

ॐ KARM Fellowship



KARM, 2022



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LETTER TO READERS

From my pen,

I write this today with some degree of satisfaction – because what seemed an idealistic construct not so far back, is now a robust, loving and (sometimes!) noisy learning effort. I use the word satisfaction, with a great deal of caution because the journey ahead is going to be challenging as the Fellows step out into the World of Work. While we are trying to **equip each Fellow with, what may be her individual need, our overall goal is to help our girls acquire the skills and attitude that they will need to make their individual journeys of financial independence, both personally enriching and professionally stimulating.**

To achieve the above, we are taking a great deal of care to collect and incorporate the feedback that we seek regularly from the Fellows, into our program. Even more importantly, we are working hard towards building a culture within the Fellowship that allows for honest feedback and constructive criticism. We undertook **feedback sessions** with each Fellow twice in the year to make our curriculum relevant and interesting. The sessions were one-on-one, where we gave and took feedback from each Fellow. Further, **we built and incorporated a behavioral evaluation rubric, wherein the Fellows evaluated themselves on pre-discussed parameters**, followed by a discussion on the same with the KARM team. We found this to be useful and have therefore, added it to the KARM calendar.

Further, given the necessity of spoken English language in the workspace, **we have introduced 'KARM Vaartalaap' where each Fellow engages in a personal and professional conversation, simulated by the KARM team.**

As we go ahead, we see ourselves adding and deleting to the curriculum regularly.

I am reminded of the first few brainstorming sessions on the KARM curriculum here, where we spoke of inculcating reading, building opinions, and speaking with clarity. As I look back, I realize that while all of that is critical to the success of the program, **what is paying us the richest dividend is the love that we feel and express for our girls**; additionally the 'tough love' that we practice each day, has created a magical **'circle of trust' among the girls which, will provide them strength and courage in their journeys.** We are confident that decisions taken from this vantage place, will keep our intent clear and decisions, sound.

The faith of our mentors, donors, and the community around us continues to motivate and encourage. I must personally thank Tara Singh Vachani, Amitav Virmani, Shaheena Attarwala, Dr. Shelja Sen and Dr. Reddy here. Each of you know what and how much you have done and continue to do, for the KARM Fellowship!

Till the next look-back!

Warmly,

Vinita Johorey

“JUST LIKE MOONS AND LIKE SUNS,
WITH THE CERTAINTY OF TIDES,
JUST LIKE HOPES SPRINGING HIGH,
STILL I’LL RISE.”

Maya Angelou

20 young women sharing the stories that inspire and motivate them to rise. Stories of families – mothers, fathers, sisters and aunts. Memories of teachers, and childhood tales that left a mark. **Motivation that comes from defiance of patriarchal norms, tempered with optimism for a better future.** The laptop screen lighting up with heart emojis and applause – one of the more unusual ‘grammar’ classes I’ve witnessed.

The KARM Fellowship’s inaugural batch has just completed their first year, and as I sat through this class listening to the Fellows speak, I could see how the Fellowship has been working with and for the Fellows. These **evening classes have been the bedrock of the Year 1 curriculum – building critical thinking and effective communication habits** in the Fellows. They have been supplemented by a host of activities designed to help the Fellows discover their values, skills, self-identity and therefore the place they would like to occupy in this world.

Such as the **KARM Social Pillar** – where Fellows **volunteer at the Blind Relief Association**, discovering the joy and purpose that comes from giving back to communities and dipping their toe into the world of professional work. Guiding them through the professional world are the **KARM Talks guest speakers. Vinita Bali, Namita Thapar, Urvashi Butalia, Ashweetha Shetty, Shaheena Attarwala** – exceptional leaders and achievers who shared their experiences and insights on what it takes for women to build, navigate and excel in careers.

Every month we gather in person for a **full day workshop**, this is perhaps our most anticipated activity even though it’s a long, packed day of workshops. There’s a certain spark in the air, the debates become furious, stories are shared with passion and speakers, facilitators find themselves fielding a barrage of probing questions. It’s a chance to check-in, hand out hugs, pose for group selfies and most importantly build that community spirit that will continue long after this batch officially graduates from KARM.

This is merely a snapshot of the activities that KARM has facilitated – and I use the word ‘facilitated’ with intention. **Ownership and integrity are baked into the KARM Fellowship’s program design** – we believe that these are key attitudes that will help our Fellows succeed. This means that while we open doors for our Fellows, it is their responsibility to show up and put the work in.

KARM Fellows plan their own schedules and logistics, they arrange their own meetings, communications, and track their attendance. They self-evaluate, reflect on their learnings and provide us honest, **constructive feedback – that breathes life into the program.** On many occasions they are the ones who come up with and offer solutions to the team’s logistics challenges.

We would like to recognize that the Fellows do this over and above their classwork and housework. **We celebrate their spirit and commitment to themselves. This is why we show up– to ensure that the Fellows create their own stories and leave a positive mark on this world.**

KARM TALKS

Vinita Bali - "When you value my work you won't care about my gender identity."

