommodation. Fortunately I found one building with the board Methodist International House , went inside and met the rector- an old but very loving lady. I explained to her my problem. There was no vacancy but after hearing my story she decided to let me stay in a small room in the basement which was used for storage. She got it cleaned and put a bed for me. So I transferred my suitcase to this church hostel where about 25 students from different countries including British students were staying. Rent was about 3 pounds for a week for Room, breakfast and dinner. It was church hostel that's why cheap. Good breakfast- milk, toast, tea-coffee, porridge made of oat I think, cereal- And in the evening full dinner with meat and fish. Mostly fish and chips. Fish was main food in England. You can get fish and chips everywhere – restaurants. Once a week on Sunday all students gather and pray to god – Christ. I did not mind because I believe there is one god but different name-Jesus, Allah, Ambema, Krishna, Ram, Shiva, Buddha so on.. no problem for me. For food I had some problems in the beginning and later on I got adjusted and started liking fish and chips and meat dishes etc. I realize that unless you create taste and liking for food you can not enjoy the food. However I didn't start hard liquor, not even beer and tea, which I started after returning from UK and while working in Sarabhai Chemicals and no tea even now.

During vacation I had another adventure. A trip to European countries. But I had no money for travelling. Fortunately I found one English student in my hostel who told me to accompany him. So I got company. We decided to hitch hike and travel in different countries. First I became a member of YMCA organization, a youth organization having YMCA hostels all over the world. So we got ready for our hitch hiking adventure .We went out of the city and waited on the highway

looking for a lift. It took time but within half hour a car stopped and offered us a ride. Highway had no speed limit. Soon we found that he was driving at a speed more than 100mph. I got scared but no choice. Car was new, beautiful and convertible. So he opened the roof and drove. This hitchhiking started from the other end of English Channel. Before that we had a ride from other car drivers till English Channel. After frightening experience and praying god for safe journey we reached Brussels- the capital city of Belgium. He took both of us to his place, which was a newspaper publishing place. He was the owner of that newspaper. He gave us good treatment, nice lunch and also introduced us in a meeting where local leaders had gathered. I told them about my background. People were very friendly.

Next day we started hitchhiking for another country and travelled across Austria and Alps mountains. We stayed at the YMCA hostel. They were very friendly and helpful. In YMCA charges were very low almost free. Only one shilling to stay and one shilling for dinner. One shilling was about 75 indian paisa or about 15 US cents. We had very nice time. From Austria we went to Italy – First to Venice- City of water canal roads- you have to travel in a boat even if you want to travel 1/10 of a mile. No roads but water ways. Very happy to visit that city. From there we went to Rome and visited Coliseum and other historic places. From Rome we went to Paris and then to Marcelle in South France. City of beautiful natural views. Then back to Paris and English Channel to London to Liverpool. We had a great time. Our trip lasted about a month. Prior to that during Christmas time, post office was hiring students for letter sorting and other work. I applied and got a job. I had to start work at about 2:00 pm on my last day of the term. When I asked my lecturer he said you have to get the approval from the dean of the faculty for skipping one period of one hour. What a discipline. So I requested dean and he gave me approval. So I worked in the post office of Liverpool city for some days and earned money. I used to write letters to my relatives and friends India. Even though I was eating non-veg. food in England, I used to write my parents that I am having veg. food just to make them happy.

Duration of my course was 12 months. At the end of the year I appeared for a very lengthy exam. I received a diploma in Applied Psychology on 13th September, 1957. That time I had an opportunity to get a job in Australia, USA etc. countries but I decided to return to India. That time I believe in Gandhian (mahatma Gandhi) philosophy. I thought why should I work in other country I must devote my time for betterment of India. On contacting travel agent I found that I can book for journey back to India by train Trans European Express from London to Istanbul going through European countries up to Istanbul and Bagdad than by steamer from Bagdad to Bombay. I booked it. Another thrilling experience travelling by train for 22 days. But luck was not in my favor. A revolt in Syria cancelled my plan. Train will not pass through Syria. So I had to search for another alternative. I do not recollect which ship took me to Bombay. When the ship reached to Bombay harbor I could see from deck that my uncle Jeshangbhai came to receive me. He was raising one finger and than two fingers. He repeated doing that but I couldn't understand what he was trying to convey. After some time I understood that he was trying to find out whether I came alone or with my wife if married in UK. I raised one finger. He was very happy that I did not get married in UK. At that time student often fell in love with English girl and married them. I know one student from Baroda who was staying in the same hostel-Methodist International – married to one British teacher. I was lucky that I was not trapped in UK. Finally after waiting for clearance I came down and bent down and asked his blessing. We both left Bombay and came to Sinor by train. To my surprise so many people came to the station with garlands and music band procession to receive me. That was joyful. I was very happy to see my family, father, mother, brothers and sister, uncles and their family.

