



RACK - 2
"24"
(2000)



Vol. No. 1 / July 2000

FROM THE HEART



"I was not looking for my dreams to interpret my life, but rather for my life to interpret my dreams." Five years ago we had not even dreamt that we should together build such a great institution. Since then several milestones have been crossed and yet many more remain to be reached to meet the Excellence that we desire.

Lila Poonawalla Foundation was born in 1994 on my 50th birthday through a magnificent gift from Dr. Gad and Dr. Bibs Rausing, to whom I am very grateful. The Foundation has a laudable constitution, yet a simple objective "To assist young girls to go beyond just graduation, before they step into the world to seek their destiny" Higher education brings professional literacy to woman thus empowering them not only technologically but also psychologically, it changes their mindsets, and it boosts their confidence in oneself which is ultimately necessary for achieving economic independence.

Since its inception more than 150 intelligent, deserving young ladies have got financial support from the foundation. Some have gone overseas and some stayed back in India to achieve their own goals. They all have become LILA FELLOWS. My thanks to

KIRAN BEDI (our first Chief Guest to launch the Foundation) for giving identity to this ever growing FAMILY. The Foundation also continuously finds opportunities to bring the LILA Fellows together at various FORUMS. Simple get togethers, cultural events, Professional training programs, picnics, educational tours and even formation of an E: group, to enable them to communicate with each other, to share, to learn, to change their future by changing their mindsets and to become better individuals.

Now with this newsletter we intend to meet one more objective. Each one of us will have the opportunity of penning down what we would like others to know and share our experiences. I am very proud of my Girls, and very thankful to the enlightened Trustees, office bearers and volunteers who have made this Newsletter possible. Through this Newsletter, I appeal to all of you to contribute and improve the high aims and inspirations of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation. 5 Years is a good enough experience to review what we have done and what we should be doing in the future. I wish all of you Good Luck. - **Lila Poonawalla**

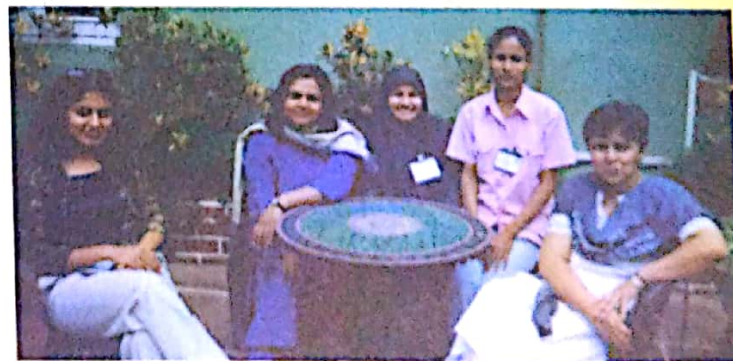
Dear Friends,

With the first issue of Inspira, we want to create a permanent dais, where all Lila Fellows can come together and interact with each other. The Lila Poonawalla Foundation celebrates its fifth anniversary this year and the need for a common cosmos was becoming increasingly imperative. And hence the concept of a newsletter emerged, which was perceived as the ideal mode of communication between all the Fellows, who may be distanced in space but are one in spirit.

With an enthusiastic editorial board and an encouraging group of trustees, it was not a difficult task to design the first LPF newsletter and its contents. A couple of highpower meetings and brainstorming sessions and Bingo! We were on the right track. A collective consciousness always works better than one, doesn't it? The features we have zeroed in on are geared to interest all the readers, in Pune and overseas. And contributions from one and all are invited. Kudos to Prime Enterprises for the excellent design. Thanks, Lila Fellows, for suggestions on content matter and names for the newsletter. Inspira was chosen because it's short n' sweet and bang on target! Deepali Ravi gets a special prize for this. A little off the beaten track, the name has an identity of its own and at the same time encapsulates the feeling of inspiration and togetherness we would like to generate amongst all the Fellows. The other names that topped the list were Fellowship and Expressions. Do write in with more suggestions, as your response is important to us. The LPF has also started a library, for which we will require

your contributions. Books-you-have-no-more-use-for are welcome. Lila Fellows in the coming years can avail of them. There's also the interactive email club, to which you all can also contribute with anecdotes, articles and what have you! (You can send your offerings to lpf_inspira@hotmail.com.) So here's a glass of bubbly and three cheers for the Vital Link..... Inspira. May it live long!

