

# My Life Journey

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Many thanks Dr Shalini Mohan Editor of UP Journal of ophthalmology.

She had requested me to write an editorial of my choice and now that I am 60 plus I would definitely like to share my life journey which will be an inspiration to the young

generation.

Usually nobody wants to share their personal life

In my case lot of issues in my personal life had to be balanced with my professional life. During my childhood I had to face a lot of hardships so much so that we use to have one meal a day .My dad earnings were so meagre that we use to manage a pair of clothes & shoes for atleast 3 yrs.Passed out my 10th n 12th std with flying colors inspite of all d hardships.

12th marks were good so I got admission in both 1st in Engineering n den Medical Stream ..I opted for the latter.

On the 1st day of MBBS my father was in hepatic coma.He was the sole bread earner.Chances of his survival way back in 1977 was 0.01%.So in fact the Dr in charge had given up & told us to prepare for the final rites. Dad was in admitted in General ward.Mom totally illiterate had not a pie to pay.She herself was crying inconsolably.All our relatives were in Surat & with no phones ..landline or otherwise so it was difficult to contact.Some how thru common family friends could contact my uncle & grandfather who came & salvaged the situation somehow by helping with finances

My paternal uncle on his way back come came to know his brother is seriously ill.He reached the

hospital & told us not to loose heart & take a 2nd opinion.Miracales happen & he came out unscathed & was discharged on 5th day of his hospital admission. As he survived he could pay my tuition fees & I got MBBS admission to BJMC ,Pune else would not be able to pursue.That was my destiny.

For my Post graduation M.S Seat I had to fight with Pune University in Mumbai High court..To fight the case I took up a job in Mumbai hospital & paid to the Lawyer n won the case .Pune university had to create an extra seat for me ..So the next big hurdle was crossed.

Then I got a call from Sankara Netralaya for an interview for my fellowship in VR Surgery.Dr S S Badrinath Sir took it.I had passed out from an institute were slit lamp was a luxury & lo here i was being interviewed at a premier institute but Sir was impressed & I got selected & completed 1year inspite of the pyramidal system (in which you were told to leave inbetween if you are not upto the mark) Infact Sir was impressed with my work & offered 3 months extra research fellowship in Diabetic Retinopathy.

After completing my VR Fellowship I came back to Pune to settle.My dad had just retired.He had put all his retirement corpus in my elder brother's buisness who did not fare well n went bankrupt with 3yrs of starting n went into severe depression with 2 children & wife to look after.I got married & unfortunately for me she had Schizophrenia which was not revealed to me as she was already on antipsychotic drugs as her mother was a dr & use to cal her home fortnightly n clandestinely give her injections.She conceived & had twins but during pregnancy she aborted one.After repeated sonology who assured that 2nd twin was fine.

But on delivery ..he had multiple congenital anamolies

n need sequential 8 surgeries continued to partly rectify one of which was open heart surgery

I was the sole earner now with no support whatsoever

I started my rental practice with just a refraction box n an ophthalmoscope n used to go to periphery of pune around 50km daily collecting a meagre 20rs as consulting going from each patient that to door to door of General practicioner. End of the day earning was just enough to cover up my expenses

On my personal front false court cases where filed against me which I had to fight n culminated in divorce..lot of mental agony n financial drain..Child custody was given to my wife as he was minor.

My 2nd marriage also didn't work out as she had severe bipolar depression & had to go seperation & litigation in family court which till todate I am fighting n paying heavy alimony that too back dated from 2003.

On the professional front I became the joint secretary of POS n later secretary & then VP & President of POS in 2010.

My father fell down had fracture neck femur & was bedridden for almost 5yrs as after the surgery he developed sepsis & lost him in 2005.

My brother due to his temper tantrums use to create lots of discord in family n whole society so had to admit him in mental hospital repeatedly & lost him in 2015.In the mean time my son started staying with me.He had gone into deep depression so I had to get counselling done as he was pursuing law but flunked 4 times so I shifted him to optometry & trained him..he passed out wd flying colors

My mother in the mean time fell ill & was bedridden for 7yrs .

Lot of mental stress as all by myself single handedly was looking after my aged diabetic overtly obese mother with 24hour servants n also my depressed child .Immense financial drain as had to manage court matters, permanent alimony , medications for my mother & child,24hrs servants ,cook & also expenses of clinic..

Still I did not loose heart fighting on all fronts solo climbed up the ladder to become joint secretary in 2013 of MOS & then Secretary ,MOS in 2014 .Then I had to fight an election for VP ,MOS but was forced to withdraw respecting our senior in favour of junior member 20yrs less my age.Then fought an election the following year for the same post of VP& lost & then again fought in opposition's home ground & won with a handsome margin to be VP & now President MOS .Also did my AIOS Leadership Development program way back in 2012.

Now before I took over as MOS President,I made 21 committee's with a theme of OVERALL WELLNESS OF MOS MEMBER'S that too well in advance (2months prior)before I took over.This is also 1st time in history of MOS

So it has been a monumental struggle all my life both on Professional & Personal life.This is not to get brownny points or to gain sympathy but want young collegues of mine to take a leaf out it & vouch never to give up in life inspite of all odds.Thats my reason to share my life journey.

**Dr. Jignesh Taswala**