After some rest in Sinor I started to look for a job. I went to Baroda and met my faculty dean T.K.N.Menon. He was a very kind person. He arranged an interview for a job of research assistant in the university. I was interviewed by him and vice chancellor Chaturbhai patel. I was selected for Research Assistant

position for the Faculty of Education and Psychology. Salary was not that high. Rs. 200/month. At that time it was considered good amount. I worked there from February to September 1958, during which I received the marriage proposal from girl's parents. My uncle Jeshangbhai wanted me and my cousin brother Pravinbhai son of Vithalbhai to get married with two sisters. But it did not work out. Finally a teacher from Sayaji High School came to my room and told me that he is from town of Sarbhan and if I wish he would show me the girl. I said why not come to the point that you are looking for a boy for some relative girl. He smiled and said yes I am looking for a boy for a girl relative of my wife in Nikora. He arranged for a meeting between two of us at his house. After some informal talk I said ok I accept the proposal if the girl accepts it. The answer was yes. So I informed my father that I have found a girl named Jashoda from Narsihpura Falia in Nikora, a daughter of Girdharbhai Desaibhai Patel. He was very happy to hear that because Girdharbhai was a leader of Patels in Kanam District, he and Khushalbhai had a high reputation.

Our engagement was arranged at Baroda and a marriage date was fixed 20th may, 1958. I suggested for a simple registered marriage but my father in law wanted to celebrate the marriage of their youngest child in Nikora. It was very inconvenient so we suggested Baroda instead of Nikora. They booked the Santram Mandir Hall. As usual after having a procession on 19th may night in Sinor, we left for Baroda by morning train and arrived at Santram Mandir by 11:00 am. A lunch was served to all at about noon and marriage ceremony started after dinner at about 10-11 pm. In the middle of the marriage ritual, I overheard the heated conversation between my uncle Jeshangbhai and Tribhovandas I Patel. Usually the parents of the groom donate some money for the school where bride had studied. My uncle was ready to donate but T. I. Patel asked for certain amount which my uncle did not like. He said he will give whatever he likes but T. I. Patel insisted for certain amount. So my uncle got angry and told relatives of Jashoda that after the function is over, my nephew will go back to Sinor without bride Jashoda (her real name and after marriage she was given the new name Jyotsna. I kept quiet as I knew what steps I should take. As soon as the ceremony

over I went out of the marriage hall and stopped one horse driven carriage and asked him if he will take us to Hathi pole, Jashoda's elder sister's house. He agreed so I went inside the hall and told Jashoda to come out. I could not tolerate the dictatorship of my uncle. I was rebellion and in the family only I could face my uncle. He was a dictator in our family, but very good at heart. He did not like anybody to oppose him. Here is question. Why should Jashoda suffer when two egoist elders did not agree on small matter. And that too for donation to school. I was a rebellion and will oppose him whenever he takes wrong decisions. Prior to marriage while selecting silk sari we were supposed to give to bride ,I selected silk sari with red jari border and he selected the one with green jari border. After reaching Sinor my sister Hiraben preferred to have that sari with red jari border which I have selected that for Jashoda. Uncle said to Hiraben that ok you can have it. I objected it and said I would not accept the one with green jari border and I will not change my decision. hence the problem. My father will not go against his elder brother, so he said if I do not agree with the selection of uncle, he will go on fast until I agree. He fasted for two days so afterword I relented and agreed for sari with green border.

This time also I stood firm and told everybody that we are leaving now. Hence all family members rushed outside and finished the rituals of placing shawl around my neck etc. We went to Sarojben's(elder sister of Jashoda) house in Hathi pole in horse driven buggy. We married on May 20, 1958, soon after that we rented one part of house in Ghantiyada and started leaving there. In around September 1958, I came to know from the advertisement in newspaper about the vacancy in Sarabhai Chemicals, a very well known pharmaceutical company. So I applied and was called for interview. That time my fuva, Nagajibhai was a farmer in Radhu near by Ahmedabad. He knew one banker in Ahmedabad, from whom he was getting loans whenever necessary. He talked to him and Mr. Banker gave one recommendation letter on Mr. Mukundbhai Trivedi, a manager in Sarabhai Chemicals. I went to Mr. Trivedi's house with that letter. He told me that he will try his best. In the interview he was one of the selection committee member and he had good relation with Mr. Singamany, under whom this position of personnel

officer was to be filled. More than 15 candidates with good qualifications came for interview. Finally they selected one Mr. Parikh who had a M.B.A. degree from USA. Some how Trivedi Saheb convinced Mr. Singawany to put my name in the waiting list. To my luck, and with God's grace, Mr. Parikh rejected the offer to join. So Mr. Ssnigamany decided to offer that position to me because Trivedi Saheb's influence. I was staying in Ghantiyada, in Mr. Punjalal Shah's house in Desai Seri. A letter of appointment was sent to me with Mr. Dave who was employed in Sarabhai. I got job because of Trivedi Saheb. That was one of the happiest days in my life. The job was very good with very good salary-Rs. 315 per month with extra 25% bonus every year. This is a turn of my life. I believe that I got this job because I married to Jashoda and she brought good luck to me, because her pious steps and entry in our life. I started my career as a Personnel Officer. In 1961 a Law school was started in M.S. University of Baroda. I joined LLB course. I only attended one or two classes because I didn't have any time. In May 1963 I took one week off from job to prepare LLB exam (law degree). I purchased some guides and prepared for exams. I had God-given gift of memory power. I passed with high marks 58%. Many employees from Sarabhai Chemicals also appeared, I stood first among them. In November 1963 I received my diploma awarding Bachelor Degree in Law from M.S. University of Baroda.