Shaan Chavan
Editor



Editorial team (L-R) : Jyoti, Shaan (Editor), Uzma, Snehal, Jaysree



SHORT TAKES

AT THE LPF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FUNCTIONS

From 1996 to 1999, The chief guests had some pearls of wisdom to offer:



1996 Dr. Kiran Bedi

(first woman police officer (IPS) and social reformer/author):

The man proves himself in enterprise, the woman brings in compassion and the concept of family, doing and sharing. The woman is born with the capability of sharing rewards. Each one of you should think what is going to make me different!

Let me share a few lessons of life I have learnt with you.

Time, a gift from Nature, is the same for everyone. What we do with our time is up to us. And how do we do our time in freedom or captivity is also up to us.

Be a friend to yourself! As soon as we realize that "I'm my own best friend" the better it is for us. You're the best guide to Yourself.

Inculcate the values of honesty, compassion, sharing and giving. Master your own thoughts. Combine the values of life with skills, because you never know where and when you have to face another roadblock.

Eventually, use your education for contributing to society.

1997 Shabana Azmi

(actor):

It's all very well to say that women should be empowered. One must identify the means by which empowerment of women can be achieved. It's not just getting a job and earning, because women are still doing the traditional chores at home.

For example, in Mumbai, women get up at 4 a.m., make the food, get the children prepared for school, spend the day at office and after returning home, cook again for their husband and children. In order to achieve economic independence, I think it is important that groups of women come together and find their own solutions (instead of depending on others and waiting for someone to come to your aid.)



1998 Shobha De

(author/journalist):

Women today have the power to dream and the power to make it happen. However, the most important thing is how we perceive ourselves in the next

century that is going to define, not our own positions, but also the next century. In the new century we should be rewarding merit, not gender alone. Because that is what counts at the end of the day. It's not taking advantage of being a woman but making the best of what you've got is what matters.

Traditional roles are being redefined, especially at the work place. Studies have shown that women bring more to the work place, in terms of contributions, motivation, understanding and compassion. Women should go with their own instincts, not clone men leads to better results.

Remember, freedom is about choice. Sometimes we tend to marginalize women who choose to be homemakers. We should not denigrate them.

I have one message for Lila Fellows. Always carry a little bit of India with you wherever you go. Let the world recognize you as an Indian.



1999 Dr. Reena Ramachandran

(Chairperson and MD, Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.):

50 % of the world population constitutes women, but women have belonged to the category of poor; illiterate; refugees; small workers and unpaid housewives. Only

6 % of all senior management jobs are held by women, all over the world. However, the emerging trends are encouraging. Women are entering unusual professions and taking up

senior positions 27.4 % in the developed world and 10 % in the developing countries. In India, this figure is 2.3% only. This indicates that the intrinsic potential to improve exists. What is required that the economy gets the best out of women and their inherent potential. In India, there still exist visible and invisible barriers for women to go up the ladder. You must remember that if you want to do something, nobody can stop you. Social aspects, environment etc. create barriers but this calls for prioritization. Women will have to decide for themselves.





A GENTLE REMINDER

On the first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being.

She said, "Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm 87 years old. Can I give you a hug?" I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you may!" and she gave me a giant squeeze.

"Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?" I asked. She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, have a couple of children, and then retire and travel." "No seriously," I asked. I was curious to know what may have motivated her to take on this challenge at her age. "I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me.

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she revelled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at the football banquet. I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this

whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know."

As we laughed she cleared her throat and began:

"We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and achieving success.

"You have to laugh and find humor every day.

"You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it!"

"There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old.

If I am eightyseven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eightyeight. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding the opportunity in change."

"Have no regrets. The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets."

She concluded her speech by courageously singing "The Rose." She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those years ago. One week after graduation, Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over 2000 college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

Remember, GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY, GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL.

Story Contributed By Deepali Ravi,
a Lila Fellow residing in the USA

Amruta Kale, Lila Fellow studying in the USA, has penned a few creative lines, as a tribute to the Lila Poonawalla Foundation.



