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It's Ok Dubai, I Forgive You
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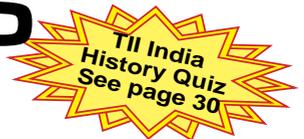
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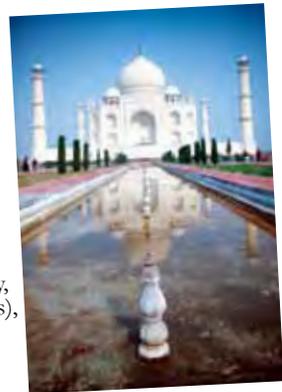
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Thumbay Moideen

True Success And Learning Never Ends

“I think a man’s success should be measured by the number of lives he touches, the amount of respect he has gained not just in society but in the eyes of his children and his subordinates. When I strive for success I aim for these objectives because I know once these are taken care of, the rest will fall into place. I believe Almighty God is in the details as much as he is in the big picture.” - Thumbay Moideen, President, Thumbay Group

By: Ruqya Khan

Calm, composed and confident - that’s Thumbay Moideen, Founder President of the Thumbay Group. A Mangalorean by birth, born in a traditional, well known business family, Moideen is an entrepreneur at heart. Today, his name is synonymous with professionalism and a positive approach to business. A forward thinker who sets milestones as his strategic plans, he comes across as humble and willing to learn and grow from every life experience.

Hailing from Karnataka, with three generations of business acumen behind him, Moideen’s tryst with the marketplace began at the age of 21. Demonstrating his considerable skills right from the beginning while taking charge of the large business house established by his father Ahamed Hajee Mohiudeen in 1957, he took the organization to great heights within a few years.

Moideen matched his



Thumbay Moideen, President of Thumbay Group: Life is a brilliant teacher only if you are a good student

pioneering spirit with conviction and courage and that soon led to the setting up of his own entity in 1997 known as the Thumbay Group. The company ventured into setting up UAE’s first private medical college: Gulf Medical College in Ajman. This was followed by GMC Hospital & Research Centre, Gulf Medical Centre & GMC Pharmacy in Dubai. The Gulf Medical University (formerly Gulf Medical College) and GMC Hospital & Research Centre, Ajman, established in 1998 has been involved in undergraduate education in Medicine, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Premium Healthcare delivery for a decade. The institution became a university following a Decree by H. E. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, U.A.E.

Thumbay believes that dreams are strong mentors in life, he said, “Believe in yourself



Thumby Moideen with his son's Akbar and Akram

and your destiny. When you follow your dreams with faith, you will surely succeed. Risks are an important part of everyday life. You cannot succeed without facing them. Also, you may never know whether you could have excelled at anything if you did not give it a try. Since childhood, it has always been important for

Though he is listed among the Arabian Business Indian Power List 2010 as one of the 100 most influential Indians in the Gulf, Moideen is unassuming to the core. He is thankful for his accomplishments and feels blessed to be imparting both education and health to society. "In my community, we value education

the challenge and established the UAE's first private Medical College, Gulf Medical College in Ajman."

Today, the Thumbay Group has evolved as a major healthcare player in the Gulf making determined strides beyond the region. It has also diversified its interests into other sectors of business - education, medical research, a chain of pharmacies under the brand GMC Pharmacy, a chain of GMC Diagnostic laboratories, Zo & Mo Optical Centres, Blends & Brews, a Coffee Shoppe chain, Body & Soul Health Clubs, trading, construction (Thumbay Builders) and real estate.

Thumbay believes, "Life is a brilliant teacher only if you are a good student. We get many lessons from everyday events but what we learn from them only depends on attention to detail. It was just a 'by the way' suggestion that I was given but it has now become the purpose of my being," he reveals.

The Gulf Medical University (GMU) is a seat of learning that allows local students wanting to study medicine and health sciences to stay at home instead of spending vast sums of money abroad. Located in the Al Jurf area of Ajman, the university features colleges devoted to medicine, pharmaceuticals and dentistry. Alongside the campus is the GMC Hospital & Research Centre.

