Ep 09 – What Shapes Us – In Talks with Divyanshu Ganatra

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[**Vidya Mahambare**] (0:15 - 0:44)
Welcome to What Shapes Us, a podcast by Great Lakes Institute of Management. I am your host Vidya Mahabharat. In this series, we discuss how the complexities of life unravel with the help of our guests.

We talk about their life, we talk about their journey and we put this in a framework of five E's, Endowment, Environment, Education, Effort and Equality of Opportunity. I have with me today, Divyanshu Ganatra. Thank you Divyanshu for coming here and giving us your time.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (0:44 - 0:45)
My pleasure, my pleasure Vidya.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (0:46 - 1:50)
Divyanshu is a clinical psychologist and a cognitive neuroscientist. He is an entrepreneur and the founder of Adventure Beyond Barriers and Yellow Brick Road. Divyanshu has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, which is the highest freestanding mountain in the world.

He has flown solo; he has a framework of reimagining life possibilities, and we will talk about that. He just happens to have lost his eyesight at age 19. So let us get going, Divyanshu.

I look forward to hearing your stories and your work that you are doing and what needs to be done, challenges and so on. So, let us start with the first E in this framework: Endowment. So by endowment, we mean sort of a birth lottery that we are born with, the kind of family we are born into, the kind of place we are born, even the gender, because in a country like India, gender also matters.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:50 - 1:50)
Of course.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:51 - 2:09)
Maybe some of your inherent qualities which you realise later on, that these were your inborn qualities or talents. So something is just a starting, you know, a start line in life over which we have no control. So how would you place your Endowment?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (2:10 - 3:36)
I think, as you said, I always say a lot about where I am today, a lot of things in my life are just a lottery that I won. I did nothing for it. For example, to start with, being born to an amazing set of parents who are extremely supportive, extremely open-minded and to me they were the biggest role models for me. They were the two biggest people from whom I learned the most life lessons. So that was a huge lottery. To have a family, an amazing sister, an elder sister I have, and that is an amazing lottery I won.

To be born in Pune, which is incredibly beautiful, incredibly good, so that place and gender, as you mentioned, education, the fact that I went to a good school. It was academic, yes,

which back then of course, I hated, but you don't realise the importance of it until much, much later in life. Access to good education, access to books, access to information.

I think all of these are just amazing lotteries that I did nothing for, honestly.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (3:36 - 3:48)
And any of your traits now, which you think have helped you, which were inherent? Say willpower, patience or anything of that sort.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (3:49 - 5:01)
I think one of the things that has always stood me and always helped me is I'm intensely curious, and I always have been curious, and I've always loved the world outside the window. I've always loved to peek under rocks and jump into lakes and see what lies at the bottom, and extremely curious and that curiosity has led me to many, many places, and I'm here because of that. The other thing I feel I've always had is I've been stubborn as much as I hate to say it.

But yeah, but I believe I have put it to good use because there can be stubbornness that can come in the way, and there can be stubbornness that can turn into persistence and just not quitting and then just not giving up. I think I'm pretty flexible otherwise, my friends might say so otherwise!

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (5:03 - 5:04)
They see your stubborn side.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (5:05 - 5:25)
Yeah, they get to see my stubborn side, but I guess that exasperates them a lot. But hey, that's been me. That's really been me all through and through.

So yeah, one good and one not-so-good for the others, I guess.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (5:26 - 5:53)
How was your schooling? You're curious, of course, that time also you would be curious as a child, but coming to the second E in your childhood, which is environment, how was the environment around you at home? You said an amazing set of parents, but what exactly do you mean?

How was the environment at home when you were growing up? How were your peers or the school environment? What has remained with you from those years?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (5:53 - 8:31)
I come from a very traditional middle-class family. Both my parents are working. My father has his own business.

My mother worked in CDSN Command. So she was working all her life. She retired about 15-20 years ago.

So for me, the environment at home was a conventional, traditional family. We didn't have access to many things, but we had plenty of imagination. So there was a lot of imaginary play.

There's a lot of those things, which I believe really helped that we didn't have immediate toys and devices, but we had our imagination. We had a lot of friends around, and the society we lived in was one where I could walk into my neighbour's house just as I could walk into my own.

And all the neighbours were involved in each other's lives, involved in looking after each other's children. So there's a lot of sense of community. Something that I look back now and I realise that that was what it was.

That sense of community, that sense of belonging, that sense that everybody knew each other. And you never feel like you're alone, even though your parents aren't there the whole day. But there's always somebody checking in on you.

And I realise the importance of it now, as I work more in building communities and those things. So typically, that was the environment growing up. My father comes from a defence background, so I was very encouraged to do a lot of things at a very young age.

We were not prevented from doing something, from exploring, from going out, from having adventures. And they never, never prevented us from doing those things. We had responsibility even as children; we, or growing up, rather, always had responsibilities to take care of.

And that was that. I mean, there was no excuses to that. You have to do this set of chores, do these things, and pull your weight in the family.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (8:31 - 8:45)
So responsible freedom, there was a lot of freedom, but you knew your, you know, boundaries as growing up and, you know, whatever was assigned to you as, you know, tasks at home or helping out, that were to be done.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (8:46 - 8:47)
Absolutely. Absolutely.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (8:47 - 9:03)
And also, I think, you know, unlike maybe in those days in many houses, your mother also was working, means all women work, but your mother also was working for paid work. So that also was relatively rare in those days or even now remains rare.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (9:03 - 9:04)
Absolutely.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (9:04 - 9:25)
Absolutely. You grew up in that sort of environment and, yeah, and then, you know, something happened. You know, you finished your schooling, right?