Then I started taking interest in labor law etc. Fortunately Sarabhai Machinery was created and I got transferred to Sarabhai Machinery with the help of Mr. Sudhakar Mehta who became executive director of Sarabhai Machinery. He was residing in our society. Let me tell you how I built a house in Gautamnagar society. When I was in charge of personnel division I noticed that Mr. V.C. Shah labor officer and Mehta Saheb were looking some maps. So I inquired about those maps. They were for construction of house on a land near work place. I asked whether there was any plot available. Fortunately there were some. I had no money, so I requested them to give me one of the smallest area one about 3000sq. ft. We were required to pay Rs. 3000 in six monthly installments. First I sold my portable transistor radio, then gold chain given by my in-laws, then camera I brought from Germany Roly Chord and some bonus amount. I belong to

joint family so I told my father and uncle that I would build house with joint family i.e. my father and two uncles. Finally my uncle agreed to give me 2000 rupees but later on he wrote me a letter that they do not want to contribute and no joint ownership house, but he also wrote in that letter that I should not build a house. As usual I was rebellion. I went against his wishes and got the house with the help of my in-laws. So I became sole owner of this house known as "SANDEEP", 27 Gautamnagar Society.

I was transferred to Sarabhai Machinery and became in charge of labour personnel, commercial and legal matter. I worked two years as Labor and Commercial Officer. Mr. Harshad Thaker was factory manager in Sarabhai Chemicals. It was too big responsibility for him so they created a new position of Assistant Factory Manager. I was interviewed for that position. Mr. Harshad Thaker was my neighbor and also was aware of my ability. I got selected for that position and transferred to Sarabhai Chemicals as a Assistant Factory Manager. I assisted him for two years. During those two years I created good impression on Production Director Mr. Raman. In the meeting with Thaker , myself and him, I could answer his query immediately but then Thaker would say, he will think over and let him know later on. On the contrary, because of my god given sharp memory power I gave answers on the spot. Thaker was very noble and humanitarian intelligent person only lacking was that he was taking long time for solving problems. Hence Mr Raman instructed Mr. Thaker that he should always bring Mr. Patel along with him in his cabin. He insisted for this and it made Thaker Saheb humiliated. He got frustrated and decided to go abroad for further study and he migrated to USA. I became Factory Manager. Management liked my work hence there was no question of selecting me as Factory Manager . It was a very prestigious position, having five officers working under F.M. and in charge of labor and Industrial Relations-wage negotiations work the labor union-legal-welfare. Excises-canteen and so on. I was very happy to get that position and I proved by my work that the management had made a correct decision of giving me that responsibility. I successfully solve the chemist strike. I always leave the office by 5 pm and go out for some activity. All the other department head knew that if a

problem arises, and they want to consult me then they have to contact me before 5 pm and after that I would not be in my office. Other officers were in habit of working after 5pm, I always finished my work before 5 pm and did not keep anything pending hence nobody can force me to work after 5 pm. I was very successful manager, very nice career, highly paid job. But somehow we were worried about Sandeep health.

I forgot to mention about my son Sandeep. He was born on November 6th in the year 1960 in Nikora. Jyotsna delivered him in my in-laws house in Nikora with the help of midwife. When I came to know about this I was very happy. One of my happiest days. But he was born premature. One month earlier. He was tiny so I said let us give him name "BINDU". Nobody liked that name. Second name later on I suggested was "Vikrant"-also rejected by everybody and finally Sandeep approved by everybody. He was underweight, tiny lanky guy but very bright in study. First I tried to admit him in Alembic High school. Principal Mrs. Jayaben Amin was in charge of admission. She was my colleague when I was working as Research Assistant in Faculty of Education and Psychology. In spite of this relation, she did not give admission, she found Sandeep not clever and not up to their standard. I told her don't judge him in one interview. Sometime child would not impress in one interview. She did not agree. Hence, I got Sandeep admitted in Vidyakung School near Vishwamitri bridge with the help of my neighbor Gopalbhai Shah. After one year in the next academic year I got him admitted in Alembic school with the help of the Nanubhai Amin (owner of Jyoti Ltd. A sister concern of Alembic) my neighbor Mr. Parikh was a labor officer of Jyoti Ltd he talked to Amin and with Amin instruction Jayaben had to admit him . Later on Sandeep did so well in test during the year that he was exempted from appearing in the year end final exams. He was exempted for all the four years.

He was lanky. Not enough weight. But very disciplined boy. Obedient, and cooperative and very intelligent also. We were very proud of him in those years and even now we are very proud of him.

