

हास्रा अग्रज, हास्रो गौरव Our Pioneers, Our Pride

संरक्षक गोपाल कृष्ण श्रेष्ठ

प्रमुख सल्लाहकार पारस श्रेष्ठ

प्रमुख सम्पादक तथा संयोजक महेश अर्याल

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Be positive and look inside of yours

Anil Kesari Shah CEO Mega Bank Ltd.



How would you like to introduce yourself?

I am a Nepali. Today who I am, it is because I was born in this Country would like to say our youth to never forget their identity. Many people like to introduce themselves just by the work they do. Firstly I'm my parent's son, my wife's husband, my daughter's father, I'm this bank's CEO and above all what I'm is Nepali and I'm who I am because I was born in this country. I will never forget that and the youth must understand that above anything, our profession, our caste, our ethnicity, we are Nepali and this is what binds us together. Today you are here in a Nepali CEO's office as Nepali students and we are happy to meet each other. In me you see an icon and idol and in you I see my future. Sometimes we forget who we truly are. I'm a proud son of my parents, a good citizen, a good friend and hopefully someone who motivates the youth to the right way.

We want to know about your higher education.

I went to seven different schools from schooling to O level. My father worked at WHO (World Health Organization) and my mother in Foreign Service. I finished my school in British School in New Delhi and after that I went to Washington D.C. for my further University Education I was 20 years old when I graduated and the people advisors there told me why to rush for life. Take some time to work and at that time US could take practical training VISA for 2 years. I said; Well, I'll take half your advice and take some time off work but I'll go back and wonder what to do. There I met a bunch of foreigners who were making a movie of Paramount Disney movie. I was an assistant director there and my parents were scared thinking I might jump into movie line. So, I started as financial handlist for International Mt. Development. While I was there my mother got posted as the first female Ambassador of Nepal to India. At the same time I decided not to go back to America. Insted, I went to India and applied for the Delhi University and I was selected and I did my MBA in marketing. I finished it in 1991 A.D. I came back and started working here.

What differences do you get Nepalese education system and education in abroad?

I have got education in Nepal and America. The difference that I found in these two countries is that in Nepal most of the people study to get marks and in America lots of people study to get knowledge. In America there is no process of mugging up and then answering. Even if you memorize, they'll throw you out of the college for copying. When they ask you question they want you to see the text book and use your knowledge so, I find the actual practicality. And implementation in America is more which I like very much. When we were in school it was all memorizing but now it is very different. On the other hand, people who study in Nepal colleges and schools learn the same things that they learn in India or abroad but the main thing what they learnt is what Nepali is all about. So, there are both positive and negative points studying in Nepal and abroad.

What is the factor that made your business reliable?

I think the factor that made Mega Bank reliable is people. At the end of the day, we must never forget that business are made up of people. Like other countries, Nepal can be rich or poor not of the mud of Nepal or what we have in Nepal but because of people who live in Nepal and call themselves Nepali. Mega Bank isn't this office or this building Mega Bank is the people who work here. Of all the people who have governance high education and banking isn't financial security, it is the industry of confidence if they win confidence of the people, they will do well. If not no matter what you do how much interest you pay people will not trust you. The main factor of this institution and other institution where I have worked is people. We have to stop blaming other saying Nepal is landlocked and so on. It is the people and not our country, if we want to be successful it is the people who will make successful.

What characteristics are needed to be successful bankers? Do you suggest us to be an employ in banking sector and why?

To be a good banker one needs to be trust worthy and ethnical. It is the industry of confidence. If people don't trust you and they say he looks a bit shady, you will not be successful.

