

# *Career of Ram*

## **Sumit Kumar Ghosh**

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Ram retired from life as a contented man. Though he could not become a company director, which was his long cherished dream, he retired as a fairly successful executive.

Was his career path totally unchartered? Did he have a clear goal set for himself or did he do what he thought was appropriate at various stages of his career? Was he trying to adapt himself to the environment or was he trying to be different from a typical middle class south Indian boy of his times? Was success making him a little arrogant or was the need for achievement so predominant in him that he could not reconcile to the fact that his peers were considered better than him?

Answers to the above questions would probably help us to draw some insights from Ram's career. Taking risks in life has always been an important factor for any successful career. At times risk taking ability gets an impetus from ones feeling of being perceived as weak. Ram wanted to come out of the comfort zone and prove his mettle to the world. He came to the city with a nascent dream of being successful. Ram knew of his strengths and this helped him in taking difficult career decisions. His decision of becoming a stenographer could be simply because it provided him livelihood but

his decision to join ITC was not a natural choice. He wanted to leverage on his ability to take risk and come out different from other Brahmin stereotypes. His zeal to succeed saw him through his career path.

It's also interesting to note that the values that Ram had been brought up with were manifested through his action of helping poor and needy. He was empathetic and considerate. He stood by his family members and facilitated their growth. One can easily portray Ram as a self-made man rooted to the core values of his society, well aware of his strengths and weaknesses and driven by the need for achievement.

The most significant learning from Ram's career could be how such a strong character could take a decision which appeared to be a little immature. Did he become power hungry or a deep seated inadequacy in him was making him arrogant? Ram's story could be used as a framework to analyze one's career decisions and actions in life. Ram learned the lesson in a hard way but his story can give a lot of food for thought for others who are caught up with similar situation in life. While risk taking ability is a good personality trait to have but it should not turn out to be a gamble. High achievers take calculated risk.

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