

Guidance of My Mentor

(473 words)

Generally, at every stage in our life, we first look upon our parents / immediate family members as mentors. The mentoring support provided by elders for parenting a child is very critical. It is like getting guidance from someone who has been there before although every situation is unique!!

Similarly in my journey of toastmasters, I have realized the importance of mentors quite early. My very first assigned mentor was knowledgeable, committed and very supportive in the thought process. It is through her that I learnt more about the complete structure of toastmasters program. As a mentee, I also noticed that she was very strict and wants perfection in everything she takes up. As I also possess similar qualities, I was immediately able to relate and adapt to her requirements. While being clear about the framework, she encouraged me to innovate!! This bonding made us so comfortable in exchanging our ideas and overcome any challenges in our project deliverables.

It was with her guidance that I realized that Toastmasters is not just about speaking in public! It offers a lot more in organizing, coordinating and fruitfully engaging with others. During that stage, she motivated me to take up different leadership roles to get me at ease with the crowd and help me overcome my fears of public speaking. Whether it was to review and redraft the speeches or for a better way to hang the props in the lecture hall or for the protocols to be maintained she was there to guide and help me innovate! In the process of getting mentored, the mentor for sure helps bring in enhancements in your own personality at all levels both the subtle and the gross!!

I am sure I have imbibed quite a few of the good habits she has!! I have noticed in her the openness to learn and share knowledge irrespective of age and experience. This really had an impact on me as I had hitherto been looking for only seniors to guide. I realized the great difference that a mentor makes in the success of mentee's efforts.

Now, with a few years of experience in toastmasters, I have taken up mentorship skills on a serious note, I went ahead and choose Pathways Mentoring Program to know more about the nuances of mentoring. Though this program is not directly related to the pathways projects, it helped me to sharpen my mentorship skills. I have pursued this program and could successfully complete it !! Being a designated Pathways Mentor now, I am able to guide and mentee the new members joining the Club.

I can vouch the fact that once you have an open mind to learn and the desire to meet your goals, with the help of your mentor, you can overcome any challenges and be ready to face anything that comes along.

R Lakshmi Sarada

**ICC Eves Toastmasters Club
Telugu Toastmasters Club**