What I will suggest is rather than Anil Shah or the prof. suggesting what career you should follow is I think you are grown up now. And after +2 you will go to bachelor and see what you are good at doing. Some of you are good in maths and some are bad in maths, some are good in marketing and some are bad in marketing. I don't know anyone failing in maths and when asked what is your favorite subject and answering maths. We will hate it because we are not good at it. When you want to choose

your career, look around and see what you are good at doing. I take the example of Parash Khadka, we all know he is a great cricketer. We also know Jumano Rai, he is a great footballer. If you look at it you will just see Parash Khadka practicing cricket everyday and Jumano Rai is at Rangashala practicing Football all the time. You never see Parash Khadka come to Rangshala and practice football and take tips on how to be a good footballer. And we don't see Jumano Rai practicing cricket because they know what they are good at and they love doing it. Think about our lives if we are bad at mathematics, you can take tutuion in mathematics why don't you take tution in English and become exceptional. Think about it that way, why Parash Khadka only practises cricket he never practises football. Similarly, if you are going marketing why don't you become exceptional in marketing. So, why don't you look in sight itself and follow it.

Which is the most important to organization mission care value or vision?

I think it is any other. The most important thing in any organization is its people who have the best mission, vision. You can have the best core value but if the people aren't good. Look at our country we have had many constitution and they are drafting another constitution. Every constitution they make, they say it will be the best constitution. It is the people who actually have to implement the constitution. Organization is the samething we have best core value, mission and so on. But it is only worth anything if you have good people. For instance, our mission is to be the banker of every Nepali to promote financial inclusion, transformation, service oriented but those value are good for us only if we live by those values. If we didn't do that it is just a piece of paper so I think that whether you be a big, small, medium organization you take people by "Hamro lai Hoina Ramro Lai Prathamikta". If the people aren't good no matter how good the constitution be you never be successful.

What is one characteristic that you believe every leader should have?

I think any leader should have intrigity. For me as a leader I have a certain vision for this country. Today whether I met you or the people from revolutionary party, educationalist, scientist, I as a leader should be able to articulate my vision. What I find more is so called leaders of Nepal is that they look at you and make the same decision that you want for those who want to hear completely different, my vision becomes completely different. Leader should have intrigrity and a vision that I believe in this vision. If I'm a truly good leader I want you to believe in vision then we will all be moving towards the same direction otherwise the leaders tells you something. Some other tell you something and we all will be moving towards different direction. And if I be lucky enough to be the CEO or the Minister then I am myself conflicted because I have promised to many different things to show many people because I lack intrigrity. So the seed of leader is intrigrity so, If you don't have intrigrity what ever you are here you are not for intrigrity.

What are the few resources you would recommend to someone looking to gain insight into becoming a successful person in his/her concern field?

I think the starting point would be to choose a concern field. So don't choose what ever your friend, family or professor says but choose yourself because it's your life just think when you choose someone to marry you make sure to choose the right person. Your career is your life not direction. You must look inside yourself and decide what you want to do rest of your life. Because if you don't want to do it you are not good at doing it. So you will be miserable. So my tip is follow happiness everything else will follow you. I believe there is each unique happiness formula for everyone. My happiness

formula is different from others. There are five different ingredients that grows for all of us. Family and friends, money and economic wealth, power and social status, health, self actualization. People give priority to all these things differently. So you have to know what things make you happy. For eg: you are standing at the bus station and you see many buses but the bus that you get into is determine by one thing your destination. Happiness formula is the same like where you want to get to. If you know your destination then you will know where you are going and if not you don't know where you are going so follow your happiness formula so rest will follow you.

What are the responsibilities towards national prosperity for all organization like yours?

I think the first responsibility is to run a good organization. Here people are talking about development and this and that but to get it you have to be profitable organization yourself. As many banks Mega Bank is profitable we make sure to pay tax it is the first contribution we have to make. As Mega Bank we believe just creating wealth is not enough we have to distribute it. We want to be the banker of every Nepali. Our vision is not to create only wealth but create wealth in an equitable manner. So as any individual or organization we should never forget that we are Nepali. However it is whether banking or marketing or doctor you must give yourself a little space to see what can you do for your country Doctors are doing free health service, banker are doing free micro credit. Because at the end of the day no one want to live in the poorest country. No matter how rich I am. I want to live in a developed country.