Parminder

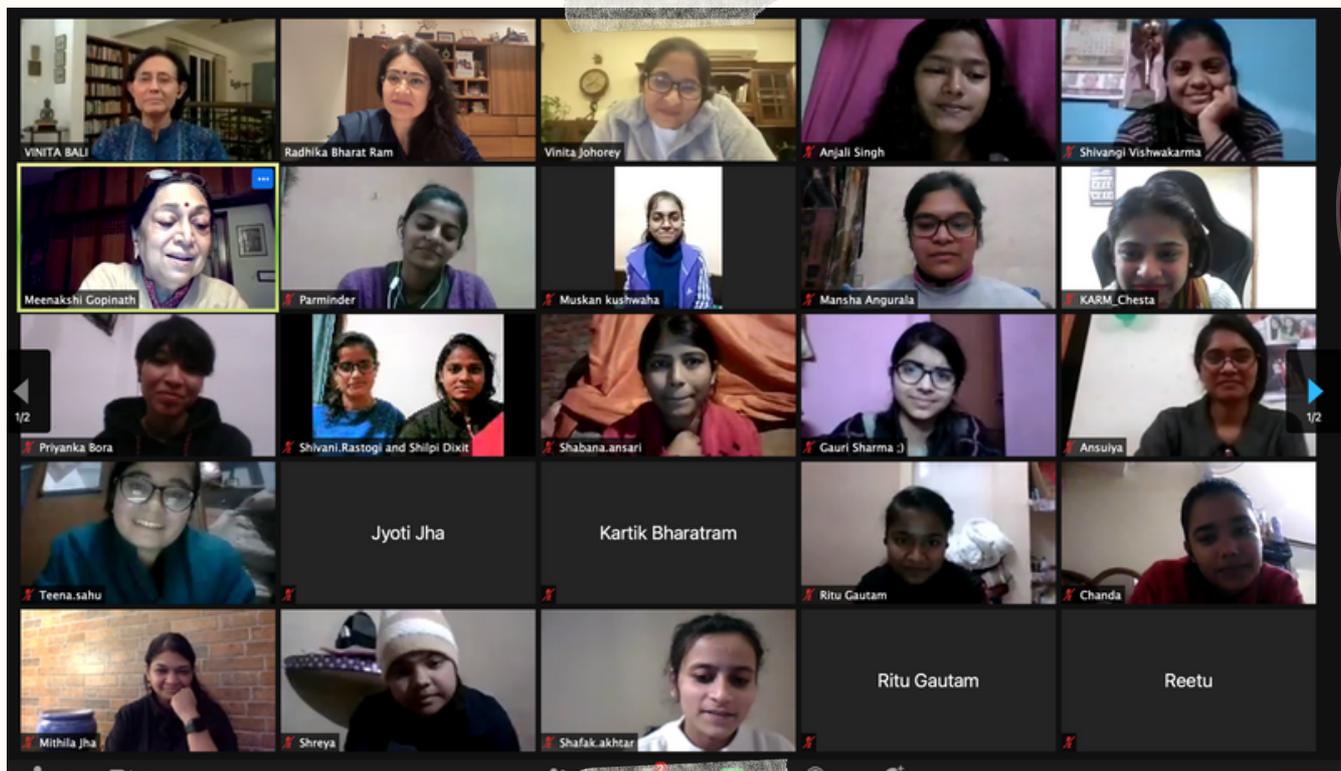
It was January 24th when we had Ms. Vinita Bali ma'am as a guest for the Karm Talk. Born in Bengaluru she is an exceptional Indian businesswoman who was formerly the Managing Director & CEO of Britannia Industries. We were really looking forward to the session as her corporate journey had always inspired us.

The talk began and we didn't even realize how an hour went listening to this wonder Woman talking about her life journey both on personal and professional fronts. The line that stood out to me was "When you value my work you won't care about my gender identity."

The spirit that helped her reach the heights was that she never said no to any opportunity. If it will teach us something, it will contribute to our professional aspirations and last but not the least **'if it's fun, it's worth taking'**.

My views about 'giving up' really changed after her talk **as she explained that whenever we say we gave up on something, it's just that we made a choice;** a choice for ourselves and making choices is a part of life.

We were blown away by her grace, simplicity and intelligence. We gave her a heartfelt vote of thanks in the end. It was truly a great experience to interact with her in person.