Sandeep was eating good food. In the beginning he had a problem of tonsils in his throat so he got fever often. Dr. Javerbhai D Patel sister in law of my friend Shashikant Patel treated him often injecting penicillin. After operating tonsils, all problems disappeared. Never had that problem. He ate even raw eggs but could not put weight, so we were worried about his physical progress. At that time Thaker Saheb called me from USA and suggested that I should also migrate. Hence we decided to migrate to USA. I applied for a third preference visa which was allocated to Master Degree holders and management and highly skilled people. To my surprise after 10 days I received approval in mail. But I had to wait for my turn. They had extra visa available so they approved my petition in a special category. After a year of waiting I was called for interview by USA consulate officer at Bombay consulate office. I went with Jyotsna and Sandeep for interview. First lower level employees checked my papers and he directed us to the US consulate officer for final approach. After reading the remarks made by subordinate staff on my papers he said I am not eligible for visa because I had single degree. I was shocked. In my place other people have left without arguing. In my nature I never give up without trying hard so I told the consulate officer sir there is some misunderstanding about my qualifications. I am highly qualified and I have postgraduate qualifications from UK. So he looked again and checked the photocopies (at that time no Xerox was invented) and immediately became angry-called the person who put the wrong remark of my paper and reprimanded in our presence. He immediately apologized and said sorry Mr. Patel. He granted the visa and we all three came out from there with a smile, with gods grace. After I came out of his office I found that the person who checked my papers put wrong notation did it for revenge. Once he had come for an interview for a post of welfare officer I along with other manager interviewed him but was not selected. From that day I started appreciating good qualities of American People. Very honest and also helpful. After coming back from Bombay I submitted my resignation to the management after long mental struggle because I had the highest administrative position in a well known pharmaceutical company with lots of power and good house. In Gautamnagar people were questioning why Mr Patel is leaving when he has the best job and good bungalow etc. They did not know the reason for leaving. Even though I know that I will not get administrative

position in the USA as no white man would like to work under brown person.(But my fear was wrong, I found out after initial struggle in USA) I had to sacrifice for Sandeep's health improvement. After a long struggle and after going through some resistance from Jyotsna I submitted my resignation trusting God. My management were not ready to accept my resignation. They wanted me to stay. They tried but I did not withdraw my resignation. Finally they approved and I was relieved in June 1970. I started preparation for migration to USA. We left Baroda for Bombay. We had a reservation in Dehradun express train leaving at night. To my surprise hundreds of people came to Baroda Railway station to see me off. Both the platform were full of such people. I remember that all those employees whom I helped to get a job in Sarabhai came to send me off and, other relatives, and friends all. Not only they garlanded us but also gave us money and coconuts. Our jute bag was filled with coconut and handbag was filled with Indian currency rupees notes. It took hours for counting those rupees. I threw all these coconuts in Narmada river while crossing it at Broach . Arriving at Bombay stayed with Mahalaxmiben. Her father in law Chaganbhai also encouraged me for migrating. He arranged for tickets. Air faer was cheap. For the whole trip to Harrisburg, we bought the tickets 2 and half for 10,000 rupees-4000 indian rupees each. Sandeep was only 9 yrs old so at that time, half charges for children below 12 years old. Travel by Kuwait airlines. A very good package . We were given 2 free stops one at Rome and another at London. Kuwait line provided not only the transportation but a nice hotel and meals and visted all the places. I still remember the ancient places like colosseum etc. In London, same facilities and sight seeing . Travelled by Kuwait airlines, British airways, Japan airlines, and in USA by local airline I do not remember the name. But after embarking at laguardia airport they took us to JFK airport in a helicopter. After the helicopter started I noticed that the crew forgot to take my red colored bag. I immediately contacted the crew- and told about my bag. They brought down the helicopter took the bag and flew us to JFK airport. From JFK airport we boarded a regular small plane for Harrisburg. My younger brother Kanubhai was working in Harrisburg. He came and took us to his one bedroom apartment called Donna Jane apartments. Kanubhai asked us to sleep in the bedroom and he and Sandeep were sleeping in the living room. After two months, in September, I got Sandeep admitted in elementary school. He was