Do you feel that the current education system of our country fits? Will it be relevant five years from now? Any lacking?

I think two things are there for education system. For many years our education system was stuck. But now we are moving in right direction. If I say that our education system currently producing manager, director, who are doing great all around the world. The foundation of education came from Nepal so I think there is a lot to be done. I am happy that this is a field where the private sectors accept challenges and prove to be better. Private sectors had taken education to the drastic level. There are private colleges all around Nepal and what ever you want to study you can study no matter where you are. That a great advancement as I said the country is only as good as its people. And people are good as only as education they get. And we are moving in the right track.

I think the education stops to be relevant the minutes you get degree. Because learning process doesn't stops when you get your SLC certificate or degree learning continues ever. When you stop learning after your Bachelor or +2 you became irrelevant.

What is your biggest challenge in you field? How do you cope with them?

People. Because right now my competitors are not other bankers. Banking sectors and Mega Bank will only be as good as its people who have done Bachelor, BBA, BBS, MBA, those who have done bachelor they are going to America, UK etc. In the past days the best Nepalese would go to British Gurkha's and whatever used to be left would come to Nepal. We are finding that in ever sector the best people go wherever the opportunities are. The biggest challenge is attracting retaining people specially youths. Nobody want

to leave Nepal if we have good career. What we are trying to do is to make environment to attract youths. And we are successful in doing it and we will continue to do that.

Are we changing as fast as the world around us?

I don't think so the reason itself is the nation not developing due to politics. The constitution areas have become such a centre of focus and if you think about it who calls strikes? Who disturbs classes, it's not teachers, not students, its political parties. The same parties which tell to develop and lead the country are the ones holding it back. I have never heard of bankers calling strikes and burning tire. It's like a doctor spreading diseases. If a doctor thinks of being popular and nobody is sick and not coming to him he thinks of spreading disease himself. So people will come to him. If the politician think in the same way and call on strikes the development is impossible. You are in class 12 now and you haven't have any constitution since you were in class 6 did it affect your study? No, you passed, you failed because you studied. Whether there is constitution or not in the country it is not going to effect your grades and it is same in every sectors unless a doctor comes to your class and shuts it down for 3 months for same diseases. But the politicians have nothing to do with it. They bring it to your college to my bank and that is how effect past. However the silver lining is youths are moving in the right pace. Those who are in abroad have two things you earn money and get knowledge. When you return back we will together develop this country.

How do we stay inspired?

I think to be inspired you have to look for people who inspire you. And take tips from them. There are two people who inspire me one is Sagar Prasai on wheel chair and a lady called Shristi KC who is blind you just look at their positively and energy and think oh my god we have everything as we

can walk, see, talk, eat ourselves and we have more advantage than they have. So, whenever I think things are not right I feel I have so much than them. So, you think of a candle. There is darkness everywhere. If I light my candle then it will be bright but if I help you to light your and everybody else's candle then the room will be more bright and this is how inspiration goes.

How do you define sucess:

For some people it may be money, power this and that but find your happiness formula and lead your life towards it.

Few words for us representin youth of today?

For the youths of today I would like to say have confidence in yourself, be positive and look inside yourself. And see what is your happiness formula. Nepal is one of the most magnificent countries in the world. I have travelled many countries and I feel how much God has given us. It is our fault that we are not utilizing it. A lot of us want to go to America. A majority of America is much colder than our Himalayas and another half of America is much hotter than our Terai. But they have developed it in such a way that no matter how hot or cold it is inside it same throughout the year because they have mastered how to control the environment God has given Kathmandu the environment where he controls the environment. You are the generation that will make Nepal that we dream about and I have faith in that because I faith in you. And I think in my life time, forget your life time we will get Nepal we want.



Interviewers of Our Pioneers, Our Pride Students of Grade XI & XI



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