Urvashi Butalia - Learning about Feminism

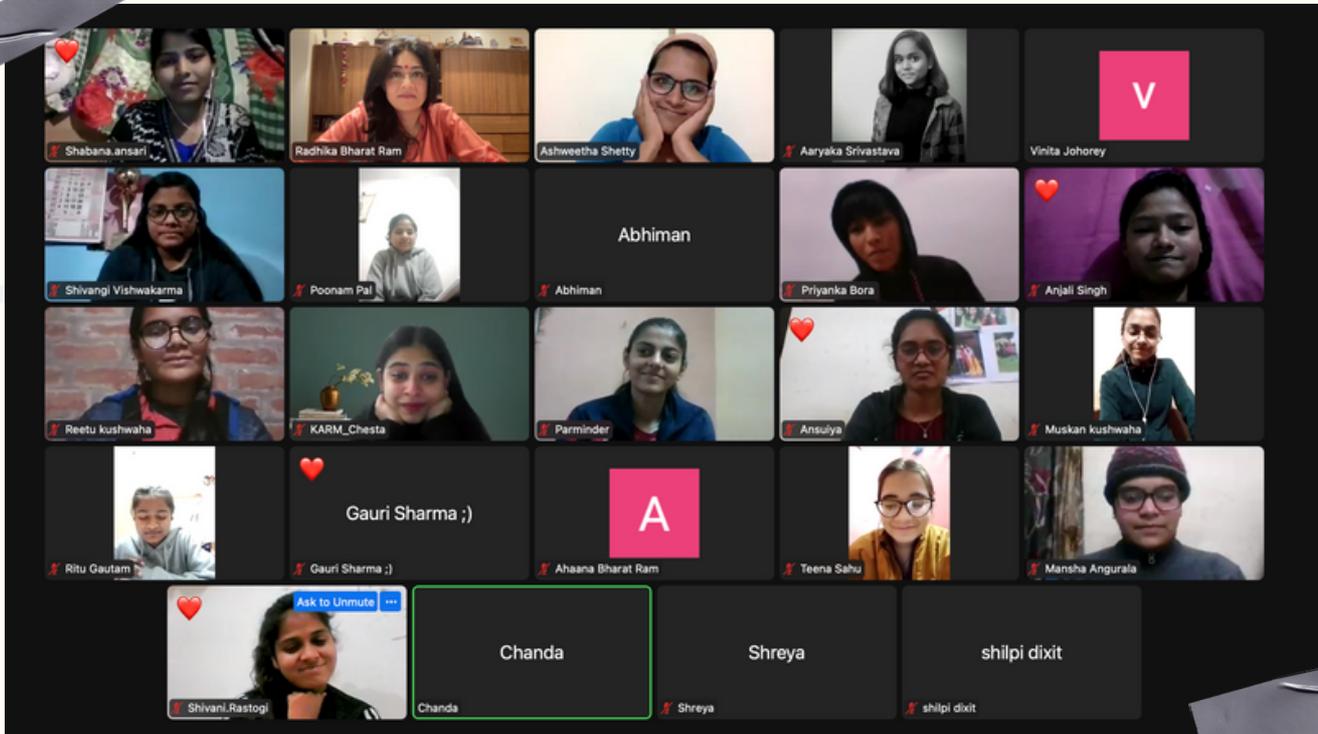
Shabana

I feel elated that I got an opportunity to meet and talk to Urvashi Butalia ma'am who is the co-founder of India's first feminist publishing house 'Kali'. She is also a writer, reader, feminist and activist. She told us a story of a girl who's name was Baby - a hardworking girl who got married to an aged person and later she ran away from her husband's house in search of a better life. Luckily she got a job at a retired professor's house. She began to read books from his library, who asked her to write about her own life story. She wrote about her life and started her career as a writer. If she wouldn't have started reading and writing she would not have become what she is right now. **Urvashi ma'am narrated this real life story to help us understand that each story matters and education plays an important role in everyone's life.**

Urvashi Butalia also talked about feminism. Feminism is not just about giving equal rights to men and women, it's more than that - **it is an ideology that every human being has a right to live a life of dignity.** Amongst all the stories she shared, this talk on feminism was the highlight of the day, and we got a lot of inspiration from her. She gave us all a new and a broader meaning of feminism, that it is not always about female wellbeing but also about wellbeing of other humans. **She told us how our smallest efforts add to creating a safe space for those who are treated unfairly.**

My main takeaway from her talk was that since we are educating ourselves, we must also treat all genders equally AND with equity.





Ashweetha Shetty: Breaking the norms of 'POOR', 'VILLAGE', and 'GIRL' Shreya Sharma

We had the privilege to be a part of Ashweetha Shetty's session. It was insightful and full of motivation which **emphasized the importance of education in turning the world different for a poor village girl.**

As a girl in a poor orthodox community in a south Indian village, Ashweetha Shetty was constantly told that her birth was not celebrated and that she would be a liability to her family. **The social norms prescribed for her identity silenced her dreams, thoughts, and aspirations. But with the power of education, she became a first-generation college graduate and had a chance to rewrite the possibilities for her life.** As she says: "I always wanted to add my bit to their inspiring journey."

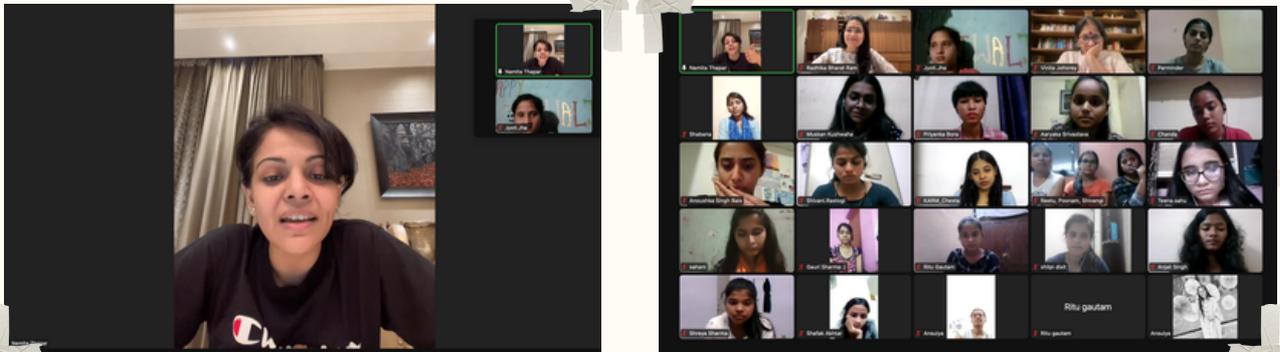
Being born to a poor family in rural India, Shetty didn't let the social norms of her community stifle her dreams and silence her voice. She mentioned that they were conditioned to believe that the three identities that defined girls of their area – poor village girls – meant that they had to live a life of no voice and no choice. She shared “ **All of us are born into a reality that we blindly accept until something awakens us and a new world opens up**”. She went on sharing how she found self-worth through education – and how she's working to empower other rural youth to explore their potential. She realized that stories like hers were considered to be an exception and never the expectation. Now, after completing her education she has decided to change the life of youths with the help of education and help them to find their usefulness. Therefore, she has started the Bodhi Tree Foundation, a non-profit institution that supports rural youth by providing them with education, life skills, and opportunities.