*With gratitude and joy we behold the Foundation
Of which we are so proud to be a part
And make an attempt to voice the sentiments
Those are always there in our heart*

*For the Foundation's given us so much
Much more than mere monetary relief
It's given us incentive for achieving our goal
It's given us confidence and self belief*

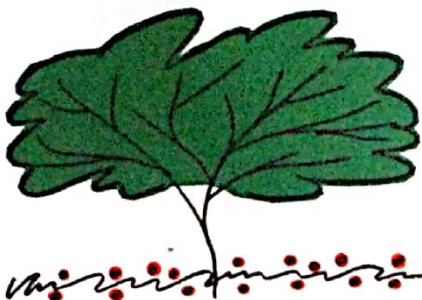
*The mere feeling of it giving us support
Is in itself a matter of great comfort
It truly brings out the best in us
And makes us strive for the goal with full effort*

*May the noble mission bloom forever
And all over the world the fame be spread
May the Foundation continue on this noble path
Leading Indian Ladies Ahead.*

*We highly revere the dynamic lady
Whose August name honours the foundation
We are proud to be Lila Fellows
And she's the source of our inspiration*

*Whenever we sit depressed, giving up hope
It sparkles like a ray of light
Inspires us to rise with new energy
And face the difficulties with courage & might*

*Indeed we are indebted to the Foundation
It's given so much that we can hardly repay
A promise to fulfill all the expectations
And grateful thanks that's all we can convey*



EN ROUTE

Chalo America!

Stressed out? Take a break! Forget all those applications, essays, SOPs, test scores, finances and visa hassles. Phew! That was a lot of work but you made it your *phirangi* universities after all. That's what counts now. Congratulations!

First Impression? America will have an humongous effect on you. For starters, modern airports, bustling highways, jam packed supermarkets, eye popping malls, smashing sales, mouth watering salad bars, Mc Donald Burgers, hot dogs and Kentucky Fried Chicken, CNN, IMAX (the ultimate film experience), Hollywood, National Parks, sprawling campuses, as also varied migrant groups, consumerism and customer service all these will blow your mind away. On the other hand, the beauty of the American Dream comes apart when complex, hardhitting realities in the land of learning stare you in the face. Drug addiction, violence, sex, crime racial overtones, school shootouts and moral dilemmas are the *bhayanak* side of America.

Student life in America is something else. You will have to get used to sleepless nights and long, stressful hours of hard work. The standard equation is 3- 4 hours in the Library for every hour spent in the class room. Library hours, seminars, presentations, papers, research, additional summer courses, extra credit hours, exams, thesis and schedules will leave you with little time for anything else. Catch up with sleep over the weekends. Yoga, meditation and the cosmic symbol OM alleviate stress levels. They are good for emotional management as well. Make the best of this God given opportunity. You have the talent to make it big.

Here are some useful and Practical tips :

- Check your travel documents, foreign exchange and baggage rules. Travel light unless you want to dislocate your shoulder or part with a dollar per piece of baggage. Skybags and strollers are ideal. A personalised artistic tag may help you to identify the lost luggage.
- Books are expensive. Carry all your books and an initial supply of essential medicines, cosmetics, toiletries and stationaries. This will save you a run to the drug store on arrival. Remember, Tylenol is the equivalent of Crocin.
- Sorry Moms! Take it easy with your home cooked goodies. More often than not, *Chaklis*, *bhakarwadis*, *kakras*, *chiwda* and spices find their way into the trash can at customs. *Curry patta* especially. As for pickles and chutneys, you are courting disaster. Smashed bottles are a ghastly sight. Shop at the local Indian stores instead. They sell you everything under the sun, literally.

- On arrival, your *desi bhaais* will receive you at the airport and accommodate you while you are busy apartment hunting. Campus orientation programmes will take care of the rest. When in doubt, ask around. Americans are a helpful lot. All 1800 numbers are toll free. Not a bad welcome package, come to think about it.
- If you are staying off campus, choose your roommates with care. They come in two varieties: the wonderful and the awful. If you are unlucky just stay out of each other's ways, buy your groceries and cook your own food.
- Veggies, take heart. Delectable fruits, assorted cheese, flavoured yogurt, Campbell's soups, cookies and convenience foods that break the monotony of routine menus. Rasoi Magic makes excellent curries. A pressure pan and bingo! Your meal is ready in minutes.
- Dress Code? Stay casual on Campus. Shorts, jeans, T-shirts and sneakers are okay. You are lucky if you in California but elsewhere, winter clothing, gloves and snow boots will save you from freezing to death. Carry all the warm stuff you have in your wardrobe to save on expenses. Ethnic wear is a stealer anytime. Americans go gaga over your traditional, colourful saris.
- Modify your word list. Substitute loo, elevator, boot, cab, drugstore, fries, gas and Hi! For toilet, lift, trunk, taxi, chemist, chips. Petrol and Hello!. 'Homely' and 'tabled' are best avoided 'harassed' is pronounced differently. Cooool, chill out, awesome, take care are favourite American expressions.
- Beware of cozy relationships The first person you will fall in love with may not be right one for you. The right choices take time. Instead, engage in group activities which can teach you skills like leadership, team work, planning and emotional independence.
- Indians sometimes do or say the wrong things when they go abroad, because they lack the knowledge of customs and mannerisms of other countries. Make it a point to inquire about local customs for tipping, dressing, accepting what is offered and issuing compliments. Always show gratitude to your hosts. Mind your own business and show up at the time stated on the invitation. IST won't do. Brush up on table manners. A Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner in an American home is an honour. It's a great