admitted in one grade lower than he was in India because he was not having any knowledge of English language. We did not go to school. Principle took the information about Sandeep on phone and gave us the bus number and the street where the bus will pick up Sandeep everyday in the morning and bring back in the evening. No transportation charges. Not only that but books, pencils, notebooks, everything was provided for free. As Sandeep was only knew English alphabets he was provided a tape recorder and lessons with it to learn English at home. He was very bright. He started picking up very fast and by the end of the second semester he was at par with the other students. He started getting A grade not only in other subjects but also in English. We were happy about his progress in school but still worried about him not gaining weight. He played tennis with uncle Manubhai . He was good even he defeated Manu uncle. He started winning trophies at the age of 12. In the school and in High School grade 9-12, he was selected for tennis team. His achievement record was exceptional 56-1. Only one defeat and that too when the climate was cold. So he took part in various tournaments. We were afraid about his safety. So we did not purchase any bicycle for him. To our surprise one day he came with a 10 geared cycle, he won a the tournament and he was awarded a bike. No choice but allowed him to ride the bike. One day when he was standing near the wall of Donna Jane apartments some boys were playing baseball. The player lost control of the baseball bat and slipped through his hand and hit Sandeep on his head very hard. A two inch long and a half inch deep wound. Blood coming out. We got panicked but no one took him to the doctor for treatment. We had no money. So I applied turmeric powder and covered with bandage. Fortunately, he recovered. But that incident left a scar on his face but also in our minds. We decided we will work hard and make Sandeep Medical doctor. He did very well in school. Always A grade. I was very happy to drive him for playing tennis even in the snow to-nearby Hershey covered court. He received excellent report from school councilor. in the remark column of report card she mentioned that" Sandeep hopes to prepare for a career in medicine and it would seem that it is a realistic choice for this well organized, able young man, Sandeep has been not only an outstanding student but a fine school citizen as well. Also In the remark column it was mentioned that he was ranked 4th in a class of 500 12h grade students. We applied for him admission in a private college Bucknell

university for a bachelor degree in chemical engineering. At that time, chemical engineers were paid good salary after doctors. In summer vacation we sent him to Baroda at Mama's house for visiting India and also for exploring for a seat in medical college.

Let me stop here. I want to write about my closest friend Dr. JASHBHAI and his wife BHANUMATIBEN. Since he is four years younger to me we did not have much contact during school years. After obtaining a medical degree from Bangalore he came to Baroda for his M.S. degree. During that period we became very close friends. He used to come to our house in Gautamnagar Society with his co-students for drink parties on our terrace. After getting M.S. degree from M.S. University of Baroda he along with his wife went to Zambia. In June 1970 we migrated to USA and after some time during the year 1972 I received a letter from him asking my opinion whether he should migrate to USA. I gave my opinion encouraging him to do so. He migrated in 1973 on Immigration Visa. He had Canadian visa so he applied for 5 years visitor visa for USA. He was fortunate (USA consulate officer granted them later on Immigration Visa even though initially they applied for visitor visa for five Years) He worked for about 18 months in Detroit and after words settled in Chicago as Family Physician. We used to go often to Chicago and stay with them for about 15 days enjoying the life there. I enjoyed good non veg. food and drinks (specially 12 years old Single Malt whisky) with Jasu and Jyotsna had a good time with Bhanuben a very noble, humble and loving woman. We visited Australia and Fiji together for about 15 days. We used to go often to Detroit at Arti's (Jashbhai's daughter) house a GORGEOUS mansion on Walled Lake and stayed with them enjoying good food and drinks- boat riding with her husband Tushar Amin. We recently had a good time with her Parents in Law Haresh Amin and Hemaben. In Chicago Jasu's friend Bharat shah makes Non-Veg. food for us specially Fish- Salmon steak etc. He enjoys drinks. Bharat and his wife Sheela are wonderful host and also nice people to talk.

Let me stop here. I would like to say something about Sandeep's mother who sacrificed a lot for his progress. She got a job for packing frozen fish that made her work in very cold conditions. In spite of being a vegetarian she had to pack fish every day. For more than 15 months she woke up at 4 am in the morning

and took a ride to work without taking bath; return to apartment, take bath and then prepare food for 4 of us. After words, the state department held a job fair. We attended the job fair and I gave interview for Jyotsna ,Manu Uncle, Manibhai(Manju Foi's husband) and got them job offers. By that the time was over. But somehow I manage to meet affirmative action program representative. He asked me to come to his office in state building. Met him. He arranged for my interview with Deputy Secretary. Dept. of Environment Resources, Mr. Eichbaum a very nice noble humanitarian intelligent person. In interview, he asked me what can I do for his office. I told him that I will assist in his administrative functions. . Then either he was impressed or moved by his humanitarian trait he offered me a non civil service job of entry level position. In spite of my scoring high in civil service test, I could not get civil service job because of veterans preference rules of the state. But he gave me the position to assist him. My colleague was William, an Administrative officer 3rd level, but he was alcoholic addict- would go out in lunch and have a hard drink in lunch. As he was not attending his assignment, I took advantage of his weakness. So I told Bill do not worry. I would do your work while you are away. Gradually within 6 months I took over his work with the knowledge of senior boss. Finally, Mr Eichbaum got tired and transferred him to another department. At that time I told my boss that you know I was doing his work, please try me out and give me his job. Because of civil service rules, I was not given Administrative Officer position, but taking advantage of my having LLB degree, he got me appointed as Special Assistant Attorney General. I was not qualified to do the legal work but I was assigned the task of administrative job with very high salary.

