



Swami Vivekananda
Contributor Personality Program



An Adani Group Initiative

UNIT 6:

Embarking on the Journey to Contributorship

From “Victim” to “Creator of my own Destiny”



for students and faculty of
Gujarat Technological University

by

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Services

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UNIT 6:

Embarking on the Journey to Contributorship

From “Victim” to “Creator of my own Destiny”

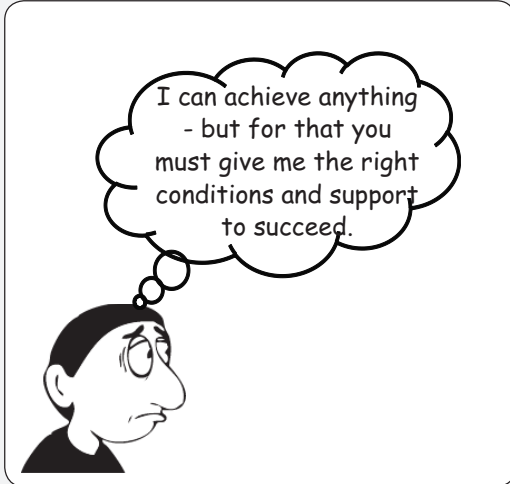
Explore how you can embark on the journey to contributorship, using the fundamental “building blocks” for becoming a Contributor – the first building block being a shift from a “victim” to being a “creator of one’s destiny”; the second building block being acceptance of the ideal of contributorship; the third building block being the willingness to take full responsibility for one’s own development; the fourth building block being the capacity to reflect on one’s development and make appropriate modifications.

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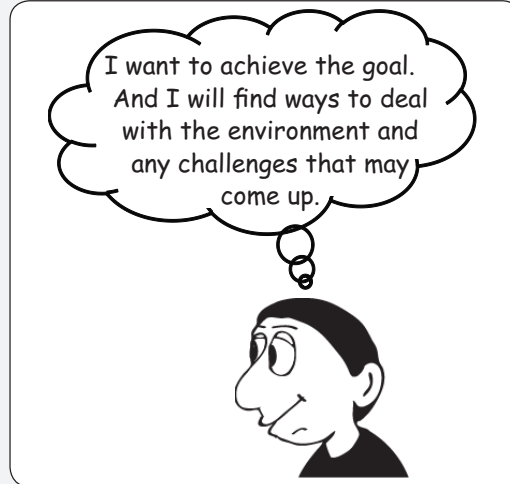
Concept Exploration

EXPLORATION 1:

Non-contributors believe that circumstances are more powerful than they are



Contributors believe that they, as human beings, are more powerful and can shape the circumstances they are in





REFLECTIONS

Q1. The non-contributor believes he/she is out of control and everything depends on whether circumstances are favourable or not. Whereas the contributor doesn't wait for favourable circumstances to act, he/she finds ways to deal with circumstances and still reach the goal. This is a shift in one's approach to any situation. Why is this shift important to your development as a contributor? Discuss to answer.

Q2. Write about one such contributor you know of, who always sees "what all I can possibly do" in a situation rather than feeling he/she has no power to do anything. Narrate some incidents from his/her life that show this.

EXPLORATION 2:

<p>Non-contributors do not step out of their “comfort zone”</p>  <p>I have never done this before... how can I do it?</p>	<p>Contributors are willing to step out of their “comfort zone” and try out new things</p>  <p>There is always a first time for everything. At the most, I will fail a few times before I succeed. So why not give it a try...</p>
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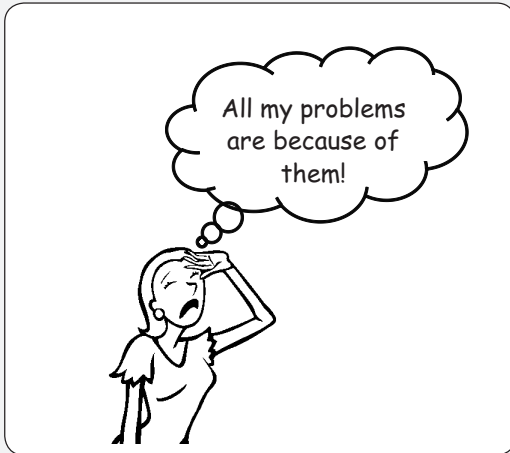
 **REFLECTIONS**

Q1. If you wanted to begin “stepping out of your comfort zone”, how would this change the way you do things? Why is this important to your development as a contributor?

Q2. Write about one such contributor who faces challenging situations positively, with an “I can” attitude. Narrate some incidents that show this.

