



Prof. Shankar Pathak

Interviewer: Prof. Anjali Monteiro

Camera/Sound: Prof. KP Jayasankar

Date: 18th July, 2011

Place: Bangalore

Keywords: Class of 1953-55, Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, Dr. Banerjee, field work, Nagpada Neighborhood, Andheri, bus service, R K studio, campus

Shankar Pathak is a retired Professor of Social Work, Delhi University. He studied at Karnatak and Lucknow Universities with economics as a major subject, and also political science, sociology and social anthropology. He obtained the post-graduate diploma in social work at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and M.A at the Indiana University, U.S.A. He has widely read in social sciences and social work, and uses this knowledge in all his writings. He has authored five books on social work, contributed articles to the Encyclopaedia of Social Work in India (1966 and 1987) and to several anthologies on social work. He is a founder member of I.A.T.S.W, its first President of the Delhi Branch and Editor of its quarterly journal-Social Work Forum (1969-71).



0:00:00.958

SP: My entry into TISS briefly, is an accident. I had not heard either the name of TISS or professional social work training, anything of the kind. I had done my MA Economics from Lucknow and then Bombay University which later became Karnataka University, and I was looking for a job. So it was an application in those days in Times of India.

0:00:01.519

SP: So after my MA in economics I was looking for a job badly, I needed a job badly. I'm from a village Banvati in Uttar Kannada district, so I had to go to Silsi the taluq town to look at TOI for advertisements. So I looked at an advertisement which seemed to give me the impression that my qualifications are adequate to apply. The post was tuberculosis social worker, the Government of Bombay. I applied. I was one of the five or six called for interview and the designation then was Surgeon General to the Government of Bombay. Which was old Bombay after independence, but still three languages. And then there was a lady sitting there, I didn't know who it was and we were interviewed. I was asked a question about whether I knew anything about tuberculosis, why I'm applying and all those things. I didn't know much about Tuberculosis, hardly anything.

0:01:11.878

SP: The lady who I am to identify later asked me the question, you are to work amongst tuberculosis, and you know it's an infectious disease, are you not afraid about working? What will you do and all those...I gave comments, I mean I didn't know anything about tuberculosis. Then I went home, and then a letter came saying I've been selected, but before



joining the job I will be put through two year training in the medical and psychiatric social work in TISS. So I should report to the TISS and the government will pay me that stipend for two years. And afterwards a job. This is how my entry into Tata Institute. The lady later turned out to be Dr. Gowri Bannerji. That was the arrangement. And the surgeon general to the government of India Dr. BB Dixit who became the first director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the prestigious institution in the country. So these were the two.

0:02:15.798

SP: Then that's why I went through. In my case I had no freedom to choose the specialization, it was already decided. I had to do the MPSW and since it was there Dr. Bannerji decided that right from the beginning, TISS courses from the extent, apart from compulsory, especially field work, should be oriented to my future job as TB Social worker. So I was under Dr. Bannerji right in the first year, that I should be oriented to my future job as a TB Social Worker.. Social case work, family and child welfare ... route which she had started, she was one of the persons responsible, so she was supervising me. Rama Balvani was the full time employee, TISS graduate. Then internally I suppose there was some talk, this way I would go without group work as part of my preparation, so second term I was put through.

0:00:00.000

SP: Internally I suppose I understood the discussion that I should have a group work placement as well. I mean as part of this team. Prof.Kaikobad was teaching group work, they were classmates as well as colleagues. So I was placed in Worli where TISS was running a recreation centre for the children, the BDD Chawls. Very close to Worli sea face. And at that



time Prof. Gangrade was a fieldwork supervisor at TISS, he had just left to join Delhi School of Social Work. And Mrs. Peter Alvarez a TISS alumna, the famous trade union leader's wife, she was appointed as field work supervisor, so she supervised me in Worli.

0:00:49.798

SP: Now what we did was just play with children, to call it group work, well...I suppose one had to stretch quite a lot. I completed that part. So the second year had to be the specialization in any case, and so Dr. Bannerji placed me in the JJ hospital already one of the very first TB social worker so trained, MN Bazmi was already employed at JJ hospital, so she placed me under him for field work. In between she had a UN fellowship of travelling around the world, social welfare, six months. So someone else was provided as a field work supervisor not just for me, who was to look after me until Dr. Bannerji returned. It was about three months or so. When she returned she took over my field work supervision... Theoretical classes etc.

0:01:49.399

Though there was a separate specialization called family and child welfare, there was no separate teacher in charge. So Dr. Bannerji handled simultaneously MPSW and FCW taking classes separately. But these were some classes common. One was called advanced casework. So advanced casework was both for FCW and MPSW so that is how the whole thing went on. She supervised me throughout and there was no block field work anything of that kind. I had to do a dissertation, as you know, in those days. It became optional later and she was my guide and it was on tuberculosis in Bombay. I did work being... quite a bit on it and she appreciated my dissertation you see and it got approved. Now if you want me to recall



some things about my teachers I want to say something about Dr. Bannerji.