In the meantime, Jyotsna started working as clerk II in revenue department. We were very happy to have jobs in Pennsylvania State Government in Harrisburg, capital of Pennsylvania State. I was assigned a special private cabin having a facility of kitchen and refrigerator in the outside area of my cabin and was given an experienced secretary. I tried my best to satisfy everyone in the office. Apart from that I used to help them in their financial investment decisions. I was very popular. I had to manage the administrative function of all offices

located in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburg. My boss was very humble fellow, a bachelor. In picnic, he used to cook food on charcoal barbeque grill. A very happy experience. During that time Sandeep went to India for a visit and for exploring to get admitted in medical college. At that time in USA Candidate has to attend 4 years degree course, with at least two years of credit in biology and chemistry, and even after that without a recommendation from senator or higher level politician, it was very difficult to get a seat in medical college in USA .You have to take a chance. So he appeared for an interview in Banglore and was offered a seat in Gulberga Medical college. We had to pay a good donation about 125000 rupees for this seat. We paid donation by bank draft. When I received the telegram from Narendramama that Sandeep is admitted in medical college, I literary started jumping with joy. That was my happiest day. Finally with god's blessing our son will now become a doctor. He studied there for first year (18 months) of college, and lived in hostel with very poor facilities. But Sandeep tolerated that because he wanted to become doctor at any cost. He stayed there and passed with first class. He received second rank among the first year students. We started for looking possibilities to transfer him to Baroda Medical College. There were two seats open. He applied for one seat. As he had very high score in the first year at Gulberga, we were very optimistic that he will get one seat. But Baroda medical college enacted a rule that will ban from getting a seat who were not Indian citizen. Sandeep was a U.S. citizen, so we had to file a case in high court. High court gave a Judgement in our favor, stating that college cannot enact rule giving retroactive effect. So Sandeep was admitted In second year in Baroda Medical College. He completed his final study after 4 years and was awarded a M.B.B.S. degree. We wanted Sandeep to practice in Baroda in INDIA. Even Narendramama offered his lot in Tarun Society to build a hospital if Sandeep decides to practice in Baroda. But god had better plan for Sandeep, so Sandeep decided not to practice in India and started preparing for leaving for USA. He was very happy in Baroda, having very nice friend circle like Tushar Mankad, Rajiv Bhatt and others. He left India and went to his uncle (Kanubhai) s house in Tallahassee in Florida, after getting married in Baroda.

When Sandeep cleared the final exams of M.B.B.S. , We started to look for a girl. Fortunately one day I and jyotsna went to Somadada's house to see Sharadben. She was sick but she loved us very much. Eventhough she was very sick she used to make good dinner for us, specially mango rus and rotli. One day in one discussion Manuben- Somadada's younger daughter mentioned how about Neeta, Jethamama's daughter for Sandeep. Somadada's children were calling Jethabhai Neeta's father mama. Dada said yes. So he asked us what I think. I said I do not mind to see Neeta, but as Jethabhai's native place is Mandala, as per our Patidar system, a girl from Mandala will usually do not marry to a boy from Sarbhan or Sinor. My sisters and foi got married to persons from Mandala. But dada said if Jethabhai do not mind , I said no problem with me. After some days Jethabhai and Jasuben visited our house , met Sandeep and us and they were very much impressed. Jasuben told us later on that they decided to accept marriage offer even if they have to give dowry and money for marriage. After some days I attended Neeta's cousin Daksha's wedding in Baroda , I saw Neeta and met her on dining table. She was very innocent but intelligent girl. I was very much impressed and told dada that I will be very happy if Neeta and Sandeep get married. I made up my mind, but later on Narendramama, dada and Sandeep expressed their views that we should advertise and see more girls. I objected and argued for a long time till midnight. Finally I gave up and agreed for giving advertisement in local newspaper and Ahmedabad newspaper. We had lot of bi-odata and started interviewing girls. There were offers from parents of medical doctors, but I could convince Sandeep not to get married to medical graduate as I believe that two medical graduate couple will have very hard time in life. So no medical doctor girl was interviewed. I had Neeta in my mind, my first choice. So I arranged to call her last, before coming to house I suggested Prafulbhai that Neeta should wear a sari. She came wearing sari. Sandeep and Neeta went to first floor and talked for about one to one and half hour and came down floor smiling. They both said yes. We were very happy to hear that. But I told both of them that they should think twice but both said they are firm. We distributed sweet penda for the occasion. and announced the engagement. An engagement ceremony was celebrated in Gautamnagar Common hall in August and fixed a date for marriage in November. But we could not celebrate in Nov. or Dec. as Neeta's final exams

dates for final year of engineering were not fixed. Finally 5th January, 1986 was fixed for marriage ceremony. They wanted to celebrate in Gandhinagar and I could convince them to arrange in Baroda. On 4th January we had a dinner in Gautamnagar hall. We invited them for dinner. Some people joined us and next day procession started early in the morning with music band to Milankunj hall. Marriage took place in the morning. A nice dinner was served by a caterer Mukundbhai Patel. A table dinner was served. A seating capacity of about 600 people. People were used to buffet dinner but we were lucky that Mukundbhai could arrange a table seating dinner. Very nice tasty items were served. People praised for dinner and enjoyed it. After marriage couple arrived at 27 Gautamnagar Society, and received by our relatives with usual rituals. Next day Neeta had to go to Ahmedabad to appear in the B.E. exams, last paper. She went there.