EXPLORATION 3:

Non-contributors constantly blame others



Contributors recognize that they are responsible for their own problems, and so they solve these problems



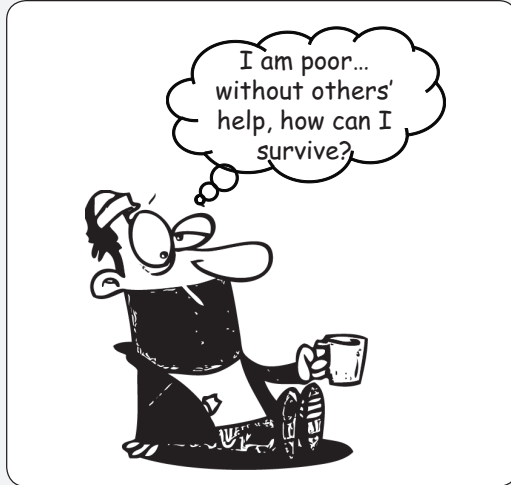
REFLECTIONS

Q1. What happens when you stop blaming others, and begin taking responsibility to find your own solutions? Why is this important to your development as a contributor?

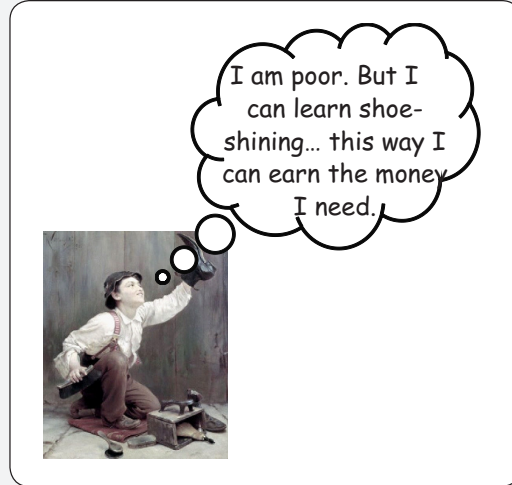
Q2. Write about one such contributor you know of, who in a tough situation did not blame others or blame circumstances, but instead took the responsibility for finding a way out. Narrate the incident.

EXPLORATION 4:

Non-contributors depend on others



Contributors rely on themselves, instead of waiting for others to solve their problems



REFLECTIONS

Q1. Why is becoming “self-reliant” important to your development as a contributor? Think of any one example of a situation you have faced, where you could have chosen to depend on others and wait for them to find answers for you, but instead you chose to be self-reliant and act. Write about this.

Q2. What was the effect of this choice you made in this incident, on your self-confidence and satisfaction?

Concept Application

APPLICATION EXAMPLE 6.1:

Contributors show the courage to step out of their “comfort zone”. Every time we step out of our “comfort zone”, we take one step forward on the journey of contributorship.

STORY

Aditi was a clerk in a large company. One day, a senior approached her and offered her a new role...

Aditi, your Hindi and English are good. Would you like to take up “making announcements” for the entire company?

My voice will be heard by 1000s of people! I won't be able to do it... I have never done it before... I will make a fool of myself...

Oh no sir!! I wouldn't be able to do it! I am so sorry...

But Aditi continued to worry over it for days...

No... this is an opportunity for me to try out something new. It would be silly to let such an opportunity go...

Ma'am, can I observe you while you work? I want to see how you do things...

Sure Aditi!

3 weeks later, Aditi accepted the offer and began making announcements... first doing just a few under the guidance of her senior... then some more... then independently. Her voice went out to 1000s of employees...

She did such a great job! People from all over the company praised her...

Congratulations!! You did brilliantly!

Based on a true case story

 **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Q1. Give examples from your life when you have stepped out of your “comfort zone” (like Aditi in this story). How did you feel?

APPLICATION EXAMPLE 6.2:

We can ***choose*** to make our life full of meaning and fulfillment. OR we can ***choose*** to live unhappy lives full of “ill-luck” and “bad fate”. Making the ***right choice*** is an important step towards contributorship.

SCENARIO

Megha was a successful business executive until she got married and had a child.



After my daughter was born, I decided that I couldn't go back to work, with such long and erratic hours. But at the same time, I really enjoyed working. So I started working from home, taking up freelance assignments.

A few years later, I also began taking lectures as a visiting faculty in a city college... I really enjoyed the work.

I am glad I can be there for my daughter as she is growing up. We really have fun together!

MEGHA takes responsibility for making her life meaningful and fulfilling.

Ritu, also a business executive, chose to quit her job on getting married. Family was her focus. Soon she had two children.