Maya Thadani

way to observe close family reunions. An appropriate gift (preferably an Indian handicraft) for such occasions is a must. So are thank you notes.

- The more you mix with people, the more you learn from them. Therefore interact with American and International students as well. The exposure will not only be a valuable experience but will give you a whole new perspective on the world at large.
- Occasional hiccups notwithstanding, perceptions, observations, selfmanagement and prayer, will not only help you to settle down in a totally new environment but will bestow peace, cheerfulness and equanimity. Live your life taking advantage of the best in you.

- Finally remember the slogan Mera Bharat Mahan. You are first and foremost Indian and student ambassadors abroad. Whatever you do or say is important and will reflect on you and your country directly. Indian students and professionals have won the highest accolades the world over. Silicon Valley is a shining example. Great indeed will be your pride when your coveted goals are achieved.

Way to go girls! Pack your bags and Chalo Amrika! It's a great country. What's not to like? Good times are ahead of you. The Lila Poonawalla Foundation wishes you the Best of luck, now and always. Au revoir!

Maya Thadani (Trustee, LPF)

EVE'S VOICE

The journey of life has its share of twists and turns. However precarious it may seem, it has its own share of certainty too. Despite this compelling paradox that looms large in every area of our life, there is an unfailing proven reality a sincere wish that springs from the depths of our heart always finds its way to reality. Meet two Lila Fellows, Dr. Supriya Kulkarni and Vijaya Seshan, who are testimony to the above fact..... a report by Jyoti Peswani



Dr. Supriya Kulkarni

Supriya always wanted to go abroad and pursue Pediatric Radiology, but somehow despite getting funds and other essentials, she felt there was a missing link.

She decided to take a chance and applied to the LPF for an overseas scholarship. Things fell in line for her and she was awarded a scholarship of Rs. 25,000/-. That moment is still afresh in her memory. She recollects the confidence that the scholarship incited in her. It helped her revive the "I CAN AND I WILL" spirit more than anything else.

Supriya is a MBBS degree holder and has always been an achiever; she has stood first in college for the Diploma in Medical Radiodiagnosis (DMRD)

examination, and won the first prize in rural internship project on investigation in Typhoid Epidemic. She was nominated for the German Remedies Travelling Fellowship in 1997, awarded by the Indian College of Radiology and Imaging. She proceeded to Melbourne, Australia for a year's training program at the Royal Children's Hospital. Within a month's time, Supriya was allotted funds by the hospital itself. There has been no looking back ever since. Currently, Supriya is on her way to Canada to further her knowledge about Women's Imaging, Mammography in November. Supriya has done us all proud.

Vijaya Seshan



Vijaya had a clear vision about her destination, a charted path where her strong will could see her through. This was enough for her to qualify for the Scholarship. She recollects, "Even though I was slightly late for the interview, Mrs. Poonawalla considered my case. I can never forget that".

Vijaya takes pride in the fact that she is a Lila Fellow for two years consecutively. Vijaya has been a first rank holder in the SSC examination, and has taken part in various sports and other extra curricular activities.

She has done her Masters in Computer Science from Wadia College. She has been with Harbingers Pvt. Ltd. since December 1998, and is now a Project Leader. For the foundation, Vijaya would like to contribute in terms of Web Page Designing.

Those were the power girls for you, each being achievers in their own right!



LEADING LADY



GUTS AND GLORY

Kiran Bedi's is an inspiring profile, our Leading Lady for this issue! Her contributions to society have been numerous, arising from a courageous and at the same time humane approach to life. This feature allows an insight into why Kiran is the woman she is!

