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Career begins at 60!

About me

My name is Ravi Kumar Panagaria. After working for 37 years in various capacities, I took Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and moved to my home town in Jaipur. Prior to this, I was working as the Senior Vice President and Profit Centre Head at HEG Ltd., in Durg. With a rich experience and good contacts, I thought it would be easy for me to restart my post-retirement career at Jaipur. However, within two months I realized that it was going to be a challenging task. Having endured great hardships, I realized that many more retired people would be facing similar problems. From that day on, I decided to do something in this direction.

How the Internet came into my life

On 1st January 2008, we advertised in a local daily calling for employment-seeking retired people to contact us. The response that we received was truly amazing. We received several applications within a few days. Applicants included Government officials, bank officials, compounders, forest officials, accountants, army officers, technical persons and so on. We also received several enquiries from various organizations offering jobs for retired people.

This encouraged us to take this idea further. But printing advertisements in all national dailies was very expensive and we did not have the required resources. I realized that the Internet could help me fulfill my objective of helping retired people find suitable employment. That's when we decided to

launch a website for this initiative.

The power of the Internet helped me turn dreams into reality

www.jobsretired.com was launched on 30th June 2008. The basic idea was to create a platform where both retired jobseekers and employers could meet. Job seekers can register on the website to post their resume. The process is simple: jobseekers can email or post their resume to us and we upload them on our website. They can also apply for the posts advertised by organizations on the website, either online or by email. Organizations too can advertise their job requirements and can access resumes posted on our website from a databank, after registering with us. Today, we have over 1000 CV's in our databank and the website has been visited more than 13000 times.

With the Internet, I've achieved my goals. Now, I'll transform the future.

Lately, we have also started counselling retired people, who approach us for guidance for their children. Without the computer and the internet, our initiative would not have been possible. Life has transformed with the advent of the computer and I hope more people can learn basic computer skills and take advantage of this great technology. We plan to train retired people to make them computer-savvy and teach them the basics of computers and the Internet. We also plan to launch another web-based initiative very soon.

Thank you

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From Goldsmith to Web Designer

About me

My name is Joseph Thomas. I was born in Thrissur, (a small town in Kerala), in a family that was financially weak. Since we lived within our financial limits, we were not in any debt, but life was tough. My father had a shop in the fish market in Thrissur. However, it was eventually lost because of some accounting issues. Soon after that, my father went from being the employer to employee in the same shop. He worked in his ex-employee's shop for a few days and finally quit.

The early days

We are a family of 10 consisting of 8 children. Two of my elder brothers worked as masons for daily wages. I was always a good student at school but I dropped out of college in the second year, mainly because I thought I would end up becoming a mason or a shop salesman, no matter how further I studied. After I dropped out of college, I started working as a telephone booth operator for a salary of Rs. 250 per month then in a juice shop for Rs. 20 a day, an office boy for Rs. 450 per month and finally a goldsmith for a salary of Rs. 600 per month. It was in this job that I got to know about computers.

How the Internet came into my life

I also started reading English magazines. One such magazine used to feature special articles on computers and the Internet. I was amazed at the amount of information that the internet makes available to everyone. So along with a friend, I enrolled in an institute for a basic computer course that lasted for 3

months. I learned how to operate a computer, how to create folders, MS Word, Excel, etc. I also created an HTML page using MS Frontpage Express, even though I had no knowledge of HTML. Upon seeing my first webpage, my computer instructor asked me not to give up after the basic course and to join a web designing course. But I was not sure that it would have been possible as the academic courses on web designing were too expensive.

With the Internet, my career raced towards success!

With my family's support, I joined the course but on the condition that upon completion of the course, I would find a good job in the same field. 10 months into the course, I started looking for a job in the IT sector. A few months later, I got my first job, with a salary of Rs. 4000 per month. I was glad, because the IT job brought me value and dignity in society. After two years in the job, I started working independently. I did freelancing for a US client from home and it went on for 2 years. Now I work in an MNC and earn a good 5 figure salary. I've built my own home too.

The Internet transformed my life

The amazing medium of Internet has also helped me interact with people all over the world and it was not just my career that it helped. The web 2.0 technologies lead me to start the first Malayalam podcast called M-Pod (<http://www.mpod.in> - which featured in the Podcast User Magazine issue #18 and in Tehelka) and I launched a global platform for amateur musicians called Blogswara (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blogswara>) (<http://www.blogswara.in>). I was featured in the national news media The Indian Express and The Hindu for online efforts. I maintain a blog (web-log) where I keep track of activity in the Indian music blogging world (<http://audioindia.blogspot.com>). I was also among the first to start music blogging in India, it was a wonderful tool which gave me exciting opportunities in the music industry. I have composed and sung the title song for a Malayalam telefilm which is a UK Malayalee production that will be aired on a prominent Malayalam TV channel. I also could have worked with a Reggaeton artist from the US, named Deevani, on her yet to be scheduled music album. My life would have been on a different plane if not for this wonderful medium called the Internet.

Thank you

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