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## A mathematician in every life...

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I was born in a small village near Ambala. My father was a freedom fighter. My mother though not formally educated, was extremely hard working and took keen interest in the study of her children. She was a pillar of strength for me till the end of her life in 2001. Though I was not educated with the goal of a career, yet my parents, my brothers and my sisters always motivated me to excel in studies. I was forced to learn all the skills that an ideal wife or mother needs, for which I now feel thankful to my family. Arya Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, the high school, where I was educated, had some extraordinary teachers. Two of them Mrs. Maya and Mrs. Maina who had lost their husbands in the partition riots in 1947, are worth mentioning. For them teaching was a mission, and their house was open to students all the time. Our school Principal, Mrs. Roop Ahluwalia, had high expectations, that I would bring laurels to school, I did so in the higher secondary examination in 1968.

My interest in Mathematics was due to an excellent college teacher Miss Gulshan Arora. I decided to pursue Mathematics as far as I could, and I joined the Department of

Mathematics Punjab University (PU), Chandigarh as a post graduate student in 1971. I was fortunate to be taught by stalwarts like Professors R.P. Bambah and I.S. Luthar.

Prof. Bambah, a well known number theorist, inspired me in research and Prof. I.S. Luthar, my Ph.D. supervisor, was a teacher par excellence. After submitting my thesis in algebraic number theory in 1976, I started teaching in the same department. My marriage in 1979 and the arrival of my two sons, in 1980 and 1984 did hinder research work for a few years. But once my children were in school, with the support of my family, especially my mother, and with inspiration from my senior colleagues, I resumed research and working as professor in the same department.

My Ph.D. students have been a great source of strength for me, motivating me to think of new and interesting problems and then to tackle them jointly or alone. This has led to over 50 publications in international journals. It has given me great satisfaction that my work is internationally recognized among specialists in the area. I wish I could do Mathematics till the last day of my life and if there is another life after death, then again I would like to be a mathematician.