

## **Dr N H Attthreya**

My Mentor, a Godsend Blessing in my life.

I feel so blessed and privileged that in the form of a 'father' my Professional Guru Dr N H Attthreya appeared and mentored me through 30 long years of consistent association in my life. An amazing listener, fountain of ideas, storehouse of wisdom, ability to sense potential where others observe waste and the belief in possibilities for a positive change in each and every situation!



It's both mystical and fascinating how we first met; I was working as a Marketing Manager at Blue Dart Express after five years with The Times of India Group. Thanks to my Professor Ernest Fernandes from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, who had involved me with Bombay Management Association and I had become a life member for professional development; BMA had organised a

two day seminar on Customer Satisfaction and I enrolled for the same, being passionate about this topic. It was being conducted at the erstwhile Centaur hotel now Sahara Star near the Mumbai airport. 69 years young, active, sprightly Dr N. H. Atthreya was our honourable facilitator faculty. On day two post lunch there was a major electricity snag and in order to complete the session without delay Dr Atthreya organized to continue it outdoors on the green lawns where he asked for a blackboard and a flip chart as the technology of slide projector with acetate sheets would not work. All participants had to go back to basics! I was the team leader for my group and I made my presentation in the outdoors. I took the chalk enthusiastically and made my team presentation confidently. During the tea break elderly Dr Atthreya approached me with his quiet demeanor, smiled and softly uttered only one sentence *“You will do extremely well in life, explore setting up on your own.”* All of 28 years old then, I reached home and excitedly shared my decision with my loving family- mother, my elder sister Nina and younger brother Dhaval *“I have decided to set up my own management consultancy and I am going to quit my job.”*

Hitherto unknown, having met him only for two days I took a rewarding professional, life-changing decision of my life.

Later I discovered that Dr Atthreya was the FIRST consultant of India, he consulted CEOs of several blue chip, medium and small companies, that his management books and training programmes were attended by the who's who of the corporate world. That he also consulted international companies when Indians did not have the kind of respect they command in recent years.

I was so very fortunate for such a renowned educationist, author, life coach, professional consultant, Human Resources Expert with a compassionate heart of gold enter my life and shape my thoughts as well as goals and my future. Indeed divine providence; also for we met without any reference, connection or lineage. He took me for the potential he as a 'evolved higher self' sensed in me. Gratefulness to God, my parents for the values imbibed and the support of my family and teachers for this transformational miracle.

He was always eager and patiently listened to my innovative, crazy new ideas. Soon after setting up my Ubique Management Consultancy I visited his MMC School of Management office at Court Chambers at New Marine Lines and suggested an Outbound Management Training Program. He not only appreciated this novel concept but also put his team to bring it to fruition immediately. With our joint efforts we conducted a two day session at the Borivili National Park with curated management games, initiatives to learn leadership, teamwork and decision making. Also both his IPR Lawyer-daughter Usha and then young grandson Pranav too participated. Indian Express covered this innovative management practice where our joint photograph too was published. It was such a proud moment for me as my father always wished that we three children excel in our respective professions.

Soon thereafter the professional relationship metamorphosed with both our families bonding whereby Dr Atthreya would visit our home too. On one occasion I vividly remember he told us “What your family and you have is CHARACTER it’s the most precious virtue to possess”

Having lost my dear father in 1988 who so far was the architect of my educational and professional career, I believe God made Dr Atthreya appear in my life magically.

He introduced me to IMCI ( Institute of Management Consultants of India) whereby i got both my consulting and as a Fellow certification. This forum gave me an opportunity to network with veteran consultants of India whom I am in touch with till date and I have learned as well as worked with them.

I also feel so special and blessed as I am the only person that he has introduced to be a member to his own Rotary club of Mumbai Sion. This has given me a bigger family, joy of children and grand children and also making me realize my natural affinity for community service and social activities since a very young age. I have several memorable memories and some extremely good lifelong friendships all because of the world of Rotary.

