

## Narayana Murthy Launches Madan Mohan Mohanka's Biography, 'I Did What I Had To Do'



The long-awaited book launch of Madan Mohan Mohanka, titled 'I Did What I Had To Do' took place at the Hyatt Regency in Ahmedabad, on April 2, 2023. The book was launched by Narayana Murthy in presence of Mohanka's peers, colleagues, family and friends as well as several academicians, such as retired IIMA professor Dr Abhinandan Jain, Prof Errol D'Souza, Prof Amit Karna, Prof Saral Mukherjee, Dr Chitra Sangla, Ms Chhavi Moodgal and others from IIM Ahmedabad. The launch began with a short film on Madan Mohanka that revealed the hitherto unknown side of the industrialist.

Mohanka's longtime associate and friend, retired IIMA professor Dr Jahar Saha spoke at length about him, his struggles and victories and his unchanging value system. He said Mohanka had never forgotten the importance of staying humane in his dealings with people, nor did he cut corners to expedite processes. He spoke about Madan's interest in education, both to increase the knowledge base of his company, and its importance in helping raise the standard of living of the disadvantaged. He informed that Mohanka was involved with setting up many schools in rural areas, and has taken him on board for his latest project in a village in Haryana, which is being set up to offer experiential education to its students.

The author of the biography, Anjana Dutt, spoke of the experience of writing which was like taking a long journey with Madan Mohanka that started from the Chota Nagpur Plateau, to Africa, Europe, Australia, South America and Russia, with detours to simply travel for pleasure. To illustrate Mohanka's nature, she read an excerpt from the biography, when Mohanka risked his life to save a Sardar gentleman from being lynched by an angry mob in the aftermath of India's Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi's, assassination.

In his address, Mohanka thanked Narayan Murthy for launching his biography. He spoke about Murthy's journey from the inception of Infosys, till the present time, and of the values he holds dear. He also spoke of his own struggles, his failures and victories and of the values he imbibed at IIMA, and the influence of his mentor Dr VL Mote, who he holds in very high esteem.

Unveiling the book, Mr Narayana Murthy said, "What do you say about the first successful entrepreneur from IIMA, about a man who converted the words of Late Robert Kennedy and Bernard Shaw that 'most people see things as they are and wonder why I dream of things that never are and then say why not'—into reality?" He said that Mohanka has led by example and shown courage, sacrifice, hard work, discipline, and confidence for the welfare of his people. Murthy said that we are fortunate that Mohanka has documented his struggles, moments of joy and success, of dilemmas and tribulations and his moments of bringing smiles onto the poorest of people. "Entrepreneurship is all about converting the power of an idea into jobs for people, wealth for investors and taxes for the government. He has done it plenty and has demonstrated the adage 'A plausible impossibility is better than a convincing possibility,'" said Murthy.