Once both her children began to go to school, she didn't know what to do at home, getting bored.

What could I do? Who would give me a job now? A woman has to sacrifice so much for the sake of her family and children...

If I had been working, I would be earning so much... like my friends... see the sacrifices I've had to make, all for my husband and children! What a waste my life is now!

My teenage children don't care for me! They want to do things their own way... they are even embarrassed to have me around!

RITU feels overpowered by her circumstances. She blames her circumstances and her family for the unhappiness she experiences in her life.

 **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Q1. In this scenario of Megha and Ritu, what do you think will be the impact of each of their approaches -

– On their lives?

– On their family?

– On their own fulfillment?

APPLICATION EXAMPLE 6.3:

Sometimes we are faced with a situation where there are many difficulties and obstacles. We can then face the challenges or we can decide to ignore and let the problems accumulate, in the hope that somebody else will solve them. When we make a decision to face the challenges, we are beginning our journey of contributorship.


STORY

Padma was assigned as manager to a branch that was doing very badly. It also had many litigations (law cases) going on against it.


Sharma, these cases are a serious problem! They are taking up so much of our resources... why hasn't anyone done anything about it?

Madam, most of these cases are over 15 years old... it has always been like this and always will be... you know how our country's courts work... nothing ever gets solved here...


Don't waste your time worrying about this... anyway the company is thinking of closing this branch down.




How can I solve this problem that none of the previous managers have solved? This is not in my power... what can I do? Neither do I have the experience nor do I have the contacts needed to deal with something like this! Better to just go on until this branch is closed down and I'm posted elsewhere...




But Padma was not satisfied with this... she knew that these were just excuses – after all if she didn't try and find a solution then who would? So Padma met with the lawyers to understand each of the cases, and she personally began working out solutions with the advice from many of her seniors and lawyers.



Moreover, the branch business was also turned around. By the time she left, her branch had got an A+ rating from the company.



By the time Padma got transferred from that branch 2 years later, all the long-pending litigations had been resolved. Moreover, measures were put into place to avoid such cases in the future...



Based on a true case story

 **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Q1. Think of any one area where you had chosen to ignore taking any action (putting it off for a later time, or not doing it at all) because of various difficulties that you think may be there. Write about this. Also write down, if you were to now take the initiative to complete this, then what would it involve on your part.

[HINT: This could be something in your locality (eg: your street is full of garbage and no one is doing anything about it); or something to do with your college (eg: a research project on some subject that will be very valuable to you and your classmates); or something to do in your home (eg: something is broken and you need to repair it but it seems too difficult.)]

APPLICATION EXAMPLE 6.4:

Contributors recognize that they need to “do something” (they do not just sit and worry without taking action). When we begin acting and dealing with our circumstances, things often turn out much better than we imagined. A person taking positive action is embarking on the journey of contributorship.

STORY

In April 2008, the Punjab state government announced a compensation package of approximately Rs.350 crores to the landowners, for acquiring of large chunks of land for the expansion of the Chandigarh airport. All banks saw this as an opportunity - the compensated villagers would need bank accounts to deposit the money they received.

Harneek Singh was a messenger (office boy) in a public sector bank. His bank was conservative and the manager and staff felt they stood no chance in front of all the aggressive modern banks. Moreover, they didn't even have a branch in these villages. Harneek Singh approached his branch manager



Sir, we are trusted by the people. Why will they not prefer to deposit with us, if we only reach out to them?

I know these areas well. I will reach out and go to them... they don't have to come to us.

So Harneek Singh began his rounds going door to door, village to village... meeting with people, getting to know them... talking to them and talking about his bank... requesting them to open accounts with his bank.



Beginning early morning, often his rounds went late into the night... When they couldn't come to the branch, the bank team went to them and

completed formalities... They trusted Harneek and so they trusted the bank.

The bank got Rs.170 crores of deposits from this effort. Far more than any other bank. Harneek's bank also opened a branch in one of these villages.

Harneek also reciprocated the trust of the villagers. He had become an “insider” in the community. Villagers were often unable to travel miles to get to the bank, but were in urgent need of money. Harneek ensured he got their money to them – at their doorstep.



Based on a true case story

 **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Q1. Give examples from your life when you took “positive action” in some situation (like Harnek Singh in this story). How did you feel?