0:02:50.119

When I joined everybody said 'oh Pathak! Poor man!' expressing I am caught under Bannerji, I mean her Image in Tata Institute was... very harsh, of course strict and any minor human lapse may land you in serious difficulties. Especially for men students... I was the only man among women so 'Poor Pathak' was what I used to hear and it is something ordinarily would disturb me. I mean after all she was going to be my supervisor at the end of the day. As a part of my personality which I had acquired which is still there that I should listen to what people say but I should keep an open mind until my experience tells me how to decide. So I kept what they said about Dr. Bannerji... She would have told you about Shirgonkar.. It was a big episode and Dr. Bannerji was blamed for it.

0:03:48.438

She had a break down. So I had an open mind and I had to conduct myself the way I need to conduct myself. I got along fine so much so that I became the favorite student of not only that batch but also for several batches to come. Dr. Bannerji thought well of me and I would... but I want to say something about her as a teacher... What I had heard, she believed if you are such an academic doing it without practice it isn't adequate. One day of field work day... She specifically carried, cases herself handling it...

0:00:00.000

I was telling about Dr Banerjee, she was personally handling cases as a social worker practitioner which was entirely her responsibility that is rare I don't think I have come across



another teacher I have not heard of this is important, a teacher has to be a practitioner not just in social work Then apart of this she was extremely punctual and expected punctuality from others and that's where some students would get into difficulty, luckily I am by nature punctual I had no difficulty, we got along fine. An anecdote that I heard and it's true but it was not directly told that, she had to go to Delisle road or whatever for keeping an appointment, and one of the down pours in Bombay, all trains services were dislocated.

0:01:00.966

She had to go to Parel and then she said she has given this appointment and she is unable to go. She didn't want to miss the appointment she walked all the way from Andheri to Delisle road road. She could make it fortunately the appointment was such and kept her appointment with the client that is indicative of her two aspects one as practitioner and another punctuality, and then as a teacher I would like to recall this instance because I have been a teacher for thirty five years, she has been for a lesser period, we know what is involved in teaching profession, what kind of things happen. Now those were the days very little was available for suitable literature, very little so in fact we relied only on class notes of teacher, there was nothing to supplement by way of reading, may be barring one or two books which I can mention but it is not relevant on casework or something of that kind. So Dr Banerjee's notes were what we had to rely on.

0:00:00.000

direct experience this one, advanced social case work was I told u and we had nothing but class notes generally speaking, I am by nature I am not an extremely what shall I say book worm kind of a person but who didn't believe and only relying on guide books or notes where are the case may be, so I use to go and fetch a book by that time second year. I was sitting in



the library and looking at Dr Banerjee has after all what do you take and it is not recorded, u takes notes. So I was trying to supplement, I remember the topic she had said something on authority factors in case work. Those were the days in the United States, authoritarian casework cannot go together, authority is opposed to case work in terms of, because it's something negative. That was the all casework literature assumed you cannot do work in probation practice casework.

0:01:02.360

She had right then it was coming up in the united states during the, so she had talked to us on authority factor in social casework. Now I was sitting in the library reading what you called a journal called federal probation, from the United States, I was turning over the pages and I found Elliott Studt, an article authority and casework and it was her PhD dissertation, she later on become a well known author. She was the first prominent casework author in the United States to contradict the overwhelmingly dominant view that social casework cannot be practiced in an authoritative setting meaning correctional setting , probation that kind of thing. So dissertation got published later but she had written a brief article federal probation, I had read, taken notes and there was a question in the advanced social case work on authority factor in case work, I answered it in addition to Dr Banerjee, I made use of Elliott Studt's article.

0:02:12.680

Now Dr Banerjee uses to follow this practice after the specialization students passed out internal grading, grading was internal. She would give a farewell party in some restaurant, she was single usually some restaurant not expensive but a good restaurant. And that was the only kind of informal otherwise it was always a formal relationship with us. She wasn't



capable of interacting even outside by we are free as some other teachers would, so this was in Colaba I forgot the name of the it was one of those Irani restaurants, one of the better ones and we are to assemble there. So after the usual high tea was over we all came out of it and as we were moving in our different way,s she called me sort of slightly away from other students and she whispered Mr. Pathak you have done very well in advanced social case work first in a way of violation you can call it, you have done very well in advance social case work.

0:03:21.001

Where did you get all those you know, points that you have made? Where did you get that? I mentioned what I had told you, I mentioned Elliott Studt, federal probation. Now this is rare for a teacher she hadn't read what I had read she had her notes based on what there was nothing available, she was surprised that I had written something which she had not said in the class, she was curious to know. Now this is what I called a rare quality in a teacher to admit, she didn't say I have not read it but it was enough to convey she hadn't read it and she knew that I have read it. I had the notes, latest u see and so this quality is very rare, teachers bluff if a student say's something oh yes I have read it. I know another incident I wouldn't go into it in Delhi school of social work. It's a rare quality needs lot of courage to say that that my student had read more or more recent thing than we, can be ahead of me to admit it, andshe had it.