You would have finished your 12th. And then what did, what had you joined as your, you know, education?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (9:25 - 9:42)

So my education is very interesting with you because that is one of the E's. So I was never interested in quote-unquote academics, right from childhood to the point where I failed kindergarten.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (9:43 - 9:49)
Does anyone fail in kindergarten? I wasn't even aware that kids are failed in kindergarten.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (9:50 - 10:03)
And I would have forgotten it because at that age, who remembers, who cares? But I have amazing friends who never let me forget it because they were always one year ahead of me until I passed out school. So…

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (10:03 - 10:05)
So literally, you were kept one year behind?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (10:05 - 10:05)
Yes. Yes.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (10:06 - 10:06)
Okay.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (10:09 - 13:29)
And later, what happened is my sister is intensely academic. And she was two years older. So she would come home and she was extremely conscientious, extremely studious, loved being a teacher.

And I was her captive audience as a student. So when I came back home from school, it was just the two of us. So she would force me to study her stuff and she would teach me her stuff.

And two years later, I've already done this. I'm bored. So I never really applied myself and I never really found it meaningful.

I just didn't find it meaningful to buy hard stuff because for me, I had five whys after you finished with everything. I had five more whys. And I wasn't getting those answers.

So I was intensely bored in school. And then it doesn't help when your elder sister is extremely good in academics and you are like the bottom ranker who's just not interested, who's just not studying. So then you tend to be looked at a certain way in school.

And that was my education. I never thought, my father never thought I would even pass my 10th standard because I just never really applied myself. And when I got my 10th marks, I got 65%, which was unheard of for my family, for me.

It was a surprise for me too, honestly. I think there's some mistake, but I'm not complaining. And instantly, my father was very inspired and said, "Oh, wow, you should get into engineering now."

And I'm like, really? So he was quite convinced that I had it in me that I could become an engineer. I'm like, not really.

No, thanks. And I got admission in 11th for commerce. So I was in symbiosis and I joined commerce.

And that's when my eye condition also was diagnosed. Very, very randomly, very, it was just a strange serendipity. I'd gone to check my number for my glasses.

And it was an old gentleman doctor who, for some reason, checked my eye pressure. And they usually don't do that. They usually don't do that even now.

They don't check your eye pressure. He did it with his crude instruments and the pressure was really high. And he said, we need to investigate this.

I'm suspecting something, but let's do more investigation. Long story short, we did an investigation and all of that. And the very first thing this other senior doctor tells me is he looks at all the reports and not a word.

He just flips through the file, looks at all the reports and then says, " You're going to go blind".

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (13:29 - 13:30)
And what age was that?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (13:31 - 13:31)
17

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (13:32 - 13:36)
At 17, you heard first time. Okay. And you were with your parents?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (13:36 - 13:43)
Yes.

Yes. And this is the first thing that he said, you're going to go blind.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (13:44 - 13:46)
That is how he conveyed it.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (13:46 - 15:44)
That's it. That's it. And for me, I was like, ha ha ha.

I can see perfectly well. No way I'm going blind. What are you talking about?

Because I had no symptoms at all. And I could see perfectly well. So I'm like, no, not really.

He said, " This is the condition. The condition is called glaucoma. And we don't know when, but you will."

And my pressure after that, of course, we did surgery. We did some treatment. I had loss of peripheral sight, peripheral vision, which you don't realise it because you make accommodations.

You start compensating by turning your head more if you lose your peripheral vision. So you don't realise you're losing your peripheral vision. And the 50 per cent vision that you have is enough to convince yourself and others that you have no problem.

And that I lost overnight at 19. So I was in my twelfth prelims at the time. And yeah, of course, I had not yet lost my sight in my twelfth prelims.

I was reading, you will hate this, but I was reading DM Mithani's economics. I still remember. Yes, I still remember it.

I still remember it because I threw it out the window. That's when my parents came back home. I'm like, I'm done with education.

This is not education. I'm not getting any education out of this. But parents were like, oh, at least we can say our son is 11th plus, which is amazing.

We never thought he would even get 10. And then, of course, I also had the sight thing going.

So I'd quit education back then. And then I lost my sight. And that happened around 19.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (15:45 - 15:48)
So before that (losing the eyeesight), you had decided to quit education. OK.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (15:49 - 16:05)
Yes. So this was one of the reasons that I wasn't I really didn't think I was getting an education. My understanding of education was very, very different.

And this wasn't it. So I said, it's OK.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:05 - 16:19)
But I'm finding it, how to say, even for your parents to accept that must have been difficult. Right. Because it's not easy in India if you tell, you know, a middle-class boy to tell his parents that, you know, I don't want to pass even the 12th.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:19 - 16:19)
Yeah.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:20 - 16:24)
And I'm stopping here. It's not socially acceptable.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:24 - 16:25)
Absolutely.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:26 - 16:31)
Even now. So it must have been, you know, tough on your parents as well at that point.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:31 - 16:42)
I'm sure. I'm sure it was. But I think one, this is my hunch.

Interesting. I've never, we never talked about it.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:43 - 16:44)
Oh, you never asked?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:44 - 16:44)
No.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:44 - 16:45)
You never had. OK. No.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:46 - 16:48)
Typically Indian family, we don't talk about these things.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:50 - 16:53)
Because they also have to face the society and so on.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:54 - 16:57)
And they've had to face society much more.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (16:57 - 16:57)
Yeah.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (16:58 - 18:00)
Later on. Yeah. Later on.

But I think they kind of understood, given what I was going through internally. They're like, "This isn't something we want to press him on right now." We'll figure it out later.

Let's let's deal with what is more important. And if if this is not what you want to do, that's fine. Let's figure out what you want to do.

And I think that was huge. Looking back, I mean, you don't realise it back then what they must have gone through, what conversations they must have had internally. But I guess they just put me and my interests as the priority.

And said what is best for him right now and what's best for him right now is to is to find himself, is to find out what he really wants to do. And he's going through this life change right now. So.

