

## Failures are footsteps to success, says a woman who beat blindness to become a CA

**A visually impaired CA. G Rajani is one of those rare courageous women who have defied all odds to pursue the CA Course and ultimately succeeded in becoming a professional. Employed in a good position, she shares with the CA fraternity and all those aspiring to become professionals the challenges she faced in coming up in life.**

I developed Steven Johnson Syndrome due to medical negligence at the age of 9. As the deterioration of vision was gradual, I was able to complete my graduation, articleship training and Intermediate CA with limited vision. After I lost my vision in 1994, I had to look for an alternative mode of studying to pursue the course. Coupled with my father's sickness, I had to fight a battle on physical, emotional and mental fronts. I started practising *Sahaja Yoga* meditation, which gave the confidence and overall balance to come out of the trauma.

My urge to pursue the course became stronger, once I learnt to work on computers using screen reading software. The Institute was kind enough to provide the study materials in soft copy. For subjects like tax, I scanned the texts to convert the same to soft copy. For subjects like costing, I had to take the assistance of volunteers. I took up the Final examination and cleared it in November 2002, by availing of the scribe facility. The Institute also granted me extra time as per Regulations, which helped me a lot.

Of course I did come across lots of difficulties in pursuing education. I was not able to study continuously due to pain and itching in the eyes, outflow of tears and fast deterioration in

vision. Similarly it was all the more difficult to get volunteers for reading or scanning after I ultimately lost my vision.

But I was lucky enough to get in touch with few likeminded people who volunteered to provide assistance despite their busy schedules. When I cleared the final examination, I was overjoyed and overtaken by a great sense of fulfilment. All my struggles and efforts had been suitably rewarded.



CA. G. Rajani

The next struggle was to get into a career in tune with my qualification. It took me almost 33 months after clearing the final examination to get the necessary breakthrough. Thanks to the placement cell of the Institute, because of which I was able to get the breakthrough.

I wish to share few facts with the readers. Due to development in technology, support of volunteers and broader outlook from educational institutions, I feel that physical challenge is no more a handicap to pursue our studies. There are many areas in the field of accountancy, which to a large extent can be handled by the visually challenged, with the help of computers. Thanks are also due to employers who take the bold step of providing an opportunity for people like us.

I feel that since there is no concession whatsoever in the examination pattern, it gives

**Note: Members/Readers are invited to contribute write-ups and relevant and interesting piece of information for this feature. Women members are welcome to share their experiences, achievements, or thoughts through this column.**

a great sense of fulfilment to qualify as a CA just like a normal person. I would highly appreciate if the Institute provides materials in soft copy, especially for subjects like tax, since it requires a lot of time to scan the materials. It would also be great if members or aspiring professionals like us can get the updates on the latest developments in soft copy or in recorded audio form. Since the avenue is now open, I am sure many visually challenged will take up this prestigious course in future. I hope that the Institute will assist these students not only in their studies but also in their career. I have noticed that it is very difficult to market our candidature at the individual level, but

at the Institute level it can be done pretty easily. The institute could encourage its members not only to volunteer in helping people who have to put in a struggle like me but also help in meeting prospective employees and getting them placed. The outreach of the Institute being what it is, this could be easily incorporated.

There were a lot of hurdles and failures both in my education and career. But I was persistent. With some support I found avenues opening up for me. Failures become footsteps to success when there is perseverance, commitment, determination, sincerity of purpose and accepting the situation we are put into. ☐

**EVENTS**

**National Residential Workshop on Taxation**

<b>Organised by</b> Fiscal Laws Committee		<b>Hosted by</b> Bhopal, Jabalpur and Bhilai Branches of CIRC of ICAI	
<b>Theme</b>	Updating the members on the recent developments and issues in taxation and mainly relating to proposed amendment in the Fringe Benefit Tax and consequential changes in tax audit report and Guidance Note thereon, practical issues in service tax, latest issues and tax planning in HUF and private beneficiary trust.		
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2006 (11.00 am to 8.00 pm)		
<b>Venue</b>	Hotel HighLand, Panchmarhi		
<b>Topics to be discussed</b>		<b>Speakers</b>	
(i)	Latest issues in FBT – Consequential amendment in tax audit report and Guidance Note.	CA. Manoj Fadnis	
(ii)	Stress Management	CA. Rajesh Gupta,	
(iii)	Current issues in service tax	CA. M.K.Sharma	
(iv)	Assessment and tax planning of HUF and Private Beneficiary Trust	CA. Rajiv Mehrotra	
<b>CPE Hours: 10</b>	<b>Fees:</b> Rs 3000/- per person Cash or by cheque (local)/draft in favour of either “Bhopal Branch of CIRC of ICAI” or “Bhilai branch of CIRC of ICAI” or “Jabalpur Branch of CIRC of ICAI”.		
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