0:04:34.600

so that quality these two, her punctuality, her walking through the rains all the way from Andheri to Delisle road to keep an appointment, her strong belief that she should be a practitioner and not just an academic. These three quality I would like to hire and she was the



one with whom I came more contact, there are other teachers but it will take you beyond I could not talk to Dr Murti, Prof.Wadia and all those things I will not get into it, I am selecting. So after I passed out (Can you talk a little about because you are batch that sort of shifted between the two campuses could you talk a little about life on the Andheri campus) I was also in Nagpara Neighborhood for a week it was used as a hostel, TISS had not given up its possession where Manshardt started the Tata Institute so Gore's autobiography, he mentions that was where TISS was. So for a week , men's hostel was in Byculla Nagpara neighborhood where Tata Institute began, I stayed for a week I didn't like the immediate very disturbing atmosphere, it's a crime prone area then and now.

0:05:53.280

And at night one felt disturbed and even otherwise, so I came to know from my second year seniors the government hostel in Bandra in Land's End, today it is a prize location lands end army barrack, navy barracks handed over to the government by the British government run array common hostel for anyone, so I left after a week so I stayed in Byculla neighborhood, the origin of TISS, as a hosteller. Now Andheri was more open, it was a bungalow see it was a municipal corporation bungalow it was rather inadequate in terms class room and library and other things but lot of open space and you didn't feel you are living in Bombay you see coconut trees and many other things mango tree etc. And you were thrown together inevitably because in that small bungalow I mean big bungalow you can call but small for so you were all interacting with each other in a way very close whether it is a students, seniors and even teachers. Banerjee kept aloof, she had to because she lived on the first floor and the warden of women's hostel and she had to maintain a certain distance it was rather necessary for her to do so apart from her personality.



0:07:15.240

Otherwise no other teacher lived there they were commuting you see. So the atmosphere was I would say more physically as well as otherwise socially interacting with each other, the mess was outside in what some kind of a garage probably one Mrs. Patole was the in charge, everybody use to call her mummy and Prof.Kaikobad didn't like it so when we came to Chembur he said Mrs Johnson was then in charge of the mess. Don't call , he didn't said don't call her mummy as we were doing past on by seniors, so Mrs. Patole so we went out through the open and had our lunch because we had our lunch, etc there came back that kind of an atmosphere as far the classroom and other things it will take you quite beyond your. Dr Murthi taught what is called in those days social pathology, he has a PhD in sociology early period of Bombay university. He has done PhD in sociology Hindu theory of war and he was recruited here, so he use to teach social pathology Prof.Wadia use to teach the.. titles change but means introductory course on sociology on social institutions. I remember Prof.he was not Prof.in that time Dr Murthi the very first class you see he had a ready sense of humor I can tell you one or two issues at that time to get it.

0:08:50.600

so his very first class well this a class social pathology, from the united states he had got that bit which was quite contrary to the Indian lecturing method, black board social pathology.. then he would say you know what we were going to do here is we will undo what Prof.Wadia is doing in his class, because he was teaching social organization a part of it we will undo it and then he will say something then he will say class questions do you have any questions? He will write down on the board. Now this is how we use to go up and then the class would be over



Now the first part I mention undo what Prof. Wadia is teaching that's a mild thing but he had some time generally his witticism and humor was harmless generally but at times it could be devastating cruel. So one of my classmates Asha Mehta persisted in asking a question which he could not handle frankly, he tried to get away from it by giving some reply and she was persisting in the question now this is the devastating cruel part of his called humor or whatever. He looked at her rather sternly Miss Mehta I understand there are three types there are two types of fools in this world , those who know that they are fools and those who don't know they are fools.

0:10:25.080

i belong to the first category I don't know which category you belong you get it, she was reduced to tears now that is not a normal witticism of Dr. Mehta then at a seminar I was already at Delhi school of social work there was an association of schools of social work seminar in Calcutta.

0:11:18.000

so at the seminar at Calcutta associations of schools, it was on teaching methods this and that and Mrs. Baker who was then the principal of college of social work Nirmala Niketan was presenting a paper in a section teaching how to be a good teacher that was the title how to be a good teaches She had put in a lot of effort written very seriously and he was the section chairman Dr. Murthi was the section chairman. Now she read out her piece and there was this as part a quote this was part of her paper " a good teacher should know his subject well and teach it enthusiastically" was a quote she presented , as chairman he had to throw it open for section but with a few sentences as a chairperson he said, Mrs Baker he had a way of accent



Mrs Baker have said that a teacher should have good knowledge of the subject and should teach enthusiastically, but I know of a teacher who did not know his subject but talk most enthusiastically. The whole everybody burst out laughing, Mrs Baker was sitting with a serious face, it was not possible to have any serious discussion after that. I mean it was a good joke but at that particular point it just took away what Mrs Baker was trying to convey but it is ready wit of this kind he could any situation he would crack a joke on the spot not borrowed not noted down nothing of that kind.

0:13:07.000

That's a view Murthi I have given two sides of it, the one very devastating kind of a thing when he was disturbed, didn't like it he could cut a person to whatever you called piece on the other side of it.

Now about Dr. Mehta, Bahram Mehta, Bahram Mehta is a legend in many ways there are those my wife had it that experience, those who admired him considered as a inspiring teacher like Prof. P.D Kulkarni and that batch etc and then some other sort of indifferently. about Bahram Mehta he came to he was very fond of lecturing very fond, now if any class was vacant for any reason teacher didn't come etc if he happened to be free he would enter that class and begin to take the class, that would be his class so one example Dr. Banerjee was going on leave for some reason, she told us our own teacher If Dr. Mehta come he had given some assignment to do if Dr. Mehta comes and says he will take the class you say Dr. Banerjee has said you are not to attend the class and do the assignment, any anybody's class he would walk in, if he is free the class is free. You would have known what was called oral aggression or something of the kind in this little language. The other thing is we didn't know he was speaking community organization teaching he always spoke with double



royal "we we" speaking about himself "we we feel this way we feel" the student listen of course listen with interest he was very interesting they didn't know what note to take.

