

வழி என்ன வென்றால், நம் நாட்டு கல்வி முறையில் மாற்றம் ஏற்பட வேண்டும். பாடத்தை வெறும் மனப்பாடம் செய்து எழுதாமல் அதை செய்முறைப்படுத்தும் முறை முக்கியத்துவம் பெற வேண்டும். வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு செல்வதால் ஏற்படும் நன்மை தீமைகளை பற்றிய செய்திகள் மக்களிடம் விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்பட வேண்டும்.

நம் நாட்டில் ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் படித்து முடித்துவிட்டு வேலை தேடுபவரின் எண்ணிக்கை 86 லட்சம்.

இந்தியர்களின் திறமையை மூல தளமாக வைத்து ஏதோ ஒரு வெளிநாட்டு நிறுவனம் பல கோடி ரூபாய் லாபம் சம்பாதிக்கிறது.

திறமையுள்ள இந்தியர்கள் சரியான வேலை வாய்ப்பின்றி வதங்கிக் கிடக்கிறார்கள். அமெரிக்காவில் மருத்துவராகப் பணிபுரிபவர்கள் பெரும்பாலானோர் இந்தியரே. நம் நாட்டில் எவ்வளவு திறமையான ஆட்கள் வெளிநாடுகளுக்கு லாபம் சம்பாதித்து தருகின்றனர்.

இந்தியரிடம் உள்ள திறமைகளை மட்டும் பயன்படுத்தினாலே போதும் வளரும் நாடுகளின் பட்டியலில் உள்ள இந்திய வளர்ந்த நாடுகளின் பட்டியலில் இடம் பெறும் என்பது உறுதி.

வேலை வாய்ப்பைத் தேடி செல்பவர்கள் அனைவரும், அவர்களுக்கு ஏற்ற ஊதியம், கிடைக்கக்கூடிய தொழிலை நன்கு ஆராய்ந்து பார்த்து அதில் அதிக கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும். இந்த முன்னேற்றம் ஒன்று போதும். பொருளாதாரத்தில் இந்தியா

முன்னேறும், தொழில் வளர்ச்சி முன்னேறும். வெளி நாடுகளில் கொடுக்கப்படும் ஊதியத்தைப் போல் இரு மடங்கு இந்தியாவில் கொடுக்கப்படும்.

இது எல்லாமே நம்மிடம். அதாவது வருங்காலத் தலைமுறையினரிடம் தான் உள்ளது. ஒரு கட்டிடத்திற்கு அஸ்தி வாரம் எப்படி அமைகிறதோ, அதன்படி தான் கட்டிடம் வலுவாக அமையும். வருங்கால சமுதாயத் தினர் இதை மனதில் நிறுத்திச் செயல்பட்டால் நம் நாடும் வெற்றி பாதையில் செல்லும். ●

## TÊTE-À-TÊTE FOR LITERATURE BUDDIES: WITH Mrs. CHITRA LAXMAN

- Srinivasan

**F**rom a girl in a liberally orthodox and academic Chennai family to a student of literature at Ethiraj teacher, to a writer of short stories for children, to an editor of magazines, to a weekly columnist in Gulf Today Mrs. Chitra Laxman talks about her travel in the fantastic world of literature, an adventure which began to culminate with her first daughter bawling in her left hand and pen in the right.



Mrs. Chitra Laxman

**Was your entry into literature accidental, too?**

No, it was in fact a deliberate choice, though my mother is a doctor and my father wanted me to take up a professional course. But even 30-35 years ago, I wasn't forced by my parents. I chose literature since I have always been a curious reader and I could travel to different worlds through these books. In fact I never thought of literature as a career; it just happened. Likewise, I have never my daughters or directed them as far as their career is concerned. Like my parents, I have given them only my stamp of approval.

**Most people who take literature willingly, too, especially these days have a damp spot. Have you ever felt a smidgen of regret at all?**

No, never, not at all. I have always enjoyed what I have done and have never ever had any regret.

**Talking about that, why is literature looked down upon these days?**

It's always been a choice for one whose emotional sensitivities are high. It's never been glorified; it's (professionally or as a course to make a livelihood) always been a last choice.

**But perhaps literature too is becoming more 'marks' than pleasant 'remarks'?**

Every course that way is important, for you need to pass. In the case of literature, the joy overweighs the pressure and is manifold more than in other subjects. And once again, when an educationist formulates a course, he doesn't have monetary benefits etc in mind. It is at the level of execution of the course, or with the student, that the enjoyment comes in. For that matter one ought to enjoy whatever he does in life to succeed. But literature is like a bus man's holiday—not only are you able to get marks and earn a degree, but also you can't but naturally enjoy it.

**The other big query is whether or not literature presents a man an economically sound life?**

I must say that in literature the spiritual remuneration commences even when we enter into the course. Career-wise too, the vistas today are vast and avenues broad.

*One doesn't need to confine himself to journalism or lectureship. Wherever language is required there literature is needed.*

**What has literature done to the school student in you, the college scholar, then the Madame Chitra Laxman?**

When I was at school, when the seeds of interest were sown, I could travel to fantastic lands and meet characters; it was a diving board, which only went on to strengthen my human values at college level. And I have brought up my children with the same priority: once when asked at a meeting, what I wanted my children to be, I said "good human beings." And literature has helped me not only to bring up two good human beings, but wherever I have been, I think my human values have played a definite role in improving people.

**You have been a teacher, a textbook writer, a magazine editor - and even today engaged with classes round the clock: but how have you managed the roles at home equally efficiently?**

Right from day one, I decided that no matter how tempting, I'd never take up a full-time job outside home. In fact, till my second daughter was nine years - and was capable of taking care of herself - I didn't take up assignments outside home. I am vehement that one has to be a good mother before being anything else to anybody else; but in turn my family has been of immense support, too. Today, when my daughters appreciate me, I feel very happy. Moreover, literature as I've already said brings a natural pleasantness to one's character, which has helped me

*to contrive with my responsibilities easily. I've also strictly compartmentalised my time.*

**How is Mrs. Chitra, the mother-the frugally marking strict English teacher or a more liberal one?**

We have certainly some rules at home, founded on an orthodox family, but then my daughters would not transgress them; nor do anything that would make me unhappy. But the highpoint of our relationship is that there are "absolutely" no secrets amongst us, whether they have done anything bad, mischievous or naughty.

**Feministic in any way....**

Oh, yes, feminist surely. That comes from my mother, who is eighty years and who asks my own daughters not to tolerate any nonsense.

**Talking about which, do you think sexist - whether Chauvinist or Greerist - literatures are good for literature?**

Absolutely not—it's like adding slow poison in the minds of the readers and I can't imagine authors, who have an enormous onus, stoop down to such levels.

**Literature is one esplanade, where you can 'go on and on and on.' But then you must by now, be wanting to be remembered as somebody?**

I would not say that my prime is gone or yet to come; as you say, in literature, each day is a new one. As regards being remembered, I'd prefer to be remembered as a good human being and a fine teacher.

**Ever thought of an autobiography?**

I have never had that in mind, moreover I'm not patient for it. Nor would I want to give away the present variety in my life, for something less interesting. ●