Later on in March of 1986 Sandeep went back to USA and started preparation for ECFMG exams for residency. He stayed with uncle Kanubhai and later on Neeta joined him. He appeared for the exams and got very good score. Foreign medical graduates were not getting residency and were doing odd jobs. But because of high score and God's blessing he was called for interview and received offers from four colleges. Champaign University of Illinois, medical colleges in New York and Saint Raphael hospital in New Haven Connecticut, a Yale university affiliated hospital. He was ready and about to leave Harrisburg to join Champaign University but to our surprise, he received a call from medical director of Saint Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut and offered him a residency in Internal Medicine. Sandeep was very happy to hear this news. Next week we left in car and went to Rockyhill, to Mukundbhai's house and then to New Haven. We searched for apartment. Even though he was getting 25000\$ salary, apartment manager did not offer any apartment as they consider that it's not enough. They refused even we were ready to give rent in advance for 12 months. Later on one nice humanitarian lady manager agreed to rent one bedroom apartment in West Haven. Very happy to move in that apartment. Next year we transferred to two bedroom apartment as Sandeep's salary was increased. We

had a very nice old age couple as our neighbor named Mr. Donald. Very good neighbor. Sea shore was not far. For many days after dinner we usually went there for a walk. A very pleasant experience.

Ronak was born on 2nd August, 1989 at 10.18 pm. We invited Prakash mama and Bhavanamami to visit USA, to see Ronak and also have an opportunity to decide whether to migrate to USA or not. They came here, stayed with us and finally they decided that they will like to migrate. When Ronak was little we used to take him in a stroller for a walk and play on the sea shore. Later on Sheetal was born on 4th August, 1992 at 10.56 am. By that time we had moved to a rented house in Hamden. Nice good house with five bedrooms surrounded by nature on hill. Sometimes we saw deers grazing in our back yard. Sandeep completed 3 years of residency and was looking for fellowship in cardiology. One other candidate was offered a cardiology fellowship so we started typing applications for other programs as oncology as other choice. We did not like oncology as I think doctor has to treat patient with high mortality rate. But no choice. With God's blessings the other internist decided to do cardiology in Philadelphia. I told Sandeep to meet director to express his willingness to do fellowship in cardiology if offered. Medical director was impressed by Sandeep's ability, so they offered him the position for fellowship in cardiology. After successfully finishing cardiology fellowship, he did one year more for invasive cardiology with good salary about \$70000 a year. After finishing that he found a good paying job in Jackson Tennessee, about 80 miles east of Memphis. We rented a good house there and we all went to Jackson. But it was a wrong selection. Owner of clinic was greedy one. Within one year Sandeep got fed up with him and resigned. He did not have job but could not continue to work in Jackson.

Fortunately he was called for interview for a job in a small town Deridder near Lake Charles in Louisiana State. He came for interview in Houma by CIS. In interview he was asked whether he would work in Thibodaux instead of Deridder. He was glad to accept the offer. We came from Jackson and started to look for a

house on rent. We could not find in Thibodaux but with the help of century 21 Agency could rent a good house in Schriever with nice neighbor Mr. John. We stayed for almost a year and meanwhile started looking for purchasing house in Thibodaux. We wanted a big house with four bedrooms, but did not find one and later on we could find one three bedroom house in country club, a beautiful area. Very happy to live there. But after sometime we started to look for bigger house and couldn't find the house of our liking. We wanted one story building. One day while looking I saw a sign for a sale of a lot on Banker Drive. It was a corner lot of about 30,000 sq. ft. Sandeep and Neeta liked it so we contacted the owner and put a offer. We bought the lot and started to look for design to build a house. I looked for a design in different magazines. After trying 2 months, I could trace a design published in magazine. Sandeep and Neeta both liked it. So we contacted a drafter for preparing a detail drawing. Sandeep wanted a big five bedroom house but finally agreed to have four bedroom which Neeta wanted. I made preliminary design and took to drafter. He made one change shifted garage in back and bedroom in front. It turned out to be excellent design with lots of light. We made copies of plan and invited bids from four building contractors. We found one named Chris ledet, a reputed contractor, a MBA degree holder. Even though his price was reasonable but I could make him agree to lower the price by about \$20000.00. Then we signed the contract. In January 2001 with the help of Dixit family, Sandeep performed the ground breaking ceremony. The contractor finished building our house in one and half year. We moved to our present wonderful home on August 22, 2002. Very happy living here for the last 11 years. Sandeep had a good progress in his job with CIS. He and Neeta hosted two big parties, one celebrating our 50th marriage anniversary (parents) and later on for Sandeep's 50th birthday in the hall named The Cypress Columns, located between Houma and Thibodaux. Very nice parties with live music and good Indian and American food. Everybody enjoyed it.