Let's just be supportive rather than pile on more.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (18:01 - 18:27)
Yeah, I think a big lesson in parenthood, you know, frankly, you know how your parents dealt with it. But as you said, one day you got up at age 19 and you could not see. So a big part of your inborn environment, you know, endowment was just taken away overnight.

And that meant a change in a lot of the environment as well. Right. The environment also totally changed around it.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (18:27 - 18:27)
Absolutely.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (18:28 - 18:44)
So if you could recall or if you wish to recall how exactly you dealt with those, you know, that moment and a few days after that, you know, you know, life would have changed totally. Right. Upside down.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (18:44 - 21:44)
No, no doubt about it. No doubt about it. That life changes.

Life changes like you never imagined. I was an artist growing up. So I used to do a lot of painting and colouring.

And that took a lot of my time. And I would literally lock myself for three months in a room, not come out and just paint all day and night. That was my vacation.

So for me, this was a big blow. But I think I think the the challenge started while I was going blind. So while I was partially sighted, it's it's hard because there are some things now you can't see.

There are some things you can see. Your friends are young, and they don't understand. They've never met somebody who's blind or going blind.

So they are processing it in their way. They think it's funny. It's funny when they're showing you figures that you can't read from a distance, and it becomes a running joke.

So sometimes being in the middle was much harder. Much harder because the world doesn't understand. You go to a theatre and with glaucoma, what happens is you take longer to adjust from light to dark.

So I would go to the theatre with my friends without any problem. But the minute I entered the theatre, it would be super dark, and I would lose my way. My friends were like, well, what happened to you?

You're fine till now. And how do you explain that? Oh, once I stepped in, I needed help.

So those were the kinds of things. And then, of course, when you wake up blind, your world, of course, turns upside down. You don't know how to convey this.

It's it's it's almost like your world is being ripped apart. So I was sitting by myself. I was at home.

Then my parents said, " Well, we've got to figure out what we need to do. And we looked up a place in which is a premier rehab centre. So I thought maybe I'll learn the ways of the blind.

And I thought I didn't know any blind people. I tried looking at my network in my friend's network and in multiple levels down, and I couldn't find anybody. So I thought the best way to learn is maybe to go to a rehab centre and figure out what I can do to stand on my two feet, because that was important to me.

I absolutely didn't want to be dependent on anybody. Freedom was something that was absolutely ingrained in me since childhood, being independent and being free. So I said, I'll go there.

And then when I went there, it was abysmal. The condition was just pathetic.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (21:44 - 21:45)
This is in Pune?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (21:45 - 24:02)
No, this is in this is a premier rehab centre in Bombay. And it was just pathetic. It was smelly.

It was stinky. And there are thousands of blind, hundreds of blind that were coming there for rehab. And I'm like, wow, I thought I was the only one.

And look at all these people. And where are they coming from? And a lot of them are coming from extremely low economic backgrounds from all over.

And I realised that one, that there are many like me, that I'm not alone, because for 19 years I'd never seen anybody except maybe in signals or maybe in movies or just random like that. But never known anybody. And now I have hundreds of people around me.

And the only difference between them and me was majority of them came from extremely low economic backgrounds. And I realised that that was the reason why they didn't even have a voice. When you're poor, you don't have a voice.

I had a voice. So I could say, "Hey, this place is stinking. You can't treat us like this."

I've lost my sight. I've not lost my dignity as a human being. And then I went in for counselling and career counselling.

And they said I had really senior gentlemen sitting in front of me, all of them, four or five of them. And they said, the best you can do now is make chalk or become a telephone operator. And I had no problem with that.

Honestly, it's an honest day's job. But I didn't see a future in it. There's no shame in making chalk or cane furniture or becoming a telephone operator.

Just that I saw no future in it. And I said, come on, there's got to be better. And they said, yeah, you got to, you know, they said something.

I remind myself every single day. Honestly, they said to me, Divyanshu, you've got to accept your reality. You cannot do this now.

And I'm like, whose reality are you talking about? It's not mine.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (24:03 - 24:09)
You had that clarity at that point itself. You could. Clarity in the sense that I would let somebody decide.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (24:10 - 24:11)

I had a voice.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (24:13 - 24:13)
Confident. Yeah.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (24:14 - 24:14)
Yes.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (24:15 - 24:28)
Because not many 19-year-olds, you know, will speak back even in normal circumstances. So. And I didn't see it as speaking back.

No, no. What I meant by speaking back is like questioning.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (24:28 - 24:28)
Yes.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (24:28 - 24:33)
That are these the only possibilities? Why can't I, you know, there must be something more.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (24:33 - 24:35)
That was my endowment, right?

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (24:35 - 24:35)
Yes.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (24:36 - 26:07)
My curiosity and my ability to have different perspectives. And I said, OK, but it's logical, right? Whose reality are you talking about?

Because your reality is different. Mine is different. So you cannot decide for me what I can or cannot do.

Because I asked them that, OK, we're in the 90s. Everybody's talking about IT and computers and that seems to be the future. That seems to be an amazing place to be.

I'm well-positioned right now. I can learn. I can learn new stuff.

It's interesting. It's challenging. So now that I'm well-positioned for this field, why not?

Why not get me trained in that? Why can't I pursue a career in technology? And that's when they said, " You cannot do this.

And I said, you cannot decide for me. They said, oh, but you're blind. You can't see the screen.

I said, Fair point. But that's just a technical problem, right? How does it logically follow that I can't learn?

They're like, how will you learn? You can't see the screen. I'm like, those are two separate things.

Learning and I not being able to see the screen are completely different. So I said, well, fine. I quit.

I don't have to stay here. So I quit rehab. Fortunately, my parents also have seen the place and they were like, no way is going to survive this place.

So they're still waiting outside.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (26:08 - 26:09)
These are residential rehabs?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (26:09 - 26:22)
Yes. And I'm like, let's go. I'm not staying here.