Kiran Bedi, India's most celebrated and first woman police officer, has a reputation of being a tough cop. Ever since she entered the police force in 1972, she has left a trail of glory behind her with each successive posting. She is reputed to be a policewoman, who leaves no stone unturned to do her duty fearlessly. She takes on every task with a view to serve humanity, in order to make the world a better place to live in.

Kiran feels that policing is also social service from a position of power. Crime prevention has always been a priority in all her postings. Despite demanding official work, she has initiated a large amount of voluntary service in various fields of social development, which have a direct bearing on crime prevention and crime correction.

"It is my firm conviction that if we do not solve problems, we become part of the problems ourselves, essentially due to the manner we choose to function, exercise our authority and utilize our discretion. No rule shuts out options. There is always an element of judicious application," she asserts. Which explains why she never permitted the bureaucracy to get the better of her.

Her secret of success is really very simple. "Each one of us, irrespective of who we are, or what we are, is a product of our own time management. The manner in which an individual spends each moment of his/her waking hours determines the value one attaches to oneself, which goes on to shape the present as well as the future. This philosophy has been the basic motivating factor behind all my actions, personal and professional."

Kiran's Tryst with Destiny came in 1993 (May 1), when she was appointed IGPrisons. Courtesy her brushes with the higher authorities, the posting were initially perceived as being sent to some sort of Kaala Paani. Tihar, the largest prison in the Asia Pacific, is spread over 200 acres, houses almost 10,000 inmates men, women, children, adolescent, foreigners all offenders, convicts or remands. When Kiran took over, Tihar was an isolated institution, highly corrupt and condemned by the media.

It was an awesome task and involved changing the mindsets of the prisoners. Kiran initiated the Correction through a Collective approach. Her 3C model (corrective, collective and community based) resulted in transforming the mindsets of human beings. Slowly and steadily, she made way for Radical Reforms at all levels, with the help of some able members in her staff. Meditation, vocational training and welfare programs were some of the features introduced in the prison by Bedi. What followed and had the world intrigued and amazed was a

transition from an apathetic system to a transparent, responsive and sensitive administration and management. Which had government authorities as well as the media up on its feet with applause.



Explains Kiran, "I believe, the use of force only increases hostility and anger. We need to conduct ourselves in a manner, which increases honor and respect for the work we do. (In Tihar) we set about improving our communication channels among the staff and the officers. Since we had initiated a vigorous and relentless purging process, it was absolutely essential to develop an effective interaction system. Which could streamline all procedures and activities, whether individual or collective.."

It's Always Possible, a book authored by Kiran documents vividly Tihar and its transformation from criminality to humanity. A graphical portrayal of the holistic process a metamorphosis from criminality to humanity was achieved within the same legal framework.

Kiran has been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service (also called the Asian Nobel Prize), the Joseph Beuys Award by a German foundation and the Asia Region Award for Drug Prevention & Control by the International Organization of Good Templars (IOGT) a Norwegian organization. She has been an Asian Tennis Champion, holds a law degree, has a Doctorate in the field of drug abuse and domestic violence, is an author and subject of various books and films.

She supervises two voluntary organizations (founded by her) Navjyoti, set up in 1988 and the India Vision Foundation in 1994. These reach out to thousands of poor children daily for primary education; women for adult literacy; provide vocational training and counseling services in the slums, rural areas and inside the prison apart from treatment for drug addiction. She and her organizations today stand nationally and internationally recognized, with the latest award being given by the United Nations the Serge Sotiroff Memorial Award for drug abuse prevention.

Kiran herself has also been a subject of research. A book titled Kiran Bedi The Kindly Baton, has been authored by Dr Meenakshi Saxena, Reader in the Department of Psychology, Indraprastha College, Delhi University. Kiran also has a biography on her called I Dare.

Kiran Bedi has no parallel, that is for sure!

(Check Out Kiran Bedi's website : www.kiranbedi.com)

Down Memory Lane... SNIPPETS



Workshop conducted by Minocher Patel

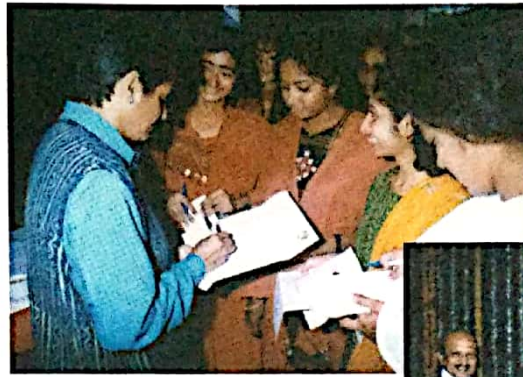


Tea-party



Grooming tips
by Ratna Khemani

Kiran Bedi interacts with
Lila fellows



Vocal performance by
Madhavi Prabbumirashi



Clowns - a treat for Lila Fellows



Jovina Amor
has given \$100
from her first salary to LPF



Shobha De at LPF awards function



Batch of awardees (1999)