0:00:00.000

He used to talk we listened very with great interest and students occasionally did something by way of taking notes but they didn't know what they should write what was there to take at the notes. There was the problem. It was interesting to listen but what was academic about it, what was theoretical about it was the problem. Now that's all, I mean he never recommended any books or anything. Probably there wasn't any and what he spoke about community organisation had nothing to do with what in America the community organizations were doing later, much later Addition to social work method. So now when the examination time came, the students were very this was Chembur, they looked up in their note book and they find that there is hardly anything, there is hardly anything to go by nothing in the library I don't know how they spread the news. I am still puzzled, to this day I don't know somebody said Pathak has good notes and let's go so they came and said we want your notebook. I don't know. I mean I can't No you just give it we'll just get it typed and we will make copies.

0:01:04.961

They took away my notebook of community organization and got it typed. those were the days in which we didn't have technology we have got it typed and gave me a copy and it was distributed among a few so my notes of class Dr Murthi's on CO was. Ha! Sorry! I make this mistake please correct it. This is something I can't help. This is a problem I can explain, Dr Mehta Now. So, now what is the result. This is the interesting part. They all get B grade or even B+, I get C. This is Dr Mehta. So at the time of my interview in Delhi School of Social Work, Professor Gore was the , Principal. And he also had been a student of Dr Mehta. So he



went over my grades which were by and large very good grades. And he said, I find you have got very good grades in all the other subjects. But how is it that you have got a C in Community Organization? So I just replied this, I thought I had done well. But Dr Mehta thought otherwise.

0:02:14.923

He just smiled because he knew. Dr Mehta had this, this is hearsay that he never read the scripts and he gave I say it is hearsay, he never read the scripts and this maybe an exaggeration based on his class impression of his students, it's to the extent he can identify, he gave the grades Hearsay. The extreme part of hearsay was, he would look at how bulky is it seems to be good and there I have given A. ah very little this is hearsay I am not speaking but personal experience I have give you my own notes handout, my getting C I should have certainly got as much as others got by reading my notes if not more but that's Dr Mehta.

0:02:59.962

So now Dr Professor A R Wadia I was the President of the student's union now that itself can take half an hour of your time I won't go into that I learnt something about administration in my interaction as the President of the student's union with Professor A R Wadia. You know he came. He was the Director of education in Old Mysore State, right here. And then he had gone to Baroda as pro vice Chancellor and then he had come to Tata Institute as Director. Because of the problem of the dealing with Professor Wadia. They didn't want to make him Director. Or it would have been chaos. And they had to bring a Parsi, pardon me, they had to bring an Parsi as a Director to keep Dr Mehta in check, in terms of senior and all that. So Professor he came with a lot of experience as I told you Director of Public Instruction and he was director, he was a very serious person. So there was a tumultuous student's election, I



won't go into the details.

0:04:06.681

I overthrew, I in the sense, I the candidate the dominant group which was Pseudo Marxist or Marxist and anti faculty and going on strike and threatening to go on strike and in confrontation with the faculty. That was a group, that was being passed on, the leadership from several, three four years. So I was with that group in the first year. Yes 1953, the first term, I don't know maybe December or something. I was part of this group and I was elected as the executive counselor, I was given the charge of organizing picnics, which I did in Lonavala I had done. I know the names of the persons as well who were the presidents and all that.

0:04:58.764

But the group, the prominent leaders of the group was Srinivasachari, he was a well known Communist from Hyderabad, A K Sarkar from Bengal and one RamKrishna Pillay I think from Kerala. These were all second year students. In the first term, the second year students used to be President. So I was a member, I was with that group. I have a Communist background. Let me say that briefly. So I was elected as the Executive Counselor, the most inconsequential responsibility given to me. For they used to bring out magazine and all. I was organizing picnics which I did. By the time the second term election came, that is when it would be passed on to the next generation, the second year, first year. I was disenchanted with what they were doing. I didn't agree with what they were doing. For example picking up quarrels with the faculty on various, I mean unjustified. If it were justified fine. So what I did was, I decided to counter this and I did come with some political background.



0:06:10.043

So I decided to organize the students in such a manner that their candidate will not be the President of the student's union. Now I will cut the story short. There were three groups. One group was against the faculty generally. They had several of Marxism Communism. They will believe that the capitalist this that and all this HR course and all and yet they would like to be employed in the HRD field with good salary. When they went out they would like to be, but as a part of this they would go for labour welfare, personal management. They would speak as though they were revolutionaries. That was called the pseudo Marxist and pseudo revolutionary. So I fell out with them, but I was shrewd, I didn't let them know I had fallen out with them.