And they didn't question me at all. At all. They said, fair enough.

If you don't think so, fair enough. We'll figure it out.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (26:23 - 26:24)
So you came back to Pune.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (26:24 - 28:17)
I came back to Pune. I went to many training institutes that were mushrooming around Pune that time. They also told me the same thing.

You can't learn because you can't see the screen. And that was that. I mean, there was nobody to teach me.

So I said, OK, if nobody is ready to teach, I can learn on my own. I can teach myself. And all I needed was somebody to read out the screen.

That's what friends are for. So I grabbed my friend and I said, you just read the screen out to me. I'll learn on my own.

And that's how I learned technology. That's how I got into technology and then got my first break in data and information technology. And that set me off on a beautiful career path and career trajectory where I worked in man-machine interfaces and assistive tech and then screen readers came in and that just catapulted me much further.

And then over time, you start trying to programme the machine to do what the human mind does. You're essentially emulating the human brain. And you're trying to figure out how does the human brain processes information and analyses information and takes decisions, and remembers information and all of these things that we want machines to do.

So I started reading up about the brain and that's when I fell in love with the human brain. I said, this is so fascinating. And we know so little about the brain.

Forget the machine. Forget trying a machine to get it done. But we know so little about the human brain itself.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (28:17 - 28:21)
Yeah. If we don't know the human brain, how we'll teach machines to do it.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (28:21 - 28:30)
And we know about the human brain even today, all these years later, just as much as we know about the universe, which is barely anything.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (28:30 - 28:44)
No, no. So now with the, you know, assisted reading and so on. This is just a practical question, which I'm, you know, trying to understand.

You still use, you know, Braille and all that to to read or how does it happen practically?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (28:45 - 28:46)
Wonderful question.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (28:46 - 28:47)
Just for us to understand.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (28:48 - 29:20)
Important and wonderful question there because when I went blind, Braille was the option. And I tried learning Braille, but it was hard. And the other part was there's so little available in Braille.

There's so little content available in Braille. So I asked myself, OK, I will put myself, persist and learn Braille. But what's the point?

I want to access a million books. I don't have access to even a single book. What's the point?

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (29:20 - 29:21)
It's redundant.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (29:22 - 30:17)
Technology now offers me a way to read books independently. Of course, I had to put in four times as much effort because I had to rip the books, scan them, use OCR, and then use a screen reader to read them. That's how I used to read a book.

So and then sometimes if the book quality is bad, then have a person edit it before I start reading it. But I could read it anytime, day or night. And then once I had a book ready, properly proofread, I could also share it amongst hundred others and they could each share a book.

Now we suddenly have a hundred books amongst us. So there was that division of labour that started happening because of the Internet. And I said, no need for Braille.

So I never learned Braille.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (30:17 - 30:21)
So is that now common for people? Do they do it this way?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (30:21 - 30:27)
So 8% of the people, roughly 8% of the people in the world today know Braille. Only 8% of the blind.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (30:28 - 30:33)
Only 8% of the blind use Braille. Rest are, they have moved to technology which opens up lots of…

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (30:33 - 31:40)
Or they know Braille. Everybody is using technology for sure. There is no way around.

I mean, of course, in countries like India, where there is so much of poverty, there is a huge digital divide. So you don't have access to computers and laptops and screen readers and all of those. But the majority of them now, Braille is a dying art.

It's a drawing script. I don't ditch Braille for those who like Braille, for those who want Braille. I never say we should not have it because you have different modalities for different people.

So it's also important to understand that just like some people are auditory learners, some people are tactile learners, and some people are kinaesthetic learners. So we should have different things for different people. Just because I use technology, I can't say that, oh, we should have no Braille.

We should have Braille for those who need it. Definitely. Just that the amount of material available today is way more in electronic format.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (31:41 - 31:45)
Right. And so you got interested in human brain, right?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (31:45 - 31:45)
That's correct.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (31:45 - 31:51)
And so is that how you moved on to studying psychology? Yes. Okay.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (31:52 - 33:16)
So this was almost six odd years later. And I said one night of, you know, sitting, shooting the breeze with friends and brainstorming. And I said, wouldn't it be interesting if instead of programming the machine to learn new stuff, what if we got the brain itself to learn new stuff, stuff that evolution didn't intend on?

Can we rewire the brain to take on new tasks and learn new tasks? Rewire itself such that hasten evolution maybe? Maybe get your ears to see and your eyes to hear.

And maybe you can hear through your skin. Because remember, I failed kindergarten, so I never learned that there are only five sensory modalities. I said, who said that?

Why can't there be more than five? And it's complete BS that is taught to us that there are five. Because we never imagined other modalities, right?

Even your skin is an input-output device. So come morning, the beer in my bloodstream was gone. But the questions remain, right?

The questions remain. And I said, that would be fascinating.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (33:16 - 33:20)
But what did that involve? Because you had not completed your 12th.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (33:20 - 35:50)
So that involved me going back to college. That involved me quitting technology for a while, taking a huge sabbatical. Much to the dismay of everybody, because when you are really doing well in your career, you're really well settled.

And now you want to just take a sabbatical at 24, 24, 25 and go back to college and study something completely different. You can imagine how hard it must be for people around me, right? So, yeah, but that's what I did.

I went back to college. And I wanted to study psychology. And then when I wanted to do, take that up as my honour subject, my major subject, there was a lot of resistance because they said, but it's practicals, it's experiments, and psychology cannot be given to people who are blind and all of that.

And I said, again, the same thing. Who decides? Who decides that a blind person cannot do this course?

Your responsibility is to teach. My responsibility is to do with it whatever I do. Whether I fail or succeed, that's up to me.

But as an educational institute, it's your responsibility to teach. So, there was a bit of resistance, fight, blah, blah, long story short, I did get my admission. And it was a breeze.