Namita Thapar - "When your Ambition is greater than your fear, your life will be bigger than your dreams"

Jyoti Jha

Imagine you get the opportunity to actually meet the Shark Tank judge and much admired businesswoman Mrs. Namita Thapar! As someone who has admired her for a long time from a distance, this was truly amazing.

Karm believes in '**Girls with dreams to women with Visions**'. Karm Fellowship provides many opportunities to accomplish such dreams by equipping us with proper guidance, support and encouragement. "Motivational talk" is one of the prominent components of Karm planner which happens once in a month. These talks help me imagine myself at work defending myself, fighting for my rights and identity. These speakers uncover the truth of our upcoming phase of life and motivate and encourage us to prepare ourselves for the worst to face and the best to celebrate. These sessions always drive and energize us to chase our dreams.



On 19th May we got the opportunity to interact with Ms. Namita Thapar (CEO of Emcure pharmaceuticals and a woman entrepreneur). This was one of the precious moments for us. She inspired us with some soul -awakening thoughts and also shared her goal-orientation mantra. We were overwhelmed with her open -minded approach and thought provoking ideas. She specially emphasized that:

Be you, the world will adjust to you because no one is a waste, everybody has some potential".

She brought out five principles on women Empowerment

- **Women are experts in time Management but terrible in guilt Management.**
- **Learn to find time for yourself.**
- **Go and ask for help when needed.**
- **Don't be tough on yourself/**
- **Stop blaming others.**

"मैं बड़े सपने देखती हूँ और उसे पूरा करने में जी जान लगा देती हूँ!"

These wise words were spoken by Ms Thapar. She said that "When your Ambition is greater than your fear, your life will be bigger than your dreams".

BLIND RELIEF ASSOCIATION

I saw them playing cricket!

Shivangi Vishwakarma

It happened a couple of days ago. I had gone to the Blind Relief Association for our Fellowship's community Service pillar . I worked in the manufacturing department for four and a half hours and then went outside to play with a group of visually impaired boys who were playing cricket. Initially, when I had seen them from inside the building, I was filled with awe at their ability to bat and catch without a sense of sight. However, upon joining them, I observed that the ball made some clinking sound, when in motion, and I understood that something was inside the ball. And then it hit me that they focused on the sound made by the ball and hit or caught it with the help of that sound. I realized that they may not see, but their observation power with their other senses is extraordinarily good. **I felt genuinely awestruck seeing these visually impaired children enjoying their life to the fullest, despite their disability. I feel blessed to be associated with the Blind Relief Association and working for them.**



A world beyond colors

Reetu Kushwaha

It had never occurred to me what the visually impaired feel and go through until that blindfold shut my eyes and the terrifying darkness took over the colorful world. It was the most difficult 200m walk I had undertaken, from the classroom to the front gate. Initially, I thought being visually impaired must be painful for these people, they must be cursing god everyday for doing such an unfortunate thing to them but to my surprise the situation was altogether different. They were so full of gratitude, joy and were so proud of their journeys. **Their enthusiasm, passion to learn new things and unshakable determination to be self-sufficient left me wonderstruck.** I was speechless. Some of the incidents are so fresh in my memory , I still remember the way a boy kept reading so fluently by just touching those engraved words on his book. I can never imagine myself reading at the pace he was reading. Secondly, the way a man who was making candles requested the guide to let him explain how the candles were made. His expressions and efforts to try to make us understand the procedure, in spite of his disabilities, showed his dedication and constant efforts. And how can I forget those crispy tasty biscuits that they had baked. **Those smiles on their faces when appreciated for their dedication and enthusiasm towards their work was such a scene to behold. Everything was so perfect. I'm so grateful and overwhelmed that I got a chance to work for and amongst them.**



PHYSICAL WORKSHOPS

From dreams to the vision

Chanda

Karm holds a physical workshop once a month. The most special part of the physical workshop is the planning of the day by our teachers. On the 6th of April, we had a productive day filled with learning and smiles. The day began with a team-building **exercise where we all interacted by asking interesting questions to each other and got to know our team a little better.** It was **followed by an IDC session.** It was a thought-provoking session because it introduced to us a new way of looking at our career. As undergraduate female students it's high time we think about our career choices. But with no clear idea about our careers. Most of us are very pressurized and tensed. **But the IDC session not only motivated us but also provided us the right guidance to take our steps ahead.**

The courage workshop was a highlight for all of us. It taught us about teamwork and how one should present their ideas to the audience in a creative way. It gave us unique learnings about our surroundings and issues that matter to us. **Thinking and Articulation class by Vinita ma'am left us with some deep thoughts on current world affairs.** T&A classes always open our minds wide to think beyond the surface level and **build an opinion of our own based on critical thinking.**

The physical workshop was a productive day where we were constantly engaged in activities, challenging our fears and putting forward our thoughts.



As I entered the fellowship...

Sahani

I had heard about the KARM Workshops but it was my first time when I got an opportunity to attend one. I thought that I would feel alienated, however, when I interacted with Vinita Ma'am, Chesta Ma'am and the other fellows I felt welcomed and embraced. I felt comfortable and a special bond bloomed when Vinita ma'am hugged me. I have always been an introverted person, it was the first time when I was speaking and everybody was listening and responding to me. **I felt as if it was my family where everyone was my friend and was so supportive.**

The activities conducted were just amazing and out of the box. I learnt so many values such as integrity, empathy, dedication, self love and humility. **There is a lot to learn from each one at KARM. KARM is the most beautiful place to be in.** It not only provides us financial support but a platform to realize our dreams.