Moideen is currently the President of the Asian Hospital Federation, UAE region, and is eyeing an expansion of his business to include hospitals around the world.

The MBBS, BPT, Pharma D, DMD and Masters in Clinical Pathology programs conducted by the University have received approval from the Ministry and is listed in the directories of



Thumbay Moideen at the inauguration of the e-Learning portal in the Information and Learning Centre of Gulf Medical University by His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India.

me to give my best because I respected the trust my parents placed in me."

Moideen recalls his memories of childhood, "I grew up in a business family. Each day, each moment was a learning experience. I always had opportunities to gain inspiration from elder role models in the family. Even simple occasions like family meals and social gatherings were meaningful. They taught me the approach and attitude in which one must carry himself - it was all part of the learning process. I was blessed to be born with the name that I have. I work towards carrying forward the pride and honour that comes with this name. It is a responsibility by itself."

and medicine. By setting up GMU, I have been able to connect both these areas to be of service to people." It is surprising to know that this was not his initial plan of business when he first came to UAE. "I started off by seeking to position myself in the real estate sector. I started in Ajman as I felt the emirate had large scope for growth and many opportunities. Attending an important social event, I met with His Highness Sheikh Humaid Bin Rashid Al-Nuaimi, Member of the Supreme Council of UAE and Ruler of Ajman. I discussed about our family business, etc., and His Highness suggested I branch out from the timber and construction industry to set up a medical education institute in the region. Motivated by him, I took up

WHO, EMRO and IMED under the auspices of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education & Research (FAIMER). Students from over 50 nations around the world are enrolled in the educational programs of GMU.

The graduation certificates of all programs of the Gulf Medical University are attested by the Ministry of Higher Education and are accepted throughout the world. The graduates of Gulf Medical University are eligible to apply for USMLE & PLAB examinations and can also apply for post graduate and specialized studies around the globe.

The University offers the M.B.B.S - Bachelor of Medicine, B.P.T - Bachelor of Physiotherapy, D.M.D - Doctor of Dental Medicine, Pharm. D - Doctorate of Pharmacy and several other programs. This is the only medical university in the region which offers admissions to both boys and girls of all nationalities. The university has the infrastructure and facilities that are on par with some of the established medical schools in the world.

The Gulf Medical University and GMC Hospitals is now on a massive expansion phase with

its first International hospital operational in Blantyre, Malawi from April 2010. Plans to open branches of Gulf Medical University and GMC Hospitals are on the verge of finalization in Malaysia, South Africa and Mauritius. The Gulf Medical University and GMC Hospitals are also looking to establish branches in Nigeria, Egypt, Syria and India among other countries.

Thumbay admits, "Our expansion plans are rather ambitious especially in such difficult times, but I enjoy challenges and I pray that I will be able to fulfil them. As the administrator and facilitator of the organization I ensure that we have good quality control, financial management and outstanding success. These are the virtues I have inherited and these are the values I want to pass down to my sons and our students," he declares.

As part of the AED 350 million expansion plan, a new brand identity has been proposed for the Gulf Medical University and GMC Hospital.

Explaining the rationale Thumbay says, "With over a decade of experience, we have grown into international brands of repute and hence the need

for a stronger brand identity and value. "Learn from the World" is the new brand statement for the Gulf Medical University. It depicts learning as a process that cannot be limited to books or the precincts of the institution alone. The avenues of learning are very broad, so why learn from just one place? With a perfect blend of capable faculty from all across the world and a state-of-the-art infrastructure, we ensure that our students acquire the best from the world to hone their skills and knowledge. My aim is to give the students the best possible resources so that they may be the best to come."

Recently, The Gulf Medical University established another pioneering initiative with the inauguration - by His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India - of its e-Learning portal at the Information and Learning Centre of the university. Explaining the salient features of the GMU e-Learning courses, Thumbay's plan is to deliver, "Online courses along with face to face contact sessions using a blended approach, to enable further learning as evidence of the university's commitment to promote lifelong study. Online courses are to be designed and delivered to various categories of learners including those who wish to enhance their awareness of health issues, students aspiring to pursue health sector careers and professionals who wish to improve their knowledge and skills specific to their domain and disciplines. In their growth and development will be our own success."