0:06:59.003

I dint let them know. I quietly began to organize whereby they would be dethroned and an alternate group will come into power. When I used my political, for there were three groups. One was this group, I mentioned the name, anti faculty briefly brevity sake. Some variants of Marxist or communist or leftist reliable. Then there were the second group, mostly Gujratis and Parsis, they were considered to be chamchas of faculty because they were all the time with the faculty and against this group. R E Songadwala was the leader to this group. I remember the name. He had lost the election earlier for president's post, a Parsi. He later went to Jamshedpur as the personal department. Now this group the Parsi- Gujrati in terms of ethnic composition doesn't take it beyond, by and large. R E Songadwala is the leader, the Srinivasacharya, Sarkar and Pillay on the other hand were the leader of the two. And in between I discovered, in between there were you can call it floating or non committed group.

0:08:11.000



They were really not committed to one or other but they didn't like the Songadwala's approach of kowtowing to the Director or Administrator on every matter. They thought they were being too servile or that kind of thing. And they were people from UP, I know the name, H M Saraswat Katiari. I was living in Bandra and they were also living in the same. Because of them I came to know it. When I found out that there were some Marathians also in this group. Apte, Mrs. Apte, G M R her husband was named and then Mr. Patwardhan, I am mentioning the names. So they were not either entirely, some UP some Maharashtra. They were either not with this or that. But their choice was difficult. They didn't want to be with the Songadwala group or not even once take a stand on any issue even if it was justified, and just say yes to the Director and the faculty.

0:09:04.001

So what they did was, if they had to choose between the two, they voted for Sarkar Srinivasacharya Pillay group. They are the majority when I went around talking I discovered there is this group. I told them, they said we don't agree, we don't completely agree with them. But if we support Sagrodwalla candidates, they will do everything as the director says. We don't want that either. So, the point came who should be the President, I was not going to be the President I was only trying to organize, they said look Pathak. If you want to be the Presidential candidate we will vote for you. If you are not, either we are neutral or we vote for them. Are you ready? I have no choice. I have no choice. Because if they didn't vote that group would win. Then I had series of discussion with Songadwalla. He was not convinced because earlier I was with them. He was not quite convinced that I was independent and I had broken away from them.

0:09:59.360



At Eros restaurant he called me. That was a very good restaurant. For an individual discussion. To know my mind. And we had a frank discussion. So I told Songadwalla that I am not going to enter into confrontation with the faculty unnecessarily on every issue but if there is a judgment issue where I need to differ I would take an independent stand. But otherwise I won't. Can you give your assurance that? Then what assurance means what? I am saying this to you. Otherwise it is left to you to believe or not. He was somewhat convinced at the end of the discussion. And he decided to accept me, he had another candidate. P.L. Govil. So he said all right. So I broke away the group. That other group who were reluctantly voting for. And when I stood to announce my candidature I told you I was not keen. They thought they had it in their pocket. Asha Mehta my own classmate, that's the very lady who I talked of, Professor Murthi had divorced with. She was their candidate.

0:11:06.920

They were very sure they were going to win. When the results came they found they had lost very badly. Because they didn't know this middle group that I just spoke to you about. Who didn't like them who had voted for me. And they had made it a condition, we only vote only if you are the candidate. So I won handsomely and that is a history. Pannakal, Professor Late Panakkal used to call me a hero and later on I used to say you are a statesman and use to humorously. He was there at that time. He had just come from USA. So this is the kind of a situation in which I had to interact with Professor Wadia. So professor Wadia called me again like Songadwala for a frank talk. I said the same thing. As far as I am concerned I am not unnecessarily getting into any confrontation with the faculty or the Director. But if there is a difference of opinion I will express it.

0:12:04.079



He said give it to me in writing. I said no. I am giving you my word but I am not going to give it to you in writing. What did I learn from him? I am coming to that. I mean subsequently I said how clever. He writes a letter. I congratulate you on your election as the President of the school union. It was nice of you to have had a chat with me about various things. And you have assured me you will not. Now what you have to do is give it to me in writing what you are trying to do. I refused to give it to him in writing. He put in on record in a clever way. Now I have to write a letter to say that no I did not say that. If I didn't say, I am on record. And as Director he has me on record this is what I learnt an important lesson on administration. I used it myself at part of my life so this is what A R Wadia one aspect of which I got to learn.

0:13:00.760

Now second year was Chembur. I was the first batch. Nobody was willing to go to Chembur. The bus service stopped in Sion. A Sindhi was running a private service. And when it was full, the bus would leave for Chembur naka at R K studio, not beyond. And taxi walas were unwilling to come because at night they would be late and money would be taken away from them. taxi walas would not be willing to come to Chembur at night. Very reluctantly at the most, they would say R K studios, not more than that. So we had to get off even though bus or whatever it is at R K studio and Chembur Naka and walk to campus. So that was Chembur, everything was open. The hill. And we were climbing up the hill which is part or the BARC campus now. So all those. So in the Chembur campus, we are slightly spread out. I told you. In very many ways. And also this carry over the election that was there. That also had broken the students into two antagonistic groups. So much so that there was not any kind of interaction between them.