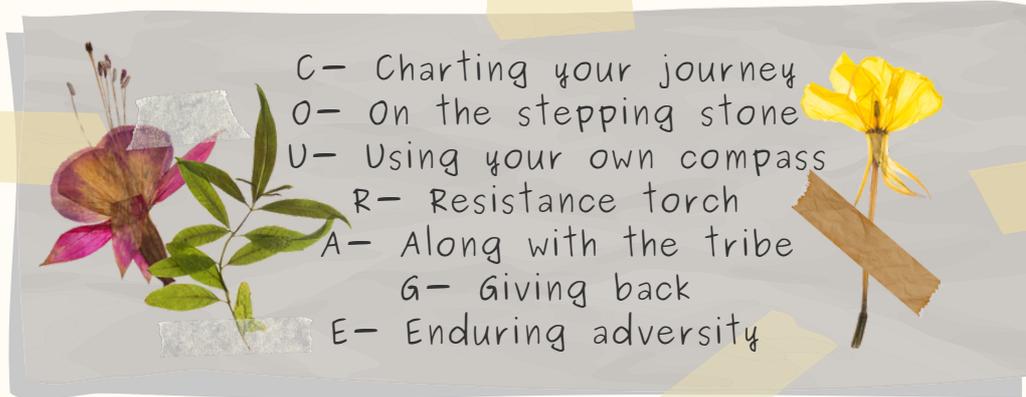


COURAGE

Muskan Kushwaha

Courage is the ability to do something that scares us! Is that what you also thought? This is what I imagined and understood when I was introduced to this workshop **COURAGE by Children First.**

But over time, After attending courage workshops organized by Children First. I learned that the word COURAGE is complete in itself.



C- Charting your journey
O- On the stepping stone
U- Using your own compass
R- Resistance torch
A- Along with the tribe
G- Giving back
E- Enduring adversity

In the first workshop, we peculiarly introduced our own cohort. **Although we knew each other, this workshop opened a new page of togetherness.** The Second Offline workshop taught me that **"Life isn't about waiting for the Storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain."** –Vivian Greene. In teams, we presented internalized patriarchal storms through songs, poetry, and symbols. The third workshop made us **focus on discovering our own resistance touch which will help us navigate through difficult circumstances.** It also showed us how important roots are for trees and a tree for the whole forest.

"Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision."

So far, I learned that "Courage" is not about confronting a challenge or difficulty. It is a way to keep embracing ourselves, a motivation to keep moving, a brick to keep building our empire, a key to deal with all the problems, and a pole star to show the right direction.

In the end, I would like to thank Shelja and Sanjana ma'am for enabling us to reflect on the journey we have covered so far, our value system, and our resistance torch which helps us keep moving despite the hardships. After attending these sessions, I feel so empowered that I have a cohort of people with the same desire to barge forward in any circumstances and realize the strength we hold together.

"There is an immense power when a group of people with similar interests get together to work towards the same goal."

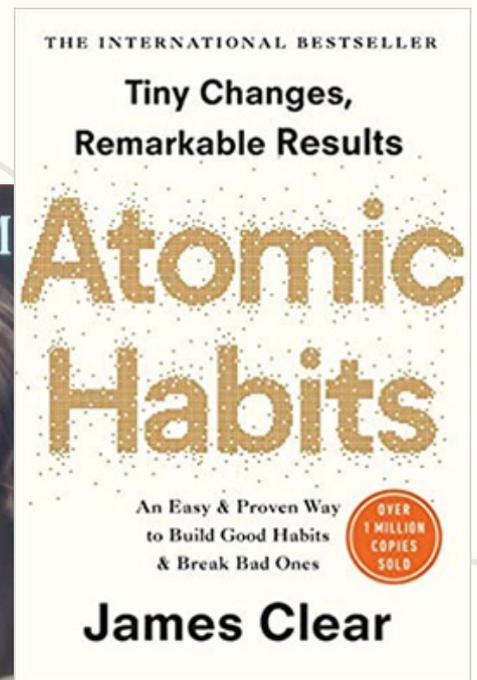
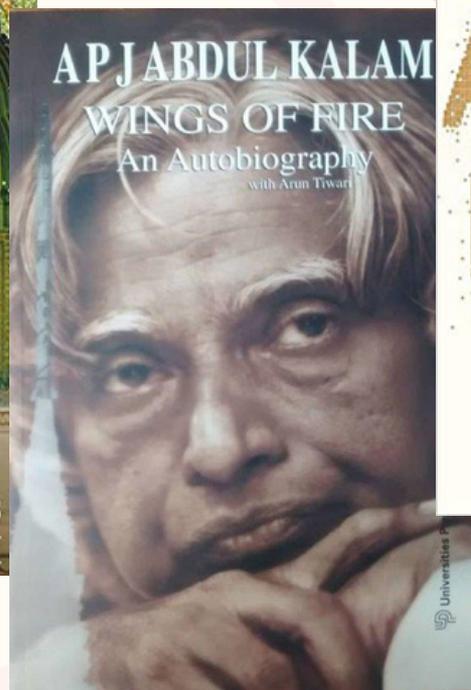
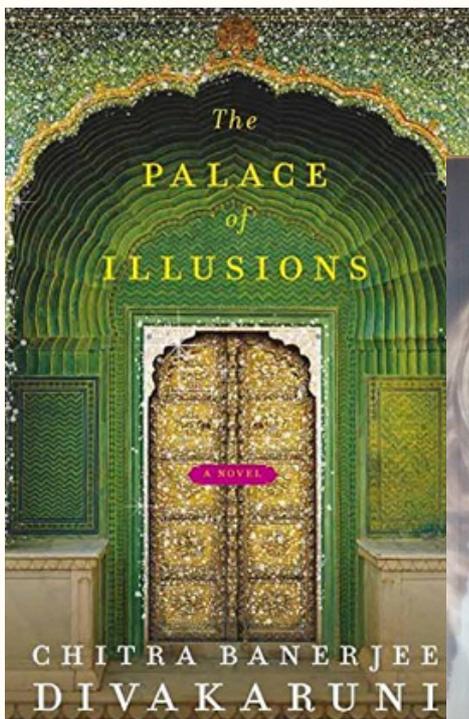
BOOK CLUB