It wasn't that difficult at all. In the meantime, also, what really helped with my own rehab, I should tell you that, is after I came back from rehab, I definitely still needed rehab, but I realised that the best way for me to learn to get back on my feet is to live independently. So, at 20, I started living on my own.

And I started living independently. And I said, the worst that'll happen is I'll break a couple of bones. I'll bruise myself, I'll hurt myself, but that's the only way to learn, because at home, everything was being done, and it was with good intentions.

It was done with kindness and good intentions, but that would not really enable me.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (35:50 - 35:56)
So, you started living independently in a separate house from your parents?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (35:56 - 37:36)
Yes. And that was hard on them. And they were also hard because our society doesn't accept those kinds of things.

So they had to fight many battles on my behalf. And they never let it reach me. They're like, fair enough.

If you believe you will be independent by doing this, then we're with you. And I have no clue how many battles they fought to be able to let me live independently. It's been 30 years, and I live by myself.

Never needed a pair of eyes in my house. Not even once. Not even once I feel that, oh, damn, I should have somebody to see.

No. 30 years, not once. And then, of course, when I went to college and everything, that was a breeze.

And again, the master's was tough, because again, the same problem happened again. At master's, it was even more resistance. Thankfully, the HOD said, well, he's here on merit.

And we cannot deny him admission. And half the staff said that, no, but this is, this is, this you can't do. There's huge fights, a lot of discrimination.

For me, it was just simple. Get my degree and get out. Don't give them an excuse.

If that means working four times as hard, then so be it. You work four times as hard.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (37:37 - 37:40)
For you, you were just a normal student. For me, yeah.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (37:40 - 38:04)
I just told myself, I'll never bring my disability on the table. It's an excuse. I'll never say I can't do this because I'm blind.

We will figure out a way. And if that means working four times as hard, then so be it. But to also to never give them an excuse to say, hey, you've not completed your assignment on time.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (38:05 - 38:05)
Right.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (38:06 - 38:35)
Not once. And I loved, I loved what I was studying. So it was easy.

I really, really was fascinated. I was, all these years later, I'm still awestruck. I'm still amazed every time I read something, every time I study something, I'm amazed, I'm awestruck.

And it never feels like education now. And I did very well academically. To everybody's surprise, on my own.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (38:36 - 38:45)
So just for, you know, all the listeners. So when you're doing assignments and all in those days, it is just you, because now you can read out and the computer will type.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (38:46 - 39:29)

Back then that technology wasn't there. So a keyboard was originally, a typewriter originally was meant for the blind. The origin of the typewriter was so that the count, his girlfriend, was blind.

So he invented the typewriter so that they could communicate. And later on, the typewriter became something that everybody started using. That became the keyboard.

And if you learn typing the correct way, you're not supposed to look at the keyboard. That's the correct way of typing. But the keyboard was a device that was invented originally for the blind.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (39:29 - 39:32)
So you typed all your assignments and so on.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (39:32 - 39:59)
Yes, I typed all my assignments. Early on, I would, we would have magnetic tapes. Then came computers and all of those things.

So from magnetic tapes, somebody would record it onto the computer or I would scan the books and then my screen reader would read it out to me. So all kinds of things. Now it's fairly easy.

Now it's like no brainer. Technology has come a long way, a long way.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (40:00 - 40:03)
Yeah. Back then it involved a lot of, you know, tonnes of effort.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (40:03 - 40:04)
That's correct.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (40:05 - 40:08)
To reach where you wanted to reach academically.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (40:08 - 40:08)
True.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (40:09 - 40:17)
Is the access for this technology still there for many in India? I mean technology is there, but what about the access even now?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (40:18 - 41:45)
No. Completely skewed. Completely skewed access.

Like I said, there's a huge digital divide. So there's a whole, whole bunch of people with disability who are not even in any formal education setup. They just don't go to school.

There are no schools. And access to such kind of technologies is expensive. So getting this access is beyond their means.

Just for context, India is the blind capital of the world. There are 40 million blind in the country. Roughly half of them struggle with what is known as reversible blindness, which means that they can get their sight back with some medical intervention.

But either they don't have access to medical intervention or they don't have the money. So if that's the scale and that's the challenge, you can imagine what it must be like when it comes to things like a laptop, and all these are like massive luxuries, right? Because we roam around in urban setups, we realise that it's all around us.

We don't even think twice. But that's not true for the majority of the Indians. That's not true.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (41:46 - 41:58)
Right. Yeah. Let us come back to it in a while that, you know, the work you're doing.

But going back to education, you became a psychologist. And then did you start practising in that field or?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (41:59 - 42:04)
Yes. I did. I did practise in that field.

I worked in hospital settings. I worked in private settings.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (42:04 - 42:08)
How was the response, you know, from the other side, clients?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (42:08 - 42:34)
Amazing. Because nobody rejected me. See, that's the beauty of it.

That one of the things when it comes to psychology, when it comes to clinical psychology or anything to do in the helping profession, the best thing for them was I wasn't judging them. They didn't feel judged. They felt completely anonymous.

They could walk away and never say hi to me outside. Right. So they could share whatever they wanted to.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (42:35 - 42:48)
Oh, it would have never occurred to me this perspective that they felt like a lot more freedom. Absolutely. That you cannot judge them and they don't have to acknowledge even their presence outside because it's a stigma, you know, anywhere.

Absolutely.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (42:48 - 42:48)
It's a stigma.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (42:48 - 42:52)
Not even in India, anywhere to go to a psychologist is still considered. Yeah.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (42:52 - 43:08)

So now that they were, they felt like, oh, wow, I could just be myself and that's it. I walk out of here. And he would never recognise me in a crowd.

That is freeing.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (43:08 - 43:09)
Right.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (43:09 - 45:33)
And hence they never had any problems. They were, in fact, happy. It worked to my advantage.