0:14:15.720

That is the group that supported me. Who were continuing? The group that supported Asha Mehta. We had very little contact between each other. So I thought this is not happening. This is not a happy situation. I mean that is one thing to fight an election and win or lose. But certainly the student should not be like two warring camps. Without any interaction between them. I had a difficult time. Pardon me I am speaking about myself in a way. Then I said, I went ahead and said, look lets avoid this, let next election be unanimous. Now I spoke to the other group just as I had done earlier. I said look I would like to end this kind of hostile atmosphere. Let's have some common candidate. They said no, once again, Asha Mehta, the defeated candidate. Asha Mehta will be our candidate. And I spoke to Asha, she was my class mate. So I played a role. So with great difficulty I persuaded the group which I then happened to be then in. We will elect Asha Mehta without any contest.

0:15:19.242

Reluctantly she got elected and she didn't keep her word. She started acting once again in a party one way. So I will cut it short. It was a very messy thing. A no-confidence motion in the history of student's union had to be. A general body meeting had to be called. I moved into confidence motion. Having got her elected unanimously, I had to dethrone her through a no confidence motion. So Chembur there is this part also. An attempt was made to improve, misfired the other side did not keep. But otherwise we were living amidst nature, much more than Andheri. Lot of open space to go out and walk. of course beyond the canteen we had nothing for a cup of tea. We had to go to R K canteen. If you wanted anything. They served lovely samosas. I still remember it.

0:16:12.800



And Professor Kaikobad was the warden. Mrs. Kaikobad was the lady warden. Dr Banerjee didn't want. So the rule was you should not have any stove any appliance in your room. And there was a duplicate key with the warden. And we will come and check your room for two things. How you, because there was a prize, the best room. And the other thing is that you are not using electric heater to make tea or something of that kind. Now that was impractical. People did need it. The canteen or mess was not working beyond. Either they should have provided some manner of. So people were violating. Making tea and when Professor Kaikobad was coming, trying to hide it. This kind of a thing. Now Professor Kaikobad for some reason went on leave. I don't remember now what the reason was. Professor Pannakal. He was not Professor then he had taken over as warden. Now he has a good sense of humor.

0:17:11.800

But different than Dr Murthi's. He would crack a joke at the cost of another person. But if you did that he couldn't take it well. Any joke at his cost he couldn't take it well. But he was doing. So he comes as warden visiting the rooms and he gets my classmate. He gets into an argument with him. Rather, the other students get into an argument with him. And as the warden and it went on. So he tells him. Mr. Kotro, Kotro was his name. Mr Kotro, you know how to start a quarrel but you don't know how to end it. That's Pannakal. once again you can call it devastating. You know how to start a quarrel but you don't know how to end it. Now these are giving you some of the illustrations of hostel life. And the fact that certainly in the men's hostel, the students did violate the rule. Which was impractical in my opinion. They should have something. There was nothing nearby for a cup of tea.

0:18:17.601

They should have provided something. If you wanted them to observe. They got caught



sometimes but managed to get their cup of tea or anything they wanted, etc. Then there was the, some students used to go, the north Indians, become very friendly with the personal secretary of Raj Kapoor. As a result he was known a Dabbo Kapoor then, Ranbir Kapoor, he was a young boy. So they would bring Ranbir Kapoor into the campus. And as a result of this interaction. R K studios canteen. Some north indians very close with the personal private secretary of Raj Kapoor. Raj Kapoor was invited for the first convocation. in the quadrangle and Raj Kapoor came along with Krishna Kapoor and Daboo Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor that is. So he came for the first convocation. Now that is also what I want to mention also here.

0:19:13.720

The kind of name that Raj Kapoor had in the film world, then as well as even now. So we were living in the vicinity of R K studio. There was something of that getting into us. There were some students going and seeing the shooting of some film or the other and then seeing some actress or the other. And through that contact, I myself my north Indian I was very fond of Meena Kumari I had seen her once at Bandra Land's end in one early morning. just she had come from Pali Hill. All alone in the car I had seen her very close quarters, she was very beautiful. And I wanted to see. So he arranged a shooting. It was Chandni Chowk the film and Meena Kumari was the heroine. So this contact meant this way some of us went and saw a film shooting saw an actor and actress in person legendary names I have mentioned Raj Kapoor, Meena Kumari, names of that kind.

0:20:10.760

Some of us including myself. It was the impact of Chembur, R K studios and Deonar name came to be prominent later. It was in Deonar but that was not being used as prominently as it is being used now. And otherwise I can go on with. Yes I was a hosteller. In man's hostel.



Single room and triple room. That is three persons. First year students. Mine was the second room from the other side. Corner. The extreme corner. When you enter the first floor. Extreme corner. Badami, Mr Badami had managed to come in early and get into the room. mine was the next room. I was a hosteller. Incidentally the government gave the stipend didn't meet more than 50% of my. They only took care of 50% of my expenditure. I had to take a loan. Additionally to take care of my expenditure.

0:21:07.280

On the other side the story was I think it was true you know those were the days Nargis was whatever relationship with Raj Kapoor. They were very close. On the set as well as outside. And you can say they were living together in a way in today's. So there was a bungalow on the other side towards the Chembur side where Raj Kapoor rented it for Nargis. And she was living there. And they would frequently live with each other and we were shown, this is the Nargis bungalow. And occasionally there would be some wild parties and drinking and something of that kind that we could hear. So that was another side. I didn't see Nargis over there. I dint see her, but this is fairly certain that while hearsay, it was authentic. She was living in the bungalow rented by raj Kapoor. just close by. Today all these things have changed. We used to walk by to get to Chembur or something of that kind.