An emotional Dr Atthreya visited me several times at the Hinduja Hospital post my Paragliding Accident and Spinal Cord injury, a permanent disability in early 1995. Like a family member he continued sharing his professional benevolence which he knew made me feel alive!

He also shared wise ancient health tips during my difficult rehabilitation phase on nutrition, pyramid therapy, yoga and more. This was rare wisdom and i am truly blessed for these timely interventions.

Once he visited our Sion home when there was no one to open the door; without any embarrassment and unselfconsciously I went on all fours hopping from the sofa and quickly crawled on all four to open the door for him. Once I bowed and we settled on the sofa we started freely conversing. Before leaving he informed me about a new technology and with a remote I could open the door sitting from my sofa.

He always, always had a doable ready solution for every situation. Such was his sharp intellect, vast knowledge and wise thinking. Also the manner in which he conveyed the idea we would want to do it. I executed the same immediately and for his future visits I opened the door effortlessly.



Dr Athreya's abundant wisdom, his aura, his vast knowledge in the field of management, creativity, technology, human behavior, psychology, futuristics, spirituality, learning and more was unmatched. His sessions, his books, his conversations have enriched me beyond any language which words cannot express. Right from the beginning in his presence I would spontaneously bow and touch his feet and I would feel his positive, calm vibrations.

He participated in all our family events both celebratory and tragic and his presence would convey all the emotions. Nina's sudden demise in June 2000 at a very young age of 39 years shattered us all. The same year I started editing a publication 'One World - Voice of Paraplegics' and on receipt of the very first issue his visionary outlook came to the fore. As was customary in his own handwriting with his green pen wrote a note stating *'It would be a good idea to give a name and set up an institution!'*

Thus Nina Foundation was formed, which is today 20 years young and it is both the purpose of my life and my passion to serve a larger community of underprivileged rural and urban spinal cord injured. One World continues as our flagship publication amongst several other activities. It takes a great mind not only to see a broader vision but to create a design for the future.

Enthusiastically and with immense involvement Dr Athreya and Usha have attended most of our Nina Foundation wellness and awareness sessions.

In fact he was the one who gave me the idea to compile all my editorials which I had penned post my spinal cord injury, as an editor, for the various publications like BMA Review, Consultants Forum, Consulting News, Striving For Excellence by National Centre for Quality Management and Rotary Club of Mumbai Sion Bulletin

in the form of a book. This maiden book was a milestone for me and for “Nano Thoughts on Management” Dr Atthreya wrote a beautiful Foreword and also graced as our chief guest.

He was also the Chief Guest when our very own Rotary Club of Mumbai Sion decided to felicitate me for my PhD on Healthcare spinal cord injury Rehabilitation Management. My eyes were moist at his physical presence when he had stopped attending Rotary events. This grand felicitation by President Pratap Chande, RAnn Jyoti Chande and Rtn Satish Kulkarni with Dr Atthreya and my Rotary family is extremely memorable.

We celebrate you Dr Atthreya on your 100th Birthday on 26th December and take this opportunity to bow and thank you for making me realise my true dream and simultaneously serve society. We continue receiving your kind blessings from heaven!

Keep Smiling

Thanks & kind regards,  
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\*Founder Trustee, Nina Foundation, an NGO for rehabilitating friends with Spinal Cord Injuries, an incurable permanent disability.  
[www.ninafoundation.org](http://www.ninafoundation.org)

\* Hon. Guest Editor (Dec 2019), Design For All Institute Of India, Theme: “Quality of life of living with spinal cord injury in India- Rehabilitation Design challenges and solutions.”

[www.designforall.in](http://www.designforall.in)

\* Author, Professor, Researcher, Thought Leader on Disability Solutions, Inspirational Speaker, Conscious Keeper and Management Curator.

\*Recipient of the prestigious NCPEDP Shell Helen Keller Award.