A thoughtful beginning
The Palace of Illusions by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Anjali (book club host)

We hosted our first book club in February. I hadn't conducted any sessions before. I was very nervous and worried, however, I was able to conduct it well. When my tribe is together there is nothing to worry about. **Everyone's views on 'The palace of illusions' by 'Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni' just blew my mind away.** Everyone's eyes lit up as I started the book club. We analytically discussed Draupadi's point of view and how has the author brought up a completely different perspective which confronts the conventional notions about women.

"Doesn't the imagination always exaggerate—or diminish— truth?" Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni opens a new and yet familiar portal into the world of the Mahabharata! The Palace of Illusions is a powerful narrative from the viewpoint of Draupadi. The one who never fails to trigger innumerable debates, a vulnerable and yet powerful soul that lived through the pages of history.

Our discussion unfolded from the superficial level to a profound one. Each one of us participated very actively and I thoroughly enjoyed delving into the ocean of different opinions.



Our learning
Wings of Fire by
APJ Abdul Kalam
Aaryaka (Book club host)

The story 'Wings of Fire' is an autobiography of APJ Abdul Kalam covering his early life and his work in Indian space research and missile programs. **It is the story of a boy from a humble background who went on to become a key player in Indian space research/Indian missile programs and later became the president of India.**

Things that stood out from the book:

- The Missile man of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam was an excellent example of good leader with no haters
- "Prayer made possible a communion of the spirit between people. When you pray, you transcend your body and become a part of the cosmos, which knows no division of caste, wealth, age or creed."
- "Good or bad - every human being is a specific element within the whole of the manifest divine Being. So why be afraid of difficulties, sufferings and problems?"
- "When trouble comes, try to understand the relevance of sufferings."
- **"Adversity always presents opportunities for introspection."**
- Every child is born with some inherited characteristics, into a specific socio-economic and emotional environment and trained in certain ways by figures of authority.
- A good student could learn more from a bad teacher than a poor student from a skilled teacher.

Atomic habits by James Clear is a book based on the author's personal experience of application of small habits and the huge differences in the results. **As he mentioned in the book "To write a book, become a book first"**; he did what he wrote and this book is the outcome of his regress experimentation with life and its changes.

The Author has penned down different and unique definitions of habits which actually fit practically in our lives. These include:

- Habits are the compound interest of self improvement.
- Habits are not only actions that influence your identity but by virtue of their frequency they are usually the most important ones.
- Your habits shape your identity, your identity shapes your habits.

Habits do not restrict freedom, they create it.

We recommend this book because - The language of the book is so lucid and easy that even a novice can read and interpret it. It's an interesting read in which a person gets addicted to reading in order to bring a change in their lifestyle. **This book has taught me the importance of self reflection and self awareness in order to build habits.** It's a book that will go with you forever. It helps people find happiness and build their efforts. It's the best self-help book rich in knowledge and practical applications.

And our enjoyment
Atomic Habits by James Clear
Ansuiya (book club host)



Sujata Ma'am - The perfect embodiment of wisdom and humility.

Poonam Pal

"Great teachers empathize with kids, respect them, and believe that each one has something special that can be built upon."

Blessed are we to have such a great teacher in our lives. A teacher who has no boundaries, whose horizon keeps extending with each passing day, whose zest for learning knows no deterrence, whose humility is so profound and whose heart is filled with warmth and generosity.

Sujata ma'am has been an integral part of our learning at Karm. She has selflessly invested her time on our language betterment. **Her friend-like nature has helped us not only in building our written and spoken English but also has been an emotional pillar of support too.**

Initially the bar of our learning had a deep downward slope, however with constant encouragement of ma'am the slope has now come upward. **From Grammar to diction, we have covered-up a wide range of subjects: Grammar concepts, extempore, quizzes, group discussions, debates and the list goes on. In addition to this we send frequent write-ups to Sujata ma'am.** Her quick responses, given the pile of work we give her, never fail to amaze me.