0:22:05.760

So in the campus there was open space. It's all filled up now. The hosteller, boys and girls I think I might there something about those things etc we will meet in the evening before the deadline to return to our room. We will chat and sometimes we will share our jokes or notes or something of that kind and some and some relationships also started in them. Because the Indian express cutting that my wife got, made some reference to that I might add



subsequently add to similar experience. So earlier there were no possibility of boys and girls interacting boys hostel in Nagpada neighborhood, long travel, girls hostel, a few of them in Andheri. And there was very little chance for them to meet and interact in any manner here there was plenty of chance and they enjoyed based on their friendship etc, and they interacted more.

0:23:08.280

It was a very lovely background. Overcrowded. The campus open space is all gone. The other thing is about the main building, if you don't know this. I will tell you Durga Shankar Bajpayee is the architect. He was the son of the then Bombay Governor, Girja Shankar Bajpayee who was an ICS officer, very powerful, retired director general of foreign exchange office under Nehru, a special position it is Secretary General. Not sorry, Secretary General of foreign office. He was right in the British days he was handling India's foreign relation and a very powerful person and after retiring he was the Governor of Bombay a very important position. Durga Shankar Bajpyee was his son; the Tatas felt somehow compelled to hire him as an architect compelled and he designed this main building on some Swiss model, sorry Swedish model probably.

0:24:07.082

You see the main building. Of course today you can't enjoy the beauty of it. the main defect about that was that there was no scope for growth it was all such spread out the way it is nice everything. So when the, I was told when the plan went somebody or other said but you had not provided for the we can't go on the first floor or the move up as the Institute grew etc and we want some modification he said either you take it or leave it I have put a lot of my architectural knowledge, skill innovation in devising a unusual building, a show piece I



would not like to do any modification so I will complete with this he said I will not make any change, the trustees had no alternative to but accept this because of Girja Shankar Bajpayee.

0:25:05.240

so you see the main building you cannot have first floor, on the other hand it became a tourist attraction tourist in the sense not necessarily all, quite a few people especially architects would come to see this novelty every day the way Durga Shankar Bajpayee had devised it so that is the other one in which based on, i think it is reasonably authentic but you also know the difficulty of what happened. As a result now all toes buildings with first floor second floor. In any case they would have been there. But more so because the main building cannot expand in any manner. So these are all these. I would stop at this. (Was there a lot of trees in the campus?) plenty. Professor Pannakal took lot of interest to grow trees by using the people from those correctional institutions who as part of the you know, they would earn their daily wage.

0:26:10.200

It was his, what little is left, it was beautiful. The beautifying of the campus with trees, open space was there, was Professor J J Pannakal's personal and he should be remembered for that. But probably some of it has gone. in the expansion of the Institute. He took personal interest. made use of the correctional institution inmates, part of their being let out and earn something and return and not be all the time in the institution so they were paid they were paid the daily wage. And the supervision and everything details of what trees where were all Professor Pannakal, J J Pannakal. So there were lot of trees, lot of open space beautiful then you know kind of landscape uneven you know the up and down that kind of a thing and there was not much traffic on the road as there is now everywhere there is traffic there was hardly any



traffic over there it was quite, almost like a resort except of course we did not have swimming pool and everything, other luxuries. So it was enjoyable those who like to have that kind of life.

0:27:18.120

Other part as I told you, we had very serious difficulties. When you were hungry genuine hunger, you want to eat something. There is nothing. You go walk up to R K studio. Of course they permitted us that but only a few people went. And the other difficulties that were there. On the campus there were only four quarters for the teachers, one was Dr Banerjee, the other was professor Kaikobad and the third, three quarters I think there were three R S Naidu was the state office.

0:00:30.360

well the experience of mixing with the opposite sex freely even in Andheri, even though I didn't come from.. Karnataka college was co educational and all those things but in the ordinary course there was the boys and girls did not mix except with the rare one. I was very shy by nature I would never look up a woman in the face see a girl or anybody I would look down or look away from even today that so the one thing is that mixing of the opposite sex at a personal level mixing of the two very intimately and freely and of course Bombay they came from the Bombay's kind of background they were even more free. That was one in terms of my own personal development the second thing was I mentioned Dr. Banerjee as a teacher and she's the one with the first year and the second year I told you for the reason what it is. An I fortunately I had that punctuality as part of me, I was fortunately I was kind of person though not a book worm wanting to read rather than just depend on. but the point here is Dr. Banerjee was a role model is to a kind of person you should be as a teacher that she

was punctual if you want ever students to be punctual you have to be punctual.

0:01:56.560

Normally what happens that the teacher expects the students to be punctual forgets that he or she isn't punctual in keeping appointments for field work or conferences or whatever it is, whereas she did not she short with she was on time, what she expected she personally practiced so that was an example that was the third I told you the magnanimity she showed as a teacher to this day I remember because that is rare quality even today among the teachers. Now what Tata Institute has contributed is in a way a broadening of prospective with a variety of courses I studied B.A economics , M.A economics I was taught by legendary teacher D.P Mukherjee considered is one of the founders of sociology in India and very what shall I Charismatic teacher compulsory course on sociology another legendary name Mazumdar. I had that alright academic and political but in Tata Institute there were these courses Dr. pandrina, P.H prabhu Psychology he did his PhD sociology Bombay university, Hindu social organizational family to this day they are classic, he changed over to Psychology and came to Tata Institute no discipline at that time so he taught same classroom discussion etc.

