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My journey as a student began when I was a small kid. My grandmother used to carry me to a nearby school requesting the teacher as: “Sir, please teach my grandson well. He should become a learned and a great person”. In evening my mother used to wait outside the school to take me home. On seeing me running out from the school she would hug and kiss me warmly. Her love for me encouraged me to be a punctual and obedient student. They used to wake me up at 3 O’clock in the morning and lit an oil lamp for me to start studying. Both my grandmother and mother struggled a lot to facilitate my education. A mother of an only child and alone at home, her determination, dedication, ambition and patience gave her the courage to let her beloved son be apart for seven years or more so that he could get educated. On an average she could meet her son once a year. We are all aware of the golden words: “If you educate a man you educate a person, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family”. On the contrary to this assertion, here is an example of an uneducated widow, socially and economically deprived woman who took up the challenge to send her son for higher studies and get the highest degree from a reputed university. “I dedicate my thesis to my Grand Mother and Mother”.

Brought up in such an environment I had to adopt the practice of “earn while you learn”. In those days I had to earn to learn. During vacations my only objective was to earn (irrespective of the kind of job) as much money as possible to pay my fees and purchase books. Apart from my mother and grandmother, my teachers provided invaluable advice, encouragement, guidance and inspiration that have helped me reach where I am today.

My first teacher was Nagaraj (first standard). From the second to fourth standard, my teachers were Leelavathi and Shatha. Nagarathnamma, Chandra, Vimala and Delsi were my teachers from the fifth to the seventh standard. In high school, Hegde M R, Reddy and Nagaraj G.V taught me. In Plus one and two (PUC) Madhu Chand (Economics), Raghavendra Rao N.C. (Political science), Pratibha Venkatesh (Sociology), Bhuma Shreenivas (History), Flora (English) Jhadav R.S. and Gopanna and N. Saraswathi (Kannada) were my teachers.

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ISEC environment enriched my research aptitude. When I visited ISEC for the first time, I saw a simple-looking man holding some papers in his hand in front of a seminar hall. Assuming that he was an organizer of the seminar, I approached him and enquired about ISEC. I asked him, “Sir, how can I enter ISEC as a researcher?” He replied, “Come tomorrow and meet a person by name Deshpande with a beard. He will clarify your doubt.” The next day I went looking for Prof. Deshpande and found out that the person sitting in the chamber was none other than the same man that I had met the previous day! After listening to my interest he asked me to write a small essay on WTO. This made me to soil my fingers in search of materials in the library. Since then, he has been encouraging me to be a good researcher.

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