So. So. So I did that for a while.

I also then started doing behavioural facilitation because I got more interested in groups because I could impact them. I started seeing a lot of clinical cases. And then I asked myself, what if I had met this person five years ago?

Would this person have come here? Right. Would this person have landed here?

The answer was fairly simple in my head that if you focus on wellness, that's how you prevent illness. And I said, had I done interventions with this person five years ago, before he became clinically depressed, had a clinical condition with the amazing research that's happening in the field of psychology, which people don't know how to apply to their lives, they wouldn't end up here. So that's the field.

And I started working and I started working more in positive psychology, more in preventive psychology or focused on how to apply to everyday life to every person? How do you have a healthy mind? And most importantly, how do you less upset yourself?

And I choose my words very carefully. How do you less upset yourself? How do you not make yourself upset?

Because most of these self-help books talk about happiness, happiness, happiness. And in that pursuit, you don't reach happiness. You feel even more, even worse and worse and worse.

And I'm like, no, happiness is just like any other emotion. You will have it for a while. You'll also be upset sometimes.

But how do you not make yourself upset, which is in your control? We often think I'm upset because of external situation, events, circumstances. But if you flip the switch, you realise that we are making ourselves upset.

And if I'm making myself upset, I can also make myself less upset. The goal is not to suddenly make you into this happiest person in ecstatic. But as long as I can get you less upset, you're good.

That's it. Simple things, but I wish they taught us this.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (45:33 - 46:03)
How do, means, you know, the preventive part of it, people don't normally reach, you know, psychologists or people don't take help until they actually reach the, you know, breaking point. That's correct. Right.

So, how do you get people into this like much earlier? What kind of, you know, workshops or camps or what do you exactly do through your foundation? Or whichever way that to get in, get people into much earlier into this.

So, they don't end up in that situation, as you said.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (46:03 - 46:13)
Right. So, that's the work we did with Yellow Brick Road. That was my for profit work.

And in the last part of the work, then I started realising the captive audience was mostly corporates.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (46:13 - 46:14)
Okay.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (46:14 - 47:46)
That's a corporate captive audience. They are from all walks of life. Extremely stressed.

These are my potential high-risk cohort. If I do interventions with them today, give them tools such that they can make themselves less upset, such that they can redefine what they're saying to themselves, they can be aware of their emotions, they can manage their emotions. Then this high-risk group, five years later, would not end up in clinical situations, would not end up with broken relationships.

And at the same time, it was also paying my bread and butter. So, it was a good way. And then, of course, I did a lot of open workshops that were open to anyone.

Those I ran on the model of gift economy. So, you pay what you want to. You don't pay if you have to.

If you can't, that's okay. You say, hey, you know what, I don't have money, but I'll get sandwiches. I don't have money, but I will print all the collateral for you for marketing.

That's okay. So, money doesn't become the token of the economy. It can be anything.

And those who feel that, okay, I can pay money and this is the value I got, whatever value you got, you put it. That's okay.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (47:47 - 47:51)
And people can access or come to know about all these workshops from online?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (47:52 - 48:19)
Yes. So, that was the longest part until 2014, until we started the foundation. All that work now is slightly reduced because the foundation just takes up all my time now.

So, it's mostly now philanthropy, very little. 5% I work for my bread and butter now. 95% of my time now is entirely for philanthropic work.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (48:19 - 48:25)
Can you tell us more about the foundation? Because there you are bringing people together. Correct.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (48:25 - 49:15)
So, over the years, like I said, I was always into adventures, always into sports, outdoor sports. I love the outdoors. But after going blind, that was taken away.

They said, you can't climb mountains, you can't go to a swimming pool, you can't do this, you can't cycle, all of that. And then, of course, I had to stand on my feet, I had to figure out other things in life. So, those things happened.

Around 2007, 2008 is when I started thinking to myself that, hey, it's time for me to go back to the outdoors, time for me to get back to the mountains. I always wanted to learn to fly. And the same thing.

Do you know somebody who doesn't fly, who's blind? If you don't know, how do you know that blind people can't fly?

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (49:18 - 49:23)
So, it took a long, many years, right, to convince for you to get a, you know, a trainer?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (49:23 - 49:23)
Yes.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (49:23 - 49:24)
It took me seven years.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (49:25 - 50:17)
Seven years of asking three instructors literally every day. Because everybody would say, oh, but you're blind, you can't fly. I'm like, do you know somebody who's blind, who can't fly?

The answer would be like, no, but no, but no, you can't do that. And I'm like, okay, fair enough. So, every day, every day, I would get no for an answer.

And the only thing that kept me going was, you know, I told myself that, okay, rejection is hard. Getting rejected every day is not easy. I'm like, what will I, what can I learn from this?

I'm like, the best I can learn from this is, I can be the best at taking rejection. And this can be an exercise in that. The good part is, maybe someday somebody will say yes, but until then, I'll at least learn to take a no for an answer.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (50:18 - 50:20)
And make myself less upset about it.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (50:20 - 50:24)
And make less upset, and keep at it, and keep at it. And that's what I did.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (50:25 - 50:27)
Till finally someone agreed.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (50:27 - 51:19)
Till one day, and I then kept changing my strategy, and that worked. And Avi Malik, who's my flying instructor, said, if you've thought about it, if you've dreamt about it, it's already happened. Now we just need to put it into reality and practise and figure it out.

And flying is super easy. Unlike what most people might have told you, but flying is super easy. It's not that difficult.

There are two things that really happen. Aircrafts are designed to fly. The beautiful equipment and the best human machines ever designed.

Two things happen. You will take off and you will land. But where do you land?

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (51:20 - 51:22)
I guess where you land is the…

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (51:22 - 51:55)
How and where and these are questions for later, you know. So, yeah. And then while I was learning to fly, you know, every time we'd come back and sit around Avi Malik, and we would chit chat and have conversations.

