The Luminaries of Mumbai

They are leaders who've created revolutionising brands which have influenced and impacted Mumbai’s very consciousness. Their success is symbolic of enterprise, excellence and of an ever growing ambition which is consciously all-inclusive and aggressively futuristic at the same time.

Mumbai's Shining Luminaries

CA. SUNIL G. KARVE
PROMINENT EDUCATIONIST

ATUL RUIA
THE PHOENIX MILLS LIMITED

PRAJODH RAJAN

PROF. GAUTAM SEN

SURESH G. BHARWANI

PRAVEEN TYAGI
PACE IIT. MEDICAL

AMARDEEP SINGH VIG
RONAK ADVERTISING

EuroKids

HEALTHSPRING

Jetking

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATION
Cross-subsidization of Education

Some years ago, Karve had written a paper on Cross Subsidization in Education, published in the book, 'Mumbai Vision 2013.' As per his view, “Since the ratio of best quality education and cost for the same seems proportional, we see several needy, deserving and bright students not opting for key programmes because of financial constraints. The answer lies in cross-subsidisation of education where a student from privileged background pays for the education of six other needy, deserving and bright students. I propose to the government to make it official for educational institutions to collect higher fees from about 15% of total students sufficient to cover the cost for remaining 85% needy students. If implemented, the entire system of donation/capitation fee will be wiped out.

People of accomplishment rarely sit back and let things happen to them. They are self-driven individuals who believe in taking charge of their own life and in playing out the game plan exactly as they envision it. By the time he was 20, Karve had done a proud job of founding and managing a thriving business of selling ergonomically designed chairs at a time and age when they were nowhere available in the market and hence were grabbed by dozens by hundreds of corporates. By the age of 23, Sunil Karve had four degrees to his name – that of B.Com, Chartered Accountant, Law and Company Secretary and IT as well, at that time, when he started his own practice as a chartered accountant. His foray into education came about after a visit to see a friend in the United States in 1987. "It was struck by the quality of teaching and infrastructure there and was so moved by it that I decided to establish the kind of institutions in India," says the 58-year-old educator. He went on to set up the MIT League of Colleges, multi-disciplinary institutions in Bandra, Mumbai and in Nasik as its founder trustee, right from kindergarten up to a record number of post graduate courses including BPharm, MBA, MCA, Mass Media, IT and Engineering. He also started some unique programs like Diploma in Music Therapy. Karve maintains that it is the combination of sheer self-belief and an ethical outlook, which has shaped him into what he is today.

The father of two postgraduate daughters and grandfather has enabled over 25000 students to study at the institutions he built and managed. Karve has ensured that one common thread signifies his work as an institution builder across every project he has worked on i.e. "the fusion of Indian ethos and global education with technology as an enabler."

His passionate involvement became even more evident when he successfully led a delegation to the United Nations and presented the work undertaken at MET in the social and education spheres. As a result, MET was recognized as an NGO in special consultative status with the United Nations (UNESCO). Karve says, "The educational institutions I've built cater to various segments of the society, for instance the Kohinoor American School caters to the affluent classes, the MET Rishikul Vidyalaya and Kohinoor International School cater to the middle and upper middle classes and Premier Shikshan Mandals Gandhi Bal Mandir - an aided Marathi Medium school educates children from economically backward strata of the society."

Principles above profits

Karve, who hails from a middle class Maharashtrian family in Mumbai, took extra efforts to ensure that quality education reaches the lowest strata of the society. "In 1995-96, I had proposed to BMC that we could take over their schools and redo the infrastructure. In such schools, 30% of the students would hail from the lower socio-economic background with zero payment of fees. These students would rub shoulders with students who came from higher socio-economic backgrounds. This would have proven to be a great equalizer to the society. However, the proposal didn't go through." But, the idea remained in his mind and was able to come into concrete shape. It was then that he introduced the Freeship Scheme for deserving students of MET from lower socio-economic backgrounds. "The applicants were chosen through an independent interviewing committee. Under this scheme, two needy, deserving and bright students from each course were granted free education." Over the years, education of almost 400 needy students was financed under this scheme. Similarly, from the inception of his new venture of Residential IIB world School at Khadala i.e. Kohinoor American School, he has ensured free education for fee needy and economically backward girl students.

Shall Foundation - an NGO, he established six years ago in the memory of his mother

“we have been providing complete financial aid, educational support and group counselling to the deserving and needy children in the interiors of Maharashtra. Till date over 2500 students have received benefit of this initiative and have moved on to carve their careers with passion and commitment.”

Mr. Karve with Ms. Sandrea J. Jordan & Mr. Ali M. Puri, Chancellors of University of South Carolina, USA

Rapid Fire

If you had an option to be someone else or to choose another profession, who would you have been? I love being CA Sunil G Karve, wouldn't trade it for anything.

Your personal business philosophy? Ethical conduct always...

Most Expensive purchase? House and car

Last line of your autobiography will read...? No regrets

You are 2 am friend? Pradeep Shyam who just retired from Bank of Baroda

A business leader you look up to? Late JRD Tata

Bollywood film you've watched again and again? Piku

Qualities that have got you where you are today? Clarity of thought, Ethical conduct & Courage of conviction

What kind of work you will do for free? Anything for knowledge seekers

Best part of being yourself? Love of staff, students and parents