0:03:26.040

I remember this part of it and A.M Lorenzo, teaching social economics or whatever economic and research methods statistics now there was a kind of social sides in a wider along with mental health rather too much of Freud that was the predominant trend but it was not academic Psychology a general Psychology there was something of social Psychology added by Prof. Prabhu then you are getting from other sources Freudian neo-Freudian theories mental health and illness etc MPSWS specially to this day I have been telling this as



interviewed you may not be a social worker after the course you do at Tata Institute at you may not be you may go in whatever field. but what you learn there will be of help to you in your personal life you will be able to help your own friends because you know something about mental retardation which normally one doesn't come to know, physical handicapped, mental illness, neurosis, psychosis without going to MPSWS some common lectures are given Dr. Vahia and Dr. Marfatia use to come all the way to give you lecture the two prominent psychiatrist of the day earlier it was K.R.M asani and they were practicing psychiatrist.

0:04:46.120

so in my additional case it was the MPSW prepared me even more because you have asked me the question let me say this Dr. Marfatia he has written book also on children behavior problem children, he Dr. Banerjee has placed us for psychiatric placement J.J hospital what Dr. Marfatia was also teacher here in Tata Institute he said that you will sit in the OPD that I conduct what do you do take the history. The new patients who come we should the doctor they were the diploma course for doctor doing psychiatry DPM so the doctors doing DPM's one year diploma course, social workers doing that work he said take this whole history then he would sitting and conduct what they call is clinical so you read out the whatsoever history we read out the essay then he is asking questions to the patients and then what do you think is he suffering from what disease? then we had to say schizophrenia, manic depressive psychosis or something usually. Now I went through that along with some other then he would ask the doctors - what do you think we were giving right answers they were giving wrong answers he use to chide them see they are social work students they are able to make diagnosis correctly you are doctors.



0:06:08.320

they are not saying what this is it is, so this is the kind of training we had along with doctors who are doing a diploma course and not just a few lectures, in fact one year diploma course psychiatry and the same teacher who are teaching us in Tata Institute was conducting the OPD we were a part of it. So all this to this day my own personal life, by the time in my own close relation had one MDP and another schizophrenia and I was able to play the role both as a relation as a professional I would not have been able to do so if I did not know the knowledge that I had I reacted differently to than what others were reacting to the close my own sister's daughters, sisters granddaughter or something I was a severe chronic severe schizophrenia another MDP very close so I tell them I use to tell them even now I tell them what you learn there is help to your there may be a mentally retarded child, physically handicapped child there may be of course Autistic is very extreme case there may be somebody in the neighborhood somebody in your friends you would be able to guide them before it is too late what kind of professional services available and how you can get.

0:07:33.400

So Tata Institute contribution as far as I am concern my own specialization was an additional knowledge to this day I value it, nutrition for example people feel, my wife get bore about it lectures on nutrition and additionally I read upon it so we practice the nutritional part as a part of our diet and Doctor they are say quite a few thing to hear but generally to this day whenever I go for a routine checkup their remark is this for your age you are well preserved you are ok whatever change is there is natural for your age there is nothing seriously wrong with you. I have gone through MRI let me tell you gone to MRI because of some complaint vertigo I decide, so every time I go very qualified doctor after the test they say you are very well maintained for your age.. there are changes, but natural for your age now I rarely had to



go to doctors as a normal kind of a thing you see that was because I took care of my health both by way of diet and other things so Tata Institute to contributed I have already mentioned three or four areas one social mixing, a certain confidence in myself in terms of moving around with people at Bombay, big city of Bombay. I had not use a telephone mind you I came from the kind of back ground Rama Balwale Delisle road say something there was some reason he said I will telephone Dr. Banerjee you talk to her Rama Balwale was employed as social worker supervising

0:09:18.280

but Dr. Banerjee directly supervise me right there I would be supervised by Dr. Banerjee so one day something came you better talk to I was afraid to talk I have never used a telephone until that.. 1953-54 and I was terrified I said how am I going to talk to on the phone and that too, Dr.Banerjee so coming from a very small village and rural background to big city like Bombay and Tata Institute traveling, commuting from Bandra Land's end where the Government hostel was, changing over to Bandra and then going to Andheri and then having the season ticket for field work. I have gone in the interior J.J hospital placement one would be frightened to go even in the day time for home visit and then using the language in terms.. of course my Lucknow helped me in terms of language so we have to be independent- the field work made you so.. you were no longer protected I mean in my case it was not the kind of middle class protection, so we had to go only Dr. Banerjee said that if you don't know how to locate an address, ask the post man try to find the postman will know. To this day I find it a valuable advice if you are of course postman has be around or go to the post office then beat postman so she says, in the fieldwork visit if you are unable to locate neighborhood people if you found a postman around going around etc ask him he will tell you that these are practical tips so I think I have told you what I got out of Tata Institute and



social work also later.