THE FIRST STEP:

We embark on the journey of contributorship when we...	
<i>...step out of our “comfort zone” and are willing to experiment and fail</i>	<i>...face challenges (instead of ignoring them or running away from them)</i>
<i>...do something (instead of worrying)</i>	<i>...choose to fill our own life with meaningful and fulfilling activities</i>

APPLICATION EXAMPLE 6.5:

CASE STUDY

The people of Taj Nagar build their own railway station

I am Hari Kishore from Taj Nagar. You may not have heard of this place. Ours is a small village near Gurgaon with around 3000 people. Many of us go to Gurgaon, Delhi and even nearby Rewari every day on work, students go to colleges there and businessmen regularly travel for business. **But until two years ago we had to travel 6 kms to catch a train from either Hailimandi or Patli stations.**



Many years ago, when the Railways constructed a railway line passing right through our village, we were very pleased. At last, we can have our own station, we thought. When our Panchayat members approached the railway officials with this request, they said they would have to get permission from their higher-ups in the Railway Board.

We waited for a long time. When we did not get any reply, our Panchayat members again reminded the officials. One of them told us, “We tried our best to get the Railway Board to agree. But they have already overshot this year’s budget. And they have drawn up plans for the next year also. **So they said that they cannot comply with our request for the time being.**”

In 2007, somebody at our village meeting put forth this proposal : **“Why should we depend on others for our station? It is we who need the station. Why not build it ourselves?”** But another said, “Will the Railways give us permission?” Yet another said, “You might build the station, but will the trains stop there? ”

So our village officials made another trip to the Gurgaon railway office. The official was impressed but said “You can go ahead with constructing the station. But ensure that you follow the Railway rules. Once you complete it, we will arrange for trains to halt there.”

In late 2007, a panchayat meeting was held to which all villagers were invited. Here, a resolution was passed –



“We will build the Taj Nagar railway station from our own resources.”

Accordingly, a Gram Seva Samiti was formed which took the responsibility for collecting funds for the construction.

Plans were drawn up and sent to the Railway office. Once they were approved, the fund raising work started. The Samiti head said, “Each of us will contribute as much as we can spare. Let’s see how much we can collect.” Each of us contributed according to our capacity.



In the month of January 2008, construction began. **Some hurdles came in the way but by now we were sure that we could find solutions and that is how it happened.** It has taken us 3 years to build the station but finally it is ready - platforms and a ticket counter are ready. The Railways are now going to help us to construct a waiting room.

Based on a true case story

 **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

Q1. Look at this case study where the people of Taj Nagar took up the responsibility and built their own railway station. Discuss to explore what steps these people took to embark on the journey of contributorship. Write these down.

6.6: FIELD WORK

PROJECT 1:

Project Goal: *To embark on the journey of contributorship.*

STEP 1: In your project team, brainstorm to identify any one “Contribution Project” your team can take up.

(This could be an initiative in your college or in your locality)

Choose your “Contribution Project” carefully, by ensuring that the project –

- Is in an area of work that is new to all of you, so that it will challenge you to step out of your “comfort zone” and face challenges (instead of avoiding them).
- Addresses some long-standing problems that the people are facing, where your team can take concrete action and “do something” to solve these problems and therefore help those people.
- Will help all of you (project team members) develop yourselves (contribution to self); contribute to your organization or community; contribute to society in some way.

STEP 2: Plan your Contribution Project –

- Define the “contribution goal” you seek to achieve by the end of this project
(Define the goal at all 3 levels of – contribution to self, contribution to organization / community, contribution to society)
- What are the key steps (or sub-goals) you need to meet so as to achieve your goal?
- What is involved in making your project a success?
- Who else do you need to get involved if you want this project to be a success?
(eg: Teachers with authority, Parents, Family friends, Local authorities, etc.)
- How will you get them involved, explain the project to them, and help them see the value / benefit of this project?
- Assign roles and responsibilities to each team member in your project team (what each team member will be responsible for).
- Define a time-line and plan your schedules on how you will go about completing this project within a specific time frame.

STEP 3: Make a presentation on your Contribution Project Plan.

STEP 4: Present your Contribution Project Plan to the class (in the presentations session of Unit 6).

- Take any feedback / help from your classmates and your faculty to improve the chances of success of your Contribution Project.
- Refine your plan accordingly.

STEP 5: Implement your project according to your Contribution Project Plan (take guidance of your faculty wherever needed).

STEP 6: Once you complete your Contribution Project, make a presentation on –

- The Contribution Project goals you achieved.
- How this project challenged each of you (team members) and made you step out of your “comfort zone”. How did all of you gain through this process? What did you learn through this process? What new capabilities did you develop?
- The success you achieved – in terms of “inner success” and “external success”.
 - Mention the benefits to the organization / community and to society.
 - Mention the personal fulfillment, confidence and other rewards all of you felt you received.
 - Mention the rewards you all felt you received as a team (both inner and external rewards).



