

BOOK - REVIEW

By : Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar & Prof. Mrs. Madhuri Joshi

Title of the Book : Demonstrator to Director
Author and Publisher : Prof. M. V. Deshpande
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REVIEW :

The book 'Demonstrator to Director' by Prof. M. V. Deshpande, published recently, is the story of a technical teacher, of his experiences in Technical Education in India and abroad; in various positions and capacities held by him over last 5 decades. The author had an opportunity to go through all aspects of Technical Education and rose from the rank of a Demonstrator to Director; experience in teaching, research, training in industries.

In the preface of his book, he very nicely describes his source of inspiration; Prof. J. A. Taraporevala, by a poem, composed by himself, describing the

characteristics as an ideal teacher and engineer and the book is dedicated to him. In prelude (chapter 1) he gives his short background as a flash-back indicating his college days and hard times he had to face for few years, In chapter 2, he describes the initial work as demonstrator and lecturer. He was always on look out for opportunities and grabbed them when in view. His overseas scholarship, education (postgraduate) in U.S.A.. and his training in Design and development in industries in U.S.A.. is vividly and critically described in chapter 3, 4, 5 & 6 which shows effective planning of work and time. Chapter 7 describes his work as professor in L. D. College of Engineering, Ahmedabad

which involves planning of postgraduate courses in Electrical Engineering Design and Research, using his background experience in U.S.A.. His practical approach to design of machine and building them in Laboratory shows his vision of times ahead. The system of education and training in U.S.A.. is well explained by his experience as visiting Professor in Illinois University in chapter 8. He continued his work in Govt. College of Engineering, Pune, as Professor as mentioned in chapter 9.

The other phase came in his way through his association with various professional Institutions - Institution of engineers (India), IEE (London, IEE (U.S.A.)). In the chapters 10 & 11, he gives his experiences in the Institution of Engineers (India) in various capacities as chairman and council member, the world power conferences, working as an active participant and publication of research papers. As a founder Principal, he planned and built up Govt. College of Engineering, Amravati and set it on sound footing (chapter 12). His approach to Educational problems, regularity, building up academic atmosphere in the institution, handling the staff and students with best human approach by his own example are clearly seen in his action. The life at Amravati also indicates social and cultural aspects that should be associated with education.

As a Director (Ch. 13), finally he planned a number of new projects for teachers, students and institutions. Most important of them being vocational post-graduate courses for teachers in the department of Technical Education of

Maharashtra State, so that the Department would get 60 more qualified staff in a short duration of 4 years. This had a great impact on the quality of Education of the engineering Colleges of Maharashtra. As Director of training in M.S.E.B. (ch. 14), he again came back to the thermal station. His career of 34 year in Technical Education is sandwiched by 2 slabs of 2 years each of thermal stations and power systems.

Even after retirement, he remained continuously active for over 20 years and contributed to Technical Education by writing 7 text books in Electrical engineering, Technical papers etc. In the end (ch 16), he defines the characteristics of an ideal engineer as ERH+ Education +Research and Humanity Positive. Technical Education and poetry is a rare combination, found in this book, which shows qualities of Head and Heart of the Author. Throughout the book we discern a positive approach to Education, Research and Humanity. He has also kept in view, the importance of students and teachers and worked with dedication all his life for the cause of Technical Education.

The book is a rare piece of literature in this field by a technical teacher.

In the end the author has very aptly cited the philosophy of a technical teacher. In his words

Education is the language understood,
Research is Search for unknown
Humanity is Hue of Man
When these combine, it becomes
ERH+
The life of worth living.

The colourful cover of the book also elegantly shows the theme of the book ERH+, which is the message effectively carried throughout. The print is good. Material is lucid and in simple language.

The book will go a long way in the history of Technical Education and inspire others who are the leading luminaries in Engineering Education field to come out with their auto-biographies

which should lead young teachers to a successful career in Engineering education.

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