Honours And Achievements

Moideen infuses dedication, discipline and hard work at all levels of his organization. He enjoys a great deal of respect

The Gulf Medical University, campus is spread across an area of 25 acres and a built-up area of 2 million square feet. Adding more feathers to its cap is a first-of-its-kind full-fledged campus with a 300-bed speciality hospital, a mosque, a health club, an additional floor at the existing building, an expanded library, housing and hostel for faculty and staff, a convention centre, an amphitheatre, and a restaurant. All these will be ready by 2012 as part of the first phase of expansion.

With the completion of first phase the group will have a staff strength of around 2,500 with more than 2,000 people housed on the campus including staff, students and faculty.

The second phase of the expansion plan will be announced in the next six months, which will be huge in scope involving several international companies as part of the prestigious project.

from all quarters of society, evident from his positions on boards of various organizations. He is the Chief Patron of the Ajman Indian Association & Indian Business Council, Ajman, the Beary's Association, Dubai, and the recipient of the Best Achievement Award in the field of medical education & healthcare awarded by HH Sheikh Humaid Bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Ruler of Ajman. He received the award for 'Achievements in the field of Medical Education & Healthcare' by the Karnataka Sangha, Sharjah and is a Member of the International Hospital Federation-Ferney Voltaire, France (Greater Geneva Area).

Thumbay was also recently honoured at a grand ceremony at the House of Lords, in UK by Lord Adam Patel of Blackburn for his efforts in the field of healthcare and medical education. The program was organized by the Progressive Muslims Forum, United Kingdom and sponsored by AOC International UK - sharing of international good practices in healthcare and education and to celebrate the achievements of Muslim community.

Family Comes First

In spite of his many honours and achievements, Thumbay prefers to keep his feet firmly on the ground. "Life is a series of changes. I do not let my success reflect in the tone of my voice or the strength of my words. To be God fearing, focused and hard working is the key to my success. When you live by good example, you achieve good results," is the philosophy he is passing on to his two sons, Akbar and Akram.

Akbar manages the Thumbay Group's hospitals as the Director, while Akram is pursuing a Business Administration &

Finance degree from American University of Sharjah. In his spare time, he is actively involved in the construction projects of Thumbay Builders, which is currently managing the expansion of The Gulf Medical University Campus.

Moideen is married to Zora,

give my children whatever they may ask for but for me it was important they understood the worth of what they have. It is easy for a family to go astray in the strong flow of power and money, which is why we have stayed close to our roots. I encouraged the



Moideen is currently the President of the Asian Hospital Federation, UAE region, and is eyeing an expansion of his business to include hospitals around the world.

an accomplished artist in her own right. Her paintings often adorn the otherwise silent corridors of the university campus and hospital lobbies. "I confess that I am a workaholic. But I do try my best to balance my time between work and home. As a family, we go on holidays and spend quality time together. My instant escape is a good book or a quick game of tennis with the boys. Times are such that I seldom find the time but when I do I ensure I am in that moment fully and not just for the sake of it."

Thumbay readily admits, "As a son, I received a lot from my father."

It is evident that he is a good father too with his priorities in the right place, admitting. "By the grace of God, I have been able to

boys to accompany me at work since they were 16 but they were not given any responsibilities until they were intellectually capable of handling them. Education moulds the man and only when a mind is properly sculptured and set can we truly use it to its fullest aptitude."

A truly God fearing man Thumbay observes, "I think a man's success should be measured by the number of lives he touches, the amount of respect he has gained not just in society but in the eyes of his children and his subordinates. When I strive for success I aim for these objectives because I know once these are taken care of, the rest will fall into place. I believe Almighty God is in the details as much as he is in the big picture!"

Ruqya Khan, is a Sharjah based freelance writer.