And in one of those conversations, in an offhanded way, he said, you know, Divyanshu, why do you climb mountains? I'm like, of course, we climb mountains because they exist. He's like, of course, they exist.

That's why you climb them. He said, you also climb so that you can enable others.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (51:56 - 51:58)
That's very important. Yeah.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (51:58 - 52:48)
And that just stuck with me. Because after I became a pilot and did my first sort of flight and all of that, the world took notice, and there was a massive, massive amount of press that got generated. A lot of people wrote in to me.

And I said, I asked myself, OK, so is this changing the perception towards my community? This is great. I'm written off as an inspiration.

I'm written off as a freak show. But that's what it is. It is.

I'm being written off as a freak show. That's not changing perceptions to my community. But what if thousands of blind start flying tomorrow?

That'd be the norm. And if that becomes a norm. Then I no longer remain in the freak show.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (52:50 - 52:50)
Right.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (52:51 - 55:18)
And the joy I get from doing outdoor and adventure sports can actually enable many, many more lives. It's not just about climbing a mountain. It's about shattering stereotypes that come alongside disability.

Don't just do it as for people with disability. Do it for everybody. So you get people with and without disabilities come and play together.

Because when you play together, you discover more about a person in an hour of play than a year of conversation. And when you and I come and play together, we go climb a mountain, we run together, we scuba dive, we cycle, we go to a campsite and pitch a tent and spend the night. There's much more you learn about me.

And in the process, you learn that I have the same dreams and aspirations and goals as everybody else. I live the same life. I just do things differently.

And now that you have a friend with a disability that you now know, wouldn't you do what you can within your capacity and power to influence this world positively? Because until now, you didn't know anybody. Most able-bodied people don't know any person with disability personally.

So we started getting, that's how the foundation was set up called Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation, where we use sport as a tool to get people with and without disability to come and play together. And we get people who are CEOs, MDs, HR, mostly the leadership, architects, technology experts, software designers. And all these people go back and become champions of disability.

They go back and realise what they can do within their sphere of influence to positively impact this community. It can be creating products for persons with disability. There's a market for it.

There's a $13 trillion market for persons with disabilities that's untapped. You can go and hire people with disability. You can get a person with disability as your preferred vendor partner.

You can create accessible infrastructure. You can create accessible software and technology that enables and empowers. There are so many ways in which you can help 1.7 billion people around the world within what you're doing. You don't have to start an NGO.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (55:19 - 55:26)
Yeah, right. The field you are in, in that field itself, you can help, you know, so many and make it much more, you know, inclusive.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (55:26 - 55:27)
Absolutely.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (55:27 - 55:55)
And as you were saying earlier before when we were chatting, that lots of the job which maybe, you know, earlier, differently abled people used to get, maybe they are going away,

you know, with this advent of technology and AI. So, you know, now most people can do the same jobs anyone else can, because technology has progressed so much. So, we just need to look at it differently and in our own field itself, we can.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (55:56 - 55:57)
Absolutely. Absolutely.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (55:58 - 56:00)
So, that is what the foundation enables.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (56:00 - 56:47)
Yes. So, we do a lot of sports. And again, for people with disability, this brings self-confidence.

It shatters stereotypes about what they can or cannot do because the world has told them you can't do this. You can't cycle, you can't climb mountains. Well, guess what?

Eight years ago, I met this young girl in Leh Ladakh in a remote blind school. Really, really tiny girl and I'm like, Angmo, what do you want to do? You don't speak a word.

And she's like, all I want to do is play outdoors and go climb mountains. And I'm like, who stops you? They're like, they won't let me.

I'm like, come on, let's do it. That's how we started with Angmo eight years ago. Today, Angmo, on May 19th last year, became the first blind girl to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (56:47 - 56:48)
Oh, wow.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (56:51 - 57:00)
Now, tell me what a difference it can make, not just to her life, but she is a role model to millions of blind girls around the world and millions of blind people around the world.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (57:01 - 57:06)
Yeah, the scale that it can achieve and the number of people. There is no way to measure it.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (57:06 - 57:14)
There's just no way to measure it. And to me, it doesn't even matter

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (57:16 - 57:18)
Because everyone doesn't have to climb Everest.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (57:19 - 57:19)
That's your own Everest.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (57:19 - 57:21)
You have your own Everest.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (57:21 - 59:00)

But the fact that you now believe you can, that you might be a quadriplegic, but you can be 40 feet under doing deep sea diving. That you could be blind and flying a paraglider. You could be an amputee and running a full marathon.

You could be a blind cyclist at the top of the highest pass in the world. You could be doing anything. And that is immeasurable.

The confidence, this new identity, these are immeasurable. Social skills, learning social skills. Imagine I have grown up in a blind school all my life.

I don't know how to interact with the non-disabled world. How will I learn to, how will I mainstream if I have not learned those things? But play offers that safe place for me to learn those social skills.

So this is the work we do through the foundation. Over the last three years, we also started doing a lot of prosthetics and orthotics for children who have orthoskeletal deformities or have a limb missing so that they can start to walk again. It's called Help a Child Walk.

We've been through many remote parts of the country. Today we have, as of recording today, we have about 1,200 children on our wait list who need to be fitted with prosthetic and orthotic devices. So if somebody wants to come forward and chip in, we would be welcome because these kids can get to school, can become economically productive, can play, without which they will be chronically disabled.

And that's really criminal.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (59:00 - 59:08)
So just to be clear, this waiting list is there not because there is a lack of equipment or treatment, but it is lack of funds.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (59:09 - 59:45)
Lack of funds. We have the state-of-the-art orthotic and prosthetic devices that we custom-made. We have measured those children.

These are in remote parts. Like I just came back from Angul, a remote mining town in an Orissa(state) district. We just did a camp for 200 children.

