

# Victim To Victor

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**T**ime flies, Memory lingers! She was among the quietest of my students. Her eyes looked deep, dark and dusky. But there was spark in the eyes and radiance on face. She was simple and sober. She was so different. All other students of the college would often interact with me, giving feedback on the impact of the class on their minds. But she used to be just all eyes and ears. Students

were always full of enthusiasm to attend my class, perhaps for two different reasons. First, that was a unique opportunity for them to learn and master soft skills. Second, such a subject was generally not taught in a Government Women's College. On completion of the project, I had huge sense of satisfaction. It was after a long time, I had got the privilege of motivating and mentoring umpteen number of students coming from the lower middle class stratum of society.

Little did I know then that I was face to face with true India, basking no more in the past glory but aspiring to live life with honor and dignity, till one day, a call came from an unknown number. The voice was so familiar and yet I could not make out. 'I am your old student from Maharani College' she quipped. She sounded both confident and contented. What followed was an engrossing tale of inner awakening and transformation. I found it hard to believe that a student, who rarely opened her mouth in the class had grown so eloquent in just a couple of years. Soon, I discovered- it was not sheer eloquence; she had found a Purpose in Life. All that began with an awareness that it was not her destiny but rather her lack of self-confidence earlier, because of which, she was simply doing simple Graduation. Now, she made up her mind to chase her dream of pursuing Aerospace Engineering. That she decided despite the fact that her parents were neither much educated nor could they afford her any professional degree like Engineering. But she remained firm and focused throughout, as never before. She lost her appetite as also sleep. Day in and day out, she had a singular motto. Her persistent efforts and overwhelming desire to achieve success yielded fruits. She not only got into one of the best engineering colleges in the city but also got scholarship. It was a dream come true.

But the best was in store still. It was only last month that she got selected to visit IIT Kanpur for completing her project. 'What a fulfilling experience of staying on the sprawling campus of IIT!' Her joy knew no bounds. Today, she feels humbled and has deep sense of gratitude to her parents for their constant support. In fact, this is a classic case of re-designing one's destiny. Many students and professionals often complain of being victims of vicissitudes of life. This is rather a case study of grappling with those bottleneck issues and scaling new heights. All that it takes is a craving to contribute more in life. Everyone, who is a victim today can become a victor tomorrow. In face of hardship, those who can persist will succeed for sure, just like Akhila T J, whose success story reminds me of the prophetic lines of John Milton: 'Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail/Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt/Dispraise or blame; nothing but well and fair...'