Swami Vivekananda speaks to you

Develop the will to contribute

Where does the power to contribute come from? It comes from within ourselves – from our commitment to be a contributor, practice contribution and to experience its fruits in our own lives. This commitment manifests itself as a gigantic will to contribute.

“Have you got the will to surmount mountain-high obstructions? If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?

“Our mistakes have places here. Go on! Do not look back if you think you have done something that is not right. Now, do you believe you could be what you are today, had you not made those mistakes before? Bless your mistakes, then. They have been angels unawares. Blessed be torture! Blessed be happiness! Do not care what be your lot. Hold on to the ideal. March on! Do not look back upon little mistakes and things. In this battlefield of ours, the dust of mistakes must be raised. Those who are so thin-skinned that they cannot bear the dust, let them get out of the ranks.

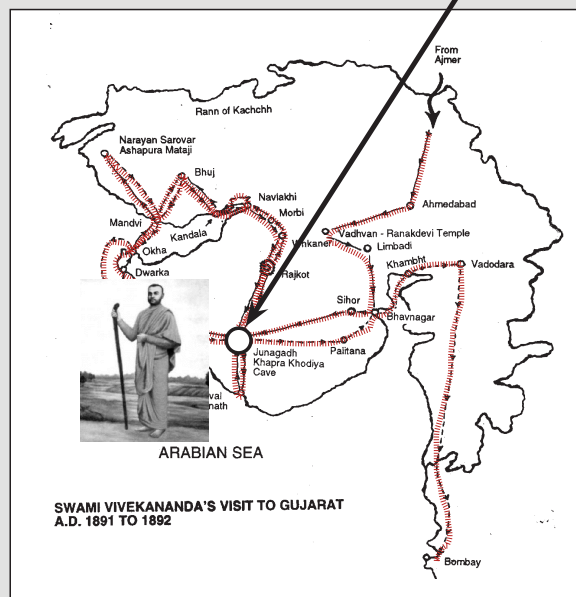
“But saying, “I can”, won’t do. Show me through action what you can do... Get up, and put your shoulders to the wheel – how long is this life for? As you have come into this world, leave some mark behind. Otherwise, where is the difference between you and the trees and stones? They, too, come into existence, decay and die. If you like to be born and to die like them, you are at liberty to do so.

“What is the cause of evolution? Desire. The animal wants to do something, but does not find the environment favourable, and therefore develops a new body. Who develops it? The animal itself, its will. You have developed from the lowest amoeba. Continue to exercise your will and it will take you higher still. The will is almighty. If it is almighty, you may say, why cannot I do everything? But you are thinking only of your little self. Look back on yourselves from the state of the amoeba to the human being; who made all that? Your own will. Can you deny then that it is almighty? That which has made you come up so high can make you go higher still. What you want is character, strengthening of the will.

“Practise hard... You have to plunge in and work, without thinking of the result. If you are brave enough, in six months you will be a perfect *yogi*. But those who take up just a bit of it and a little of everything else make no progress. It is of no use simply to take a course of lessons. To those who are full of *tamas*, ignorant and dull – those whose minds never get fixed on any idea, who only crave for something to amuse them – religion and philosophy are simply objects of entertainment. These are the un-persevering. They hear a talk, think it very nice, and then go home and forget all about it. To succeed, you must have tremendous perseverance, tremendous will. “I will drink the ocean,” says the persevering soul, “at my will mountains will crumble up.” Have that sort of energy, that sort of will, work hard, and you will reach the goal.

Source: The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda
(Published by Advaita Ashrama, 5 Dehi Entally Road,
Kolkata 14, India)

Swami Vivekananda at Junagadh – 2



Swami Vivekananda must have enjoyed the company of Manahsukhram, who was his host for a few days at Junagadh, as their common interest was Vedanta philosophy.

Manahsukhram Tripathi, was born in Nadiad, the hometown of Haridas Desai.

He was a great scholar, essayist, biographer and translator. He had a lot of reservations about the new reformist wave inspired by Brahmo Samaj and others. He became the protagonist of Sanskrit revival in Gujarati literature by starting with the help of like-minded scholars, an association named as Dharmasabha in 1870. He was the editor of Dharma Prakasha, which became the mouthpiece for the revival of the religious glory of ancient India in Gujarat.

Source: Shri Ramakrishna Ashrama, Rajkot, website (www.rkmrajkot.org)

The material in this booklet is meant to be studied along with the material available at gtu.ibecome.in

You will find videos, concept presentations, quizzes to improve your understanding of the topic.

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