



Stories of Ordinary People with Extraordinary lessons .

After the tremendous success of ‘Reality Bytes – The Role of HR in Today’s World’, in English and Hindi, Aparna Sharma’s second book, ‘Between U & Me’, is a genuine endeavor to share with the readers, ‘extraordinary lessons’ from ‘ordinary people’.

All of us encounter obstacles or face challenges in our lives. As the challenges become complex, quite naturally, we feel the need for motivation. While self-help and inspirational books are available aplenty, most of them sketch the journey of the who’s who or celebrities whose advice, though genuine, is difficult to follow for common people.

“But why should we take inspiration from celebrities alone?” asks Aparna Sharma. “Since it is human nature to share and learn from others, why not seek advice from ‘ordinary’ but experienced people around us, who can guide us effectively and practically to resolve our problems?”

It is with this thought that Aparna has written the book, ‘Between U & Me’. What makes Aparna Sharma’s book stand out is that unlike the norm, she does not use the lives of famous personalities to draw inspiration. Rather, the book portrays the real-life stories of the people around her, who have inspired her and made a positive difference to her life— from her educational to personal and professional life. The protagonists of this book, are so-called ‘ordinary’ people, but each is an achiever in his/her own right. In simple, lucid language, they have chronicled their life journeys, the circumstances and challenges they faced with tenacity to reach the pinnacles of success, for the benefit of the readers.

From an octogenarian former editor of the first English women’s magazine in India, to an entrepreneur who applies the ancient knowledge given by Chanakya to the business world, to

a household help, tested by circumstances but firm in spirit, to a young, guitar-strumming renunciate, they span generations and are from different age groups and strata of society. However, the common thread that runs between them is, their attitude towards life and the fact that the transformation they brought in their lives, began with themselves.

Some of these stories will leave you teary-eyed ,a few will make you ponder over the unjust norms of society while others will leave you marveling at the sheer persistence of these people in the face of all odds. But all of them will, no doubt, change your perspective towards life and leave you motivated and empowered to take on your own challenges and rise above your situation.

Each reader will find in the book, something that will resonate with his/her life, either personal or professional, making it a must-read for people of all ages, as well as a wonderful gift. The best part of the book is that the reader can revisit the book any time he/she feels the need for much-required encouragement.

The extraordinary qualities of these people exist within each one of us too. All that is needed is for us to get in touch with them, brush off the layers of conditioning or neglect, and polish them to a shine. So, here's wishing the readers success in letting their inner strength shine through, just like the people in this book!

The book is published by Vishwakarma Publications.

What could be common between a school teacher who believes in 'simple living, high thinking', an author whose every book is a confirmed bestseller, a renowned initiator of the HRD movement in India, an innovative educationist, a top-notch hairdresser, a professor of 'History' who insists on knowledge of 'Geography' and a convent-educated renunciate?

These and a few others are 'ordinary' people, who, through their determination, positivity and hard work, have cheerfully overcome the hardships and challenges they came across, have emerged victorious and have gone on to create their own unique place in their respective fields.

"Why should inspiration be drawn only from the rich and famous?" asks Aparna Sharma, the bestselling author of '**Reality Bytes – The Role of HR in Today's World**'. An HR professional with a difference, Aparna is attracted to the positivity, 'can do' and 'never-say-die' attitudes in everyone she meets. '**Between U & Me**' brings out the 'extraordinary' lessons from the lives of these 14 'ordinary' people who have inspired Aparna in her journey and continue to do so.

An exceptional book that will make a difference to *YOUR* life! Take a plunge and get inspired!

'Between U & Me' is a memoir that resonates with the life experiences of ordinary yet accomplished people who are capable of infusing life into the imagination of the leaders of tomorrow..."

**Rashmi Mittal, Pro Chancellor
Lovely Professional University, Phagwara
(Punjab)**

"...In this book, Aparna has sought to capture the inspirational stories of 14 other accomplished people such as her..."

**Venkatraman, Chief Running
Evangelist
You Too Can Run
Author: From Sofa to 5K**





About the Author:

Felicitated with the “**Woman Achiever Award 2018**” by Indian Women Convention (IWC), “**MTC Global Outstanding Corporate Award for Excellence in Human Resources**” during the 6th Annual Global Convention –SANKALP 2016, “**Women Achievers Award**” by World HRD Congress & Institute of Public Enterprise in 2013, “**HR Super Achiever Award**” by Star News at the 20th World HRD Congress 2012 amongst many others, Aparna is a passionate learner in her journey of **over 21 years** of intense and expansive HR work. In her diverse roles, Aparna has successfully been a learning partner, mentor and coach to leaders, leadership teams and organisations to build competencies, learning abilities and nimbleness for achieving purposeful performance.

After completing her post graduation in Personnel Management & Industrial Relations (PM & IR) from **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)**, Mumbai, Aparna made her foray into the corporate world through **Nocil** and moved into different roles in the HR function in organisations like **Monsanto, Novartis, UCB, Deutsche Bank, Lafarge & Greaves Cotton**. Over the years, Aparna has learned to persistently and passionately value freedom, authentic relationships and realization of the potential of people.

Winner of many accolades like ‘**Women Leadership Award**’ for BFSI (Banking, Financial Services & Insurance) Awards by Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad, ‘**Achiever of Excellence Award**’ by Bombay Management Association (BMA) & Indian Society for

Training & Development (ISTD, Mumbai), she is regularly featured as **one of the top women HR Leaders** in the country & quoted as a **Thought Leader** in HR. Under her leadership at Lafarge, many in-company Global Awards such as '**Digilearn Championship Trophy**' & '**WAVE**' (**Women Adding Value & Excellence**) have been received besides external recognitions like **CLO (Chief Learning Officer's) Award** consecutively for 3 years.

Beyond her corporate role as an HR Leader, Aparna also dons the hat of HR contributor through her associations with **Indian Society of Training & Development (ISTD)**, **All India Management Association (AIMA)**, **National Institute of Personnel Management (NIPM)**, **National HRD Network**, and **Sumedhas**, where she actively participates in disseminating her acquired knowledge and build the HR fraternity by creating future leaders. She was the **Honorary Treasurer of National HRD Network, Mumbai Chapter (2012-2015)** and a member of the Executive Committee. She was also **elected as a member of the National Executive Board of NHRDN for the period 2013-2015**. She has been an **Independent Director** on the **Board of T.S Alloys Ltd.(100% subsidiary of Tata Steel)**.

A wildlife enthusiast and an amateur photographer, Aparna spends most of her leisure time closer to nature. Aparna also loves traveling as it gives her an opportunity to meet new people. Books are Aparna's favorite ally and she dedicates every day some time to read something new. An avid reader, she has a collection of some of the best books of the century.

She launched her maiden book, "Reality Bytes-The Role of HR in Today's World" in 2015 (English) which has received wide acclaim across the globe. The book has also been translated in Hindi & has been launched across the country. (check out- <http://www.aparnasharma.in/reality-bytes-role-of-hr/>).

Aparna has instituted "UDAAN" Scholarship- A tribute to her late aunt, Late Dr. Mohini D. Vyas' at St. Mary's Convent School in Ujjain where she studied, for a couple of all-rounder girl students entering Class X. She also spends time in guiding & coaching students as part of the school's career guidance efforts.

She is also actively involved in adult education through various forums & dedicates time at a couple of old age homes & orphanages in Mumbai.

To know more about Aparna, visit: – **www.aparnasharma.in**