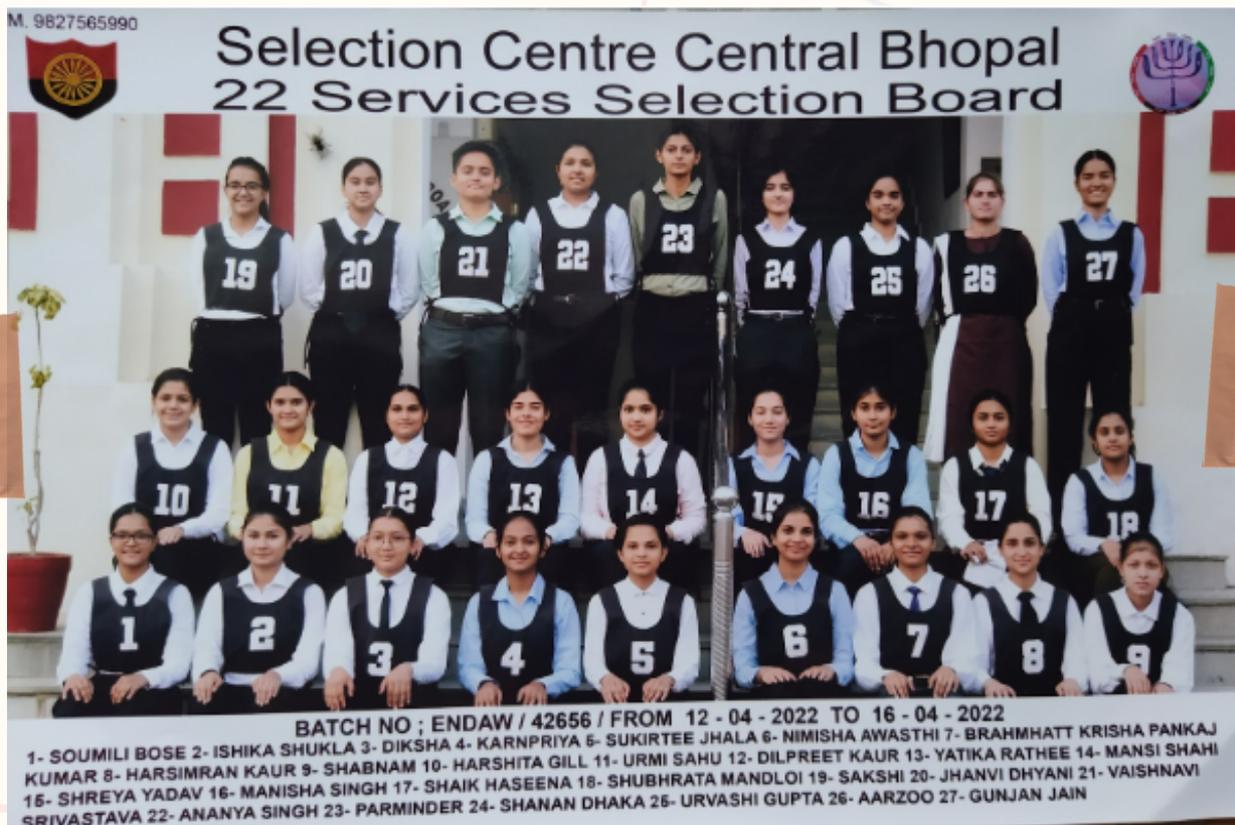
MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The only real failure is the failure to try: My NDA SSB Experience

Parminder

A few years back I remember standing in NCC uniforms when my commander would ask me about my aspirations and I would proudly say that I wanted to join the National Defense Academy, a dream place for many, only to end up hearing that it allows only male candidates to sit for the exam. But still the quest of joining the elite institution, it just stayed there for eternity in my mind! In September 2020, the Supreme Court of India ordered the defense ministry to open NDA II 2020 for female candidates too. More than 1.5 lakh females appeared and 1,001 of us made it to the Services Selection Board, a 5 days testing process which looks for OLQs (Officer like Qualities) in an individual. Getting acquainted with the whole long series of tests was overwhelming. I practiced reasoning questions, read about recent geopolitical issues, listened to people's experience with the board and worked on how to express my personality to the best. And finally the day arrived when I had to leave for SSB Bhopal. **The struggles you made, the dreams you dreamt, the mock salutes you did in front of the mirror; all these flash through your mind and you know you are just a few steps away from going to live a life which you've always dreamt of.** It was the first time I was traveling by train. The 700 kilometers felt short indeed.

The real journey of self-exploration began once we reached the entrance of the Services Selection Board (SSB) Bhopal. 5'O O'clock in the morning standing outside the gate we were cutting glances to each other when a bus arrived and we all lined up holding our call letters in hand. A few proactive buddies helped to load the luggage while the rest occupied the window seats.



We reached **the testing center, a building painted in yellow and red, which has seen countless dreams coming true and even more getting shattered since decades.** The Officers there welcomed us with open arms. Headcount was done and we were given our chest numbers. The process began, after conducting a series of tests including the Officer Intelligence rating test, a group discussion, and a picture perception test results were announced the same day. 60% of the candidates were sent back home and 27 of us were retained for further tests. **We were given new chest numbers but this time they felt heavy. Maybe there was a burden of increased expectations.**

Our phones were taken to make us interact with each other and it was so inspiring to see such a diverse group of young girls, they had made their way overcoming all the obstacles and misogynistic expectations society had for them. **However, the absence of female officers on the campus, and those urinal cups attached in the washrooms gave us a sense that this place has seen less of female potential.**

The testing done there was different, not only the knowledge and intelligence but the whole personality of an individual was assessed. For the next 4 days, we had 3 assessors: the psychologist, the ground tasking officer, and the interviewing officer. In each and every test I was confronting different strengths and weaknesses of myself, sometimes fumbling in group discussions, getting bruised in physical tasks to acing in map reading, command tasks, and lecturettes, it was a roller coaster ride. The evenings were spent playing table tennis, and visiting the motivation hall filled with the outstanding legacy the Indian Armed Forces hold. There was something different in the air, sunsets ablaze with passion and mornings busy, all mates running in and out lined up for taking showers and getting ready for the day's testing.

In no time came the last Conference day, all the candidates were called individually for the conference. I headed towards the room on my turn as soon as I opened the door. All the men in 'Khaki' with the Vice President of the Board heading the conference were sitting at a round table. I sat on the chair and it was a casual conversation about the stay and my experience with the board. Later the results were announced and 5 girls were recommended for further medical tests and the rest of us were to be sent back home.

