

A Report on Quilting TERI Stories

Tring, tring ... tring, tring ...

Mr Rakesh Kacker (RK) to Dr Veena Joshi (VJ): "TAA organizes monthly Saturday webinars. Can you organize one?"

VJ: "Sure. Topic?"

RK: "Your choice."

TAA, like TERI, is a family. Well, 'extended', if you insist.

A family has grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren (depending on hierarchy or duration of service). All work and no play make everybody lethargic. What is it that everyone wants? A game that everyone can partake in and enjoy?

Stories!

Yes, stories of TERI.

Each one's experience in TERI. Everybody must have some story to tell. And they can be quilted together.

'Quilting TERI Stories' was born!

Saturday, 27 November 2021. The webinar.

VJ explained how 'quilting TERI stories' was conceived and born.

DG Dr Vibha Dhawan shared a few stories, too in her message. She recalled the Jor Bagh days and how Dr Pachauri sometimes treated colleagues to golgappas at the Jor Bagh market during lunch time. She also wanted the TERI 'family' culture to be rekindled and strengthened and requested everybody to join the noble cause.

Six story tellers: Anandajit Goswami, Annapurna Vancheswaran, Jaideep Malaviya, P.K. Jayanthan, Meena Janardhan, and Pranab J Patar.

Only two ladies out of six? Well, don't count the quantity, it's quality that matters.

Jayanthan took the audience back to the eighties, to the beginning of TERI in Delhi. He explained how TERI moved from a one-room accommodation at the residence of Dr Pachauri to IHC, traversing through Jeevan Tara, IIC, and several buildings in Jor Bagh. He also touched upon the work culture of TERI even in those initial days when colleagues gladly stayed back overnight to prepare conference materials working full night.

Jaideep explained his joining TERI, his experience of a solar energy survey and how this made him realize the need to educate villagers on solar energy. He set up a consultancy firm that continues to train villagers and technicians on various aspects of solar thermal power. Shirish Garud commented on his own experience with regard solar thermal activities of TERI during those days.

Meena explained how she joined TERI and the lessons she learned such as: (i) be willing to learn; (ii) every task has career and character development impact; (iii) be selfless in mentoring and dedicated in nurturing; (iv) it is okay to make mistakes, but own up; (v) relationships matter. Mudita Chauhan-Mubayi commented that PU worked in diverse fields for diverse groups and that built up her skill-set and explained how important the experience was for her.

Pranab talked about working in the field of environment education on the Health and Hygiene sector of the Yamuna Action Plan project. He felt that we have been able to create awareness among people on environment. He also talked about a project where the officials of the funding agency wanted favours for release of fund, how we refused, and how we had to forego the remaining part of the funds.

Annapurna talked about her entering TERI, her initial disillusionment, her interview with Dr Pachauri, and how she became what she is today and how she still feels proud to be a TERIer. Easwar commented that he was very excited to hear colleagues talk about the old days and also remembered his working with Annapurna. Meena commented that she was happy to hear Annapurna and how these narrations have taken her back to the old days.

Anandajit talked about Mahesh Chand Gaur, the simple, always-helping, ever-smiling cricketer-colleague who was ready to sacrifice his own prospects for others. In a very detailed and hard-hitting narration, he explained the exciting story of Mahesh's love and devotion to cricket and his colleagues. He further narrated the painful shock of the dear friend's suicide. The story left the listeners shocked for several minutes. Subhash Deshmukh recollected Dr Pachauri's passion for cricket. He also talked of a presentation he attended on the newly acquired MS Windows. Easwar also remembered his cricketing days with Mahesh and said he was really moved by Anandajit's narration of the story.

In his closing remarks, RK thanked VJ, the story tellers and listeners for the support to the programme.