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Passion & Perseverance: The Story of My Journey from Blogs to Books



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This is a story of how passion and perseverance together shaped my journey marked by a humble start from a blog contribution and make it to an edited volume with one of the most sought-after publishers in the field of academia – Springer. To start with, I embarked on my new chapter of life as a university student and I knew had a passion, the spirit of perseverance, yet converting it into something visual, something like writing about it which even in the wildest of my imagination I could never think of it. It was in the heydays of my life as a student of Communication and Media Studies that I came across a blogger, a prominent blogging platform prompting me to start my blog focusing on railway policies. Then came along the government announcement of a new policy, which grabbed my attention and publishing it almost immediately. Gradually I moved onto writing for my university magazine for two years after much motivation from my friends.

The beginning of my career path left a little impact on me as I was just getting to writing articles while balancing factual accuracy and dissemination of perspectives in the years those passed by. Further, I continued to write for websites which added to my experience. Publications during my internship took me a notch higher with the core idea of research and approach to data collection slowly taking the centre stage before my first breakthrough that came in the year 2018 as I published a complete niche idea in collaboration with Railway Diplomacy for South Asian Voices by Stimson Think Tank. The publication garnered enough appreciation

from my peers and faculty and I moved on to publish similar ones in Harvard Economics Review, London School of Economics, Oxford India Policy Forum, Down To Earth adding on to my list of publications. As I gradually progressed with my publications the process moved beyond just reading as to what is written. The publication marked my transition to becoming a public intellectual and making me accountable for every sentence I wrote, while also grabbing the further attention. The question of contextualising perseverance occupies the top spot and is valid as a reader for you to pose a question, asking me as to now that you have come so far into the article and the journey so far was never a smooth sail but faced challenges at different stages. As I crossed each hurdle, which will itself become an article, but the bottom line is as you write along, you blend your emotion with the article that you write and publication of your article is not just an outcome of the emotion that you attach to your interest area. When I started writing on railways, it attracted scepticism and fascination simultaneously. With scepticism sometimes taking the front seat, it was often my perseverance that brought forth the idea of railways as a prospective research topic expanding beyond the generic understanding with its own set of challenges.

Publications also become an important part of your academic networking, which is exactly how I gradually entered into collaborative projects with the first being a research article on Indian Assessment of High-Speed Rail Feasibility written jointly with a prominent expert in high-speed railway from Egypt. The first project involved chapter contribution to an edited volume entitled “Railway Transportation in South Asia” which is followed by a collaborative project with one of the editors. The process involved moving a step forward and then a step backwards before finally getting accepted for contribution.

The process took 1.5 years before its final publication. In the journey so far, I have learnt the following elements: Researching, Updating, Passion and Perseverance are critical to garnering a position for your research interest while accommodating allied interests enhancing your primary interest. Finally, my journey has taught me to be humble as I progress, yet continuously experiment with new approaches and invite wider perspectives. Stagnation is not an option if you wish to make yourself visible in your area. Rejection is a part of the journey, which just make you stronger with time. My journey has therefore been more than just transiting between formats, it also helped me build my taste for writing and research and the process goes on... without a pause.

