

Inspirational

Episode 14

SHILPA KUBER

Senior Delivery Manager at Surgical Information Systems

This episode of INSPIRATIONAL features a "True Story" from the life of Ms. Shilpa Kuber (Senior Delivery Manager at Surgical Information Systems)

My career timeline started after my son started his schooling. I started off as a developer aspiring to achieve something big in IT industry. I was doing good as a developer, managing a young son and family.

It was after 9 years in the industry that I decided to take a break, to focus on my son's education. I resigned my job immediately after being promoted to Associate Architect, so that I can devote more time to my son, but destiny had something else in store.

The break started off well, I enrolled in Kathak classes again to continue my passion during the day when my son would be in school. Once he was back I would sit with him to work on his assignments and projects and also teach the neighbouring kids. This continued for a couple of months until one fateful day I suddenly felt numbness in my legs and could not move an inch while trying to walk out of the kitchen.

My husband had to lift me and place me on the bed. My Dad mobilized our family doctor home and I was diagnosed with a broken disc L5-S1. Doctor pronounced complete bed rest for 6

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months and said he would not guarantee a total recovery. I felt as if the roof came crashing on me. I thought I would end up in vegetative state throughout my life. This thought shook me.

For the next 2 months, my mom stayed with me, helped me with my daily activities. For a major part of the day I would be lying on the bed gazing at the ceiling. After a week, when I came to terms with the situation, I started browsing about broken disc, causes and cure on internet over my phone.

I then decided to use the recovery time to study PMBOK and prepare for the next job. Holding the PMBOK book while lying on bed was a major task in itself. I would read for 5 minutes, then give a break and try to lift the book again. I started learning Reiki and self-healing and consulted my Physiotherapist friend.

Started walking around the house a little, swallowing 3 painkillers a day. After 2 months, with the advice of physiotherapist, tried climbing staircase, one step at a time. After a week I could climb 5 steps without stopping and that was an achievement. It was like going back to childhood, learning to walk.

My will power, family and bunch of close friends didn't give up on me. My friends ensured they call me up every single day to remind me of my strength and "never give up" attitude. After 3 months of painkillers, physiotherapy, reiki and most importantly my will to come out of the situation, I drove a manual car (stick shift) to the doctor's clinic. The doctor could not believe until he stepped out of his clinic, and saw the car parked outside. He said it was a miracle. I smiled, I knew it was the will power and determination to LIVE LIFE on my terms.

After another month I landed with two offers for Project Manager and today I'm a successful Delivery leader managing a portfolio of critical accounts.

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