

My School Days

Dr. Devi Shetty

Indian philanthropist and eminent cardiac surgeon

Talks about school days, impact of teacher in students' life and need for more youth to join field of medicine

I had a good time in my school. I really enjoyed! In my initial days I studied in St. Mary's School till 6th standard. Later I moved to Bombay High School. It was very close to my place Kinnigoli, Mangalore. It was fun! I guess it is mainly because we all went to school which is close to our house. After we used to come back home, nobody asked us to study, we played around for few hours. We used to open the books just before the exams and somehow managed to pass. That was sufficient too. I don't think it makes that big difference for children to really slog from day in and day out. I don't think professionally they do something better than people like us.

Schools – then and now!

I feel kids of that era had wonderful time in schools compared to now. There was not much pressure on studies. It wasn't that competitive then! I feel sorry for the students today. They come back from school and start with so much of home work, competitive exams, CET and all kinds of things Stuff. All put together we have made their childhood hell! We don't need to. Unfortunately we



have created so many bottlenecks in the education system that children are always chasing their aspirations. World is not a zero sum game – it is not like if someone gets it then other don't get it, all of us can get it.

Everyone should be allowed to chase their dream, and education has to be made more interesting. Those days it wasn't stressful at all! There were hardly any exams. Most of us somehow managed to pass and we also failed many times but that didn't matter. In the end in the examination of life it really doesn't matter how times you

passed and how many times you failed!

My Teachers

There were lot of teachers in my school who left behind great impression! I was and still I am so found of my drawing teacher Mr. Achutha Acharya. He used to teach me painting and also taught maths. He is one person who is very special in my life!

*As told to Kartik Isvarmurti, Managing Editor, India School News
Read more and listen to Dr. Devi Shetty speaking
at <http://bit.ly/20wxsMK>*

Shri Ashok Kheny

MLA (Karnataka Assembly) and MD of the Bangalore–Mysore NICE Road project

Recalls school days and reflects on the state of education and society today

Basically my education is more like a gypsy as I had studied in different schools at various locations. I did my kindergarten in Rose Mary Convent, Hyderabad. Later my family reallocated to Kheni Ranjoli, a village in Bidar where I studied till 2nd standard. As the village didn't have 3rd standard we went to Gulbarga for a year and shifted back to Hyderabad. There I studied in All Saints High School. My final destination was St. Josephs Indian High School, Bangalore till SSLC. I went to Pune for my pre-degree. In those days pre-degree course was only for one year.

After pre-degree I joined Birla Institute of Technology, Pilani where I did two years of engineering. I wanted to become an electrical engineer but the institute offered 'civil' so I shifted to Surathkal. I completed my third, fourth and fifth year in Surathkal. I did my masters degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, United States.

Friends

Frequent change of locations during academic years makes it difficult to have a continuous friendship with people. What one loses is a friendship! Speaking about myself, though I go around Kheni Ranjoli village, some people come and say that they are my classmate etcetera, we talk but I don't have many good memories! It happens so because it is nearly 60 years.

Similarly from All Saints High School, Hyderabad I am in contact with very few people. Few to name are famous cricketer Syed Kirmani, national table tennis champion Jayant Kapadia, Indian cricket player Abid Ali, renowned doctor in Malleshwaram Dr. Ashwath Narayan and some best athletes.

I feel very proud of this school as it produced some of the best professional.

Like everything has good and bad, the change of locations through my education process did some good to me as well. I travelled to many places and I met talent in various fields that had impacted me in a great way. I had a good connect with people because we had a group, we were radical in our thinking. We always believed in 'let's do something different'. Let's make it different in India! Presently people talk 'Make in India' or 'Swachh Bharat' programs. We had thought about these things much earlier. Our aim was to develop India through education. We never went to the streets fighting and other odd things.

*As told to Kartik Isvarmurti, Managing Editor, India School News
Read more at <http://bit.ly/1NEAZQ7>*