For last so many years I and jyotsna stay here for six months and go back to India for six months. Usually leave USA in November and return to USA in May of each year. We have nice time in India. In six months we do social work. One day

on the railway platform I met my friend Indubhai, who was my room partner when I was in B.A. and he was in B. Ed. Class while staying in Narsinhji's pole. We were very happy to see each other after so many years. His wife had cancer and died at very young age leaving responsibility of raising four children and responsibility as principal of Model High School. He told me that he was helping people in a small way. I expressed my desire to join him in his social work. He asked me to contribute only Rs. 2000. Later on we visited Hostels for poor tribal and adivasis students in Sinor. We started spending Rs. 5000 for water tank and continued to renovate boys hostel building. One day in our visit to hostel, sheetal asked me, "dada, how many girls are staying in this small room?" I replied 15 girls. She was surprised. She told me dada, why don't you build a new building for girls. So started the construction of girls hostel- best girls hostel in area. Later on started renovating other depleted Chhatralayas (hostels) and constructed new building for schools and hostels. Our social activity got expanded and later on spread over Gujarat. I spent lot of time visiting depleted buildings and with the help of engineer, Mr. kamlesh lot of construction done. We didn't give them just cash money but we provided material – supervised construction also. Later on started activity of helping girls in mass marriages by providing them utensils and sarees. Then started helping poor patients for their eyes-cataract operation in a local hospital "Vaduwada"s eye institute and these activities are done even today. Jyotsna gave me support in doing this social work. Let me mention that without the support of my son Sandeep and daughter in-law Neeta, I would not have done any social work. They provided me more than million US dollars for social work and continued even today. No one would support their parents for doing this social work of such a large magnitude. In functions I always mention that son may help but daughter in law would not support like her. She did not like me telling people about her help. Even when the well known writer Dr. Gunvant Shah knew about this, he expressed in his article in one magazine "Abhiyan" april 2003, that who will get a daughter in law who will keep ready a draft for 25-30 lacks of Rs. donation when in-laws leaves for India. God's blessings what else. Social work is my food and oxygen. It keeps me in good health physical and mental. I enjoy the life in India and in USA with their help.

God is great for us. Ronak decided to go to Vanderbilt university for bachelor degree in Nashville in spite of having an offer from Tulane university with large scholarship. Vanderbilt university did not offer a seat in Medical college but being God with us and blessings of all the poor people in India, He got the admission in L.S.U. medical college in New Orleans. He joined there and now he is in third year. Ronak is a very bright student. He was awarded Valedictorian award for high school and we were very delighted to attend the convocation where he gave a Valedictorian speech. Very sincere but very intelligent. Even though Sheetal my granddaughter had all A grades in school, she decided to go for Accounting degree course in S.M.U. in Dallas. She did not want to become an engineer or medical doctor. She will be CPA within 2-3 years. We were in India when Ronak was waiting for interview. One day early morning I received a call from Neeta informing us that Ronak is selected in the medical college in New Orleans- the news we were waiting for a long time, as he wanted to become a doctor from very young age. It was one of the happiest days in our life. I gave money to the employees in our house. God has been very kind to us and has blessed our family and hope will bless in future also.

In short I list some of my accomplishments and achievements.

- (1) Even though I was born and brought up in a village, I was the first person in our district to go abroad UK for higher study
- (2) Successful in study and career, even though I had limited knowledge of English. Very successful Factory Manager in India and also earned good money while working in PA state government- USA. This was possible due to God given sharp memory and gift of thinking of one step ahead of others and planning ability.
- (3) Raised a very intelligent son who became a successful Cardiologist in USA
- (4) Managed to bring brothers and sister to USA and helped them settled in USA

- (5) Travelled around the world, specially hitchhiking in Europe and later on with the help of Sandeep and Neeta in USA , Australia and Fiji .
- (6) Helped under privileged and unfortunate poor people in the field of education and health and also done other social work in Gujarat state India for so many years with the help of family, Indubhai Shah, Kamlesh Thakkar and Bachubhai Vasava
- (7) Enjoying life without any health problem at the age of 80
- (8) Very fortunate to have wonderful family -- having a very cooperative wife Jyotsna, who always worked with me side by side in raising family and doing social work. Also having a wonderful, son, daughter in-law and two loving grandchildren, and noble, humble and straight forward relatives like Jethabhai and Jasuben, Narendrabhai and Madhukanta , Ramjibhai and Hiraben, Soma Dada, Niranjan and Pratima also friends like Indubhai, Babubhai, Ashok, Dr. Jashbhai , Vasant, Chhaganbhai, Zalani , Dhirubhai, Nalin, Dr. Kanak, Dr. Prakash,, Subhas, Manibhai ,Ravindra , Vipul and of course parents and brothers and sister – and the Girdharbhai Desai family, and their extended family relatives and in laws.
- (9) Early retirement at the age of 48 which very few people are fortunate to do so.
- (10) From my childhood, I always believed that I will be different from other persons, a unique person whose family will be one of the happiest family and with God's blessings I became that unique person.

Well this is my Journey Of Life.