It's hard when the heart is still dreaming of life in the academy.. the adventure.. the thrill! But your mind knows the reality, many people to be faced, there are questions to be answered, your father who had been living outside the Cantt arranging meals while you were inside having the best four days, your mother who had been confronting the neighbors who would ask about my absence, your teachers and friends who believed in you and wished you luck. While leaving we were shown a portrait of the Missile Man Mr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, smiling through his gray hair as always with this quote written at the bottom **'Accept your destiny and go ahead with your life. Each failure is necessary to lead you to your destined path.'** That was the day I got to know that Mr. Kalam once appeared for the SSB and was not recommended, rejection is still not a norm at SSB. The Vice President of the Board laughingly said, 'Not only Mr. Kalam, we have sent people like Amitabh Bachan, Sharukh Khan, Rahul Dravid, and many future IAS-IPS officers home. **You are only allowed to grieve for a day or so, not more. Go back and be a person that we feel proud to be a part of your story.'**

It was a transformative experience knowing those young ladies who are headed to create history by being the first female batch at the National Defense Academy, in person. It not only gave me a perspective and exposure to life but above all was the taste of failure, which was a little sour but has already made me feel a step closer to the dream. After all, 'Some goals are so worthy that it's glorious even to fail.'

'Journey from an AI participant to becoming the designer of AI's HAPPINESS GURU Software'.

Teena

Some days are special, but some are extraordinary. And so was the day of 6th April 2022.

I am so delighted to share that I was given the opportunity to meet and speak with Intel's CEO Patrick P. Gelsinger (Pat). This was for my AI readiness journey which has apparently inspired others to enter the field of technology. My journey from being a participant in Intel's AI4Youth program to becoming AI ready and designing an AI model named Happiness Guru - that predicts the onset of depression among school students - has been an example of conviction and hard work.

The event was organized to demonstrate India's AI revolution brought in by Intel's Digital Readiness programs. Along with me, there were other fellow students who were future developers and next-gen AI innovators as they built amazing solutions to difficult issues like pest attacks. We developed a good bond over three days and exchanged our experiences of building AI led solutions.

I got the chance to share my AI readiness journey and the impact AI4Youth program had in my life with Pat and other senior officials of Intel. We prepared for this interaction for two days by writing our lines, overcoming our anxiety, and conducting numerous dry runs. Although my interaction with him was around sharing my journey of becoming AI-ready, I needed to prepare well for this interaction, given his position. When I finally met him, I was amazed to get a glimpse of his calm and energetic personality. He tempered his enthusiasm with humility, as he knew when to speak and when to listen. He excitedly shared his journey of joining Intel at the age of 18 and going on to becoming the youngest Vice President of the company. We shared our views on AI's potential along with our future plans with him, and we were thrilled to receive his valuable suggestions. Simple truths like - never to lose one's curiosity, staying determined to foster change and most importantly, knowing that it's never too late to begin, have stayed with me. The rest of the senior officials who accompanied him were as approachable and experienced as him. We exchanged some words of wisdom along with sharing our experiences with each other.

I had an insightful day and made some unexpected and cherished memories which shall remain engraved in my mind forever.



अभी तो और दूर जाना है

गौरी शर्मा

यह गहरी सांसे, हारी उम्मीदें किस लिए ?
यह सीना ताने, ओछी बातें किस लिए ?
मंजिल नहीं मिलने की कसक है ?
या औरों से बेहतर करजाने का दंभ है ?
इतनी आतुरता अभी कुछ कदमों में ही क्यों?
थोड़ा ठहरो, अपने लक्ष्य को इतना छोटा मत आंको!
यह तो बस एक लघु पड़ाव ही है
अभी तो और दूर जाना है ॥

सूर्य के ताप से जो डगर सजी है,
उस पर अभी चलना बाकी है...
चंद्र सी शीतलता को मन मंदिर में,
अभी और बसाना बाकी है ।
हारो अगर तो भी तुम्हें नहीं रुकना,
सीखने के मौके से तुम कभी नहीं चूकना ।
माना की मुश्किल है सफ़र, पर सुन ओ मुसाफिर...
कहीं अगर तू रुका तो मंजिल आएगी ना फिर...
यह तो बस एक लघु पड़ाव ही है
अभी तो और दूर जाना है ॥

अभी तो इन लहरों की गति के संग बहना भी है,
देखो फिजाओं में खुशबू अभी भी आधीसी है।
गिरना-संभलना तो जारी रखना पड़ेगा अपने इस मनसे,
थोड़ा और लड़ना पड़ेगा ।
माना मंजिल अभी धुंधली सी लगती है,
माना कोशिशें अभी व्यर्थ सी लगती है,
किंतु यह सर्द रातें और अर्थहीन बातें, कभीतो बदलेगी ?
राह में रुकजाने से कहां
उल्लास की घड़ियां आएगी ?
यह तो बस एक लघु पड़ाव ही है
अभीतो और दूर जाना है ॥

अभी तुझे,
अपनी चाहतों और हकीकत में काफी फासले मिटाने हैं ।
दूसरों की कामयाबी से खुद के रास्ते तुझे नहीं मापने हैं ।
तेरी राह दूसरों से पृथक है,
तेरे प्रयत्न भी तो औरोंसे विलग है ।
तू खुद को यू कम मत समझा कर
तू बस चल, हर पल...
डर मत, वो दिन तेरा भी जरूर आएगा,
आज या कल ।
विश्वास रख, बढ़ता चल, थोड़ा लड़, थोड़ा जल,
पर बनाए रख अपना बल, क्योंकि,
यह तो बस एक लघु पड़ाव ही है
अभी तो और दूर जाना है ॥

GALLERY



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