Tetra Pak visit



Picnic at Filrozil



Bharat Natyam recital by
Deepali Ravi

Uzma Kazi meets up with the lively trustee of LPE, ELIZABETH MATTHEWS and comes back with renewed vigour.



On her association with the Lila Poonawalla foundation.

Lila invited me as a trustee on the selection board for the Lila Poonawalla scholarships, considering that I had been a principal of a girl's school for 23 years and therefore had a firsthand experience with the education of women. This was important as the scholarships are only for women students. I am very interested in the education of women. It is a very noteworthy activity.

I consented to be a trustee first of all because the scholarships are for the empowerment of women. It opens avenues for needy and meritorious students. It is not restricted to any particular community, thus rendering it a unique and outstanding scholarship.

Her experience as a trustee.

It's been a very enriching experience, very enjoyable indeed. In 4 years I learnt a lot. Hitherto my interaction was limited only to school children but now I interact with confident, mature, young women. I am happy to discover that the locals as well as the overseas students are very focused and sure about their choice of careers and professions. Their independent and fighter spirits are amazing.

The transparency of the activities of the trust is noteworthy. The evaluating and selective ability calls into play meticulous observation. The varied opinions of the trustees often led to hot debates garnished with a lot of humor and fun.

Her experience with the Lila fellows.

It is amazing how they have proved themselves after having won the scholarships. The manifestation of their achievements itself has become the touchstone of them being the right choices. There have been no failures so far. The girls have striven to be worthy of the scholarships granted to them. To name a few girls Jyoti, Jovena, Chandrika... Well, so many of them.

Would she exchange her place in life with someone else.

(She gives us an emphatic 'NO') I am very happy as both a trustee and a principal enjoy doing my work. I firmly believe that I should put my heart and soul into my work. My job is trying to build people in various sections. The school has to develop and function smoothly even after I have left believe we have to have a vision to work our way towards our set aims.

How would she define success.

Achieving your goals is success, isn't it? Success is delivering what you have in you, what you have promised to deliver and are expected to deliver. Success for the foundation is the laurels the girls have achieved. Academic qualifications are important. So are extracurricular activities. Our success is watching career women grow, who contribute a great deal to society as its responsible citizens. The foundation which expounds a value base system and aims to mould the students into all round personalities.

Milestones in her life.

Well...I haven't really thought of them as they are a part of the past and I think over only the present and the future. Nevertheless coming to Pune from Calcutta in 1970 could be a milestone. (I completed my education in Allahbad). I had never thought I'd be a principal here. But the odyssey has definitely been highly rewarding and satisfying was a college lecturer in Calcutta. My aspiration for a Ph.D. didn't work for some reasons and getting a break was not a cake work. In 1973 I was appointed as a teacher at St. Mary's. I completed my B.Ed in March 1975. I took over as the VicePrincipal in the same year. The school was then run by the nuns who withdrew for some reasons and a principal was needed. So I stepped in at the right place at the right time. (Talk of perfect timing !)

Her comments on the youth of today.

Yes, they have great potential. They are very organized and focused and sure about their choice of vocations. They are surrounded by complex and often confusing influences like the TV, internet, newspapers, so on, heaping numerous messages on them. But ultimately they make the choices they feel are right for them. Look at our own Lila fellows the way they conduct themselves. They come from various walks of life, delve into various avenues. They have language problems but overcome these barriers. They are articulate in their communication and can express themselves well.

What puts her off about people.

(She promptly replies) Rigidity. People who are able to see someone else's point of view, closed minds, dogmatic people, unwilling to grow.

What she admires most about people.

Those who can do several things at the same time with total dedication and commitment, those who have a way with words and can deal with people amiably, can say something firmly without offence and yet get the message across, who can communicate well and have PR qualities.

Her advice to young women aspirants of the LPE.

Total commitment is what I would stress on. Wherever you are and whatever you do, put in your best in it, give it your best attention, and bring about all the aspects of an integrated and dedicated personality.