So these are children who've been measured. Now need the equipment, but we need the funding. It just costs about, what, 30,000 rupees per child on average from assessment, measurement to follow up and then the next three to five years.

That's it. 30,000 rupees can reverse their chronic debilitating condition.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (59:46 - 59:50)
And any institution, anyone or any individual, anyone can contribute for this?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (59:51 - 1:00:16)
It can come through CSR. It can come through foreign donations. It can come through individual donations. But once you look at these kids, you cannot look away.

And there are thousands like this. Not on any database, not going to any school. But just a small intervention can change their lives.

We don't even realise it.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:00:16 - 1:00:27)
Yeah. So what we would normally say equality of opportunity. This just brings equality of opportunity to so many thousands or millions who would otherwise remain excluded.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:00:27 - 1:00:46)
Absolutely. And the window for this is very small because as they're growing, if we do this intervention, it works. Once they've grown out, then that's irreversible.

Because orthoskeletal deformities, once they grow out, nothing can be done.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:00:47 - 1:00:53)
Yeah. So effort required is, you know, during those specific years of the window for that child is very important.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:00:54 - 1:01:19)
In Odisha, we had to reject 30 people, 30 kids, because we could do nothing for them. They were too old. It was beyond any intervention.

And that's the hardest. That's the hardest because they see others benefiting and realise they just missed out on that window. So this year, my endeavour is really to ensure that these kids get it, no matter what.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:01:21 - 1:01:47)
Yeah. This is the individual effort that is happening. Individual in the sense that, of course, there is, you know, a lot of people behind this effort along with you.

But if you have to talk to the policymakers, because we are talking about scale, right? And, you know, one way to bring about scale if the policy can help and policymakers. What really needs to be done in India to bring, you know, more access and more equality of opportunity from the policy side?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:01:47 - 1:04:28)
So I come from this perspective with you. This might be naive, but I come from this perspective that India doesn't suffer from policy failures, lack of policy. India has some amazing policies.

We've signed the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, which is a phenomenal piece of legislation. We have the National Education Policy 2020 and then the 2023, which is just phenomenal. I cannot think of one thing to add to that.

So the challenge is not there. The challenge is in implementation. That's where we really, really struggle.

And we struggle with implementation largely also because of lack of awareness. There's complete awareness. There's complete lack of awareness.

There's complete misconceptions. So, for example, the National Education Policy talks about inclusive education. But you go to a school and they say, Oh, but that's a lot of work.

Oh, but what will happen to other children? And then they'll start. That's all untrue.

It's not factually based at all. So it's the implementation. And this implementation is largely because of mindset issues.

And the foundation largely we work ABBF is addressing that. Because when you take away all these layers, there are two things that remain. One is that people just don't know.

People are good. Society is good. At least I like to believe that we have enough good people in the world.

But they just don't know. Just like I didn't know anybody with disability until I was 19. Can I blame myself for it?

I cannot blame myself for it. Similarly, you might be 40, 45. And if you don't know somebody, I cannot blame you for it.

It's just that this community has been invisible for centuries. And that invisibility breeds a lot of stereotypes. That invisibility perpetuates many misconceptions.

So unless we don't address those attitudinal barriers, we won't change a thing. Policy is great. That policy will be implemented in spirit if we change people's mindsets.

We can change people's mindsets through empathy. And that empathy can be fostered through play.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:04:29 - 1:04:31)
And from very early on.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:04:31 - 1:04:32)
From very early on.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:04:32 - 1:04:32)
Through contact.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:04:32 - 1:05:02)
Simple. Through contact. If you know somebody, you're making it visible.

If you know somebody, you'll forget the fact. Over time, you'll forget the fact that I'm blind. And that's how it is.

So that's my take on things. And which is why I believe that we don't work at the policy level. We work at grassroots level because that attitudinal shifts have to happen there.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:05:02 - 1:05:22)

Just to bring it together, just out of all the five E's, I can of course see from the societal viewpoint, the effort required is massive to create equality of opportunity. But in your own life, which are the E's you feel have played the most important roles?

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:05:23 - 1:06:54)
I think endowment for sure. That's a lot of privilege. That's a lot of privilege.

I would also say access to opportunities. Because many people don't get access to these opportunities. And I'm not any great sheikh.

It's just that I got access to this. Somebody else didn't. And I'm sure there are many, many, many more deserving people who probably never got access to that opportunity.

So, creating access so that everybody gets access. After that, it's fair play. And that's how we need to dream of societies where we create a world where no one is left behind.

And while we think that this is for people with disability today, this may help me today. Yes, it may help me today. But hey, everybody is going to need it one day or the other.

We all are growing old. We all are going to live to be at least 150. If you live the next 20 years, you will live to be 150.

And if you're going to be living 150, you will have disabilities. If you're 40-plus, you've already gone from 11-point to 14-point font. Yes.

I have. Yeah. So imagine life without it.

So it's for everybody.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:06:54 - 1:06:54)
Yes.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:06:55 - 1:07:15)
It's not just any benevolent charity thing for this community. It's our right. It's the right of every single citizen of this free world to be able to access spaces, education, employment, to have the dignity of life.

It's the right of every single human being.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:07:16 - 1:07:35)
On that inspiring note, I think this has been the one, I don't know how long we have been speaking, but perhaps around one hour of most intense learning for me and I'm sure for everyone else who will listen to it. So thank you very much, Divyanshu, for coming here.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:07:35 - 1:07:36)
Thank you.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:07:36 - 1:07:37)
Thank you so much.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:07:37 - 1:07:38)

I'm sorry that took so long.

[**Vidya Mahambare**] (1:07:39 - 1:07:42)
Oh, no. Lovely. It has been lovely chatting with you.

[**Divyanshu Ganatra**] (1:07:42 - 1:07:44)
Thank you. Lovely talking with you. Yeah.