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The writer J. K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame had once famously said, “There is an expiry date on how long you can complain about your parents”. It is generally true that parents have good intentions for their children, even when their actions are construed retrospectively to affect the lives of children in not the best of ways, but how does parental control relate to these intentions? The story of Anand Kumar offers curious insights into a life which was built on those intriguing questions that several people fail to understand and fewer people yet, to rise above them.

Many children accuse their parents of either being too protective, or not caring enough. But, appropriate levels and methods of parental control will obviously have positive effects on the life of a child. Dr. Anand Kumar is one among those people who had a controlling father who decided the careers of his children, but, no, he is not complaining! A classic quality of winners, it is no wonder said, “Winners don’t whine and whiners don’t win”!

Having a lasting effect, however, on one’s life in any way is inevitable. Choosing medical profession makes it more delicate if one is not

equipped to adequately understand. On the contrary, he says, “My father motivated us a lot saying that education is the only thing that will make a change in your life. We belong to an agricultural family in Agraphara, near Hindupur, a small village where the only educated family is ours”. Dr. Anand Kumar proudly says, “Our father though being very strict in our upbringing, making decisions for us, he made us realize human values”.

Dr. Anand Kumar, graduated from Bangalore medical college in 1992 according to his father’s wishes. After graduation, he joined Government service but realized that his potential is not being used to the maximum by serving with the Government in that capacity and decided to go back to his alma mater and pursued masters in General Surgery from the parent institute.



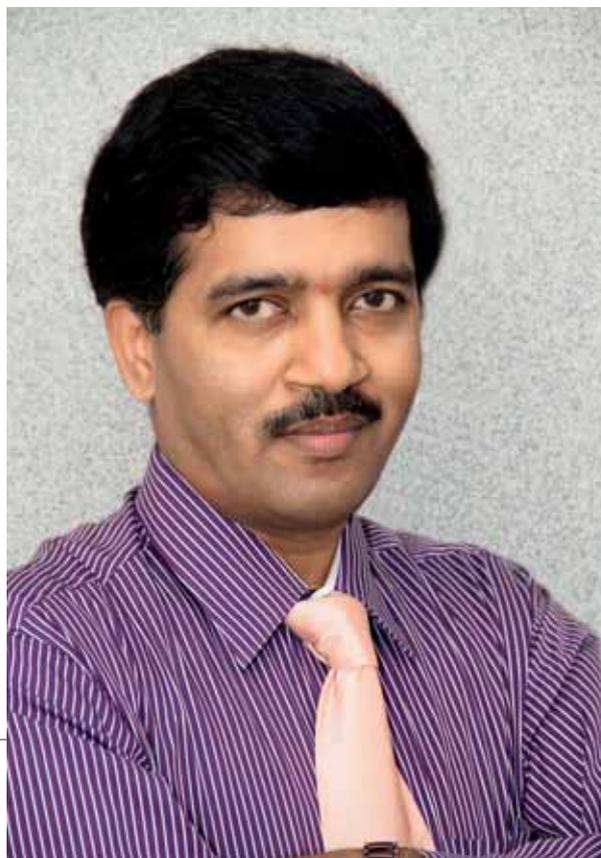
“Meeting the ‘right’ people can result in a number of positive outcomes: a lead on a new job, a motivational boost, clarity in our goals, a possible mentor, new friendship or general increase in personal effectiveness through positive feeling” says Dr. Anand. He says he is lucky enough to come across such personalities

who have paved a way for his future. “Dr. Anand, my senior, encouraged me to do FRCS in UK supporting me financially. He introduced me to one of the best surgical oncologists in south India, Prof. M. Chandrashekar, of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore who became my mentor and taught me everything in surgery. I learnt from him that we should never demand money and take whatever is given. I always make it a point that the surgery is performed within the budget of the patient even in corporate hospital”, says Dr. Anand Kumar, demonstrating the simple yet deep-seated emotional stability and continuance of lessons learnt through life’s myriad teachers.

After completing FRCS from Royal College of surgeons of Edinburgh, he went on to complete Fellowship in surgical gastroenterology at NIMS in 2002 and worked as faculty in the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, NIMS, till September 2006. Later, Dr. Anand Kumar moved to a prestigious private hospital as surgical gastroenterologist and HBP surgeon. In 2010 the prestigious Strasberg University and IRCAD France, awarded him with diploma in laparoscopic surgery.

An expert in all complicated gastrointestinal surgeries like transhiatal esophagectomy, transthoracic esophagectomy for esophageal cancers, colon transposition for corrosive esophageal strictures, achalasia cordia surgeries, radical gastrectomies for gastric cancers, radical hemicolectomies, anterior resection, APR for cancer of colon and cancer of rectum, and surgery for retroperitoneal tumours. Having a rich repertoire of surgical skills even within the specialization,

“I always make it a point that the surgery is performed within the budget of the patient even in corporate hospital”.



Dr. Anand Kumar says liver and pancreatic surgeries challenge him the most. His dream of becoming liver transplant surgeon and HBP surgeon came true when he got the opportunity to pursue MD (Liver Transplant) at Seoul National University Hospital in 2011.

Appreciating the training facilities available in Korea, Dr. Anand Kumar says, “The system itself is different in Korea. Even in the private sector, the government rules apply. I have learnt standard protocols of treatment and dedicated work. If I am in charge of a particular patient I have to do everything from writing the case sheet to administering injections. Koreans are very hard working. They don’t work for money, they work for work. That is why though it is a very small country it has the highest number of liver transplants performed”.

India provides medical facilities matching global standards. At the same time there is a dearth of medical institutes providing training on par with international standards. Dr. Anand Kumar laments that though in India we have the best talent, we are not developing in medical field because of fragile egos and lack of unity among doctors. He says, “In India we do not have structured training. Individually, the doctors are good but we do not have good institutes. We also lack in team work. Here, we don’t create next generation experts”.

Proudly claiming that 99% of his surgeries are successful, he says, “I always know beforehand whether there would be a problem in a particular patient or not. I always try

to come out of the problem, mostly I do”. Most common surgeries performed are hernia and gall bladder surgeries. Dr. Anand Kumar has performed a mindboggling 10,000 surgeries, among them, including rare surgeries of shunt and pancreatic surgeries”.

Keeping abreast with latest developments in Gastroenterology, Dr. Anand Kumar is adept at performing hepatobiliary surgeries, pancreatic surgeries, complicated liver resections for liver tumors and haemangiomas, portacaval and splenorenal shunt operations for portal hypertension, complicated biliary stricture surgeries and major pancreatic resections like whipples, PPPD, Lateal pancreatico jejunostomies for chronic pancreatitis.

Adding a feather to his cap, he proudly says, “Recently I performed a total splenorenal bypass surgery in a small hospital. It is a very complicated surgery and requires facilities of a corporate hospital.

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But I could do it successfully in a small hospital. I performed another surgery in Yashoda Hospital on a 72-year-old man, he had aneurysm in liver blood vessels and was refused to be operated upon by several hospitals. We could perform the surgery successfully”.

It is as much a privilege and honor for surgeons to be able to conduct a range of Laparoscopic procedures as much as it is a matter of skill, learning, opportunity, and success. While certain individuals rest easy with the laurels they have had, or seek pride in the fact of their vast learning and skill, Dr. Anand Kumar is a constant traveler in the alleys of knowledge, practice, and work. His experience and the special accomplishments only bring to sharp relief his uncanny confidence in his own abilities, a keen scientific aptitude and an objective assessment of cases in all situations, making him one of the best practitioners in the field. ♦

