

Learn as if you were to live forever

NR Narayana Murthy says, he is product of many lessons learnt from parents, teacher, friends, colleagues and his own children. He learnt many lessons from how they conducted themselves.

Talking about one of his favourite teachers, he said, he was influenced by his head master Mr KV Narayan (KVN). He was a tough taskmaster, a disciplinarian and expected a lot from his students but at the same time kind and affectionate towards them. The head master taught him Chemistry in the final year and he sat in the front bench in his class.

One day, the teacher was demonstrating an experiment for which he needed to put some common salt into the test tube. While experimenting, he was careful about how much salt he put in and took some time to optimise the amount. One of his friends found it to be very amusing and started laughing. The teacher stopped the experiment and asked him the reason behind it. The boy said he was amused to see how stingy the teacher was in using salt for the experiment. The teacher told them that he wants them to learn one important lesson. "This country became slave of other country because of us. We all looked after our families and not our society," the head master said.

The teacher further said, "It is very important for every one of us to treat what belongs to the community with more care than what belongs to our family. This salt belongs to the school and I have to be careful about how much to use it." He invited that student to his house where he can give him large quantity of salt.

The lesson is indeed important to all of us. Mr Murthy has treated the community property with lots of care. He had set rules in Infosys to ensure nobody uses community property for their own benefit. In his opinion, this is an important advice for every Indian particularly for politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats.

[Adapted from The Best Advice I Ever Got, Business Today]