



## Mr. L.B. Momin

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Interviewer: Shilpi Gulati

Camera/Sound: Divya Cowasji

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Mr. L B Momin is a retired driver from TISS. He joined the Institute in 1962 and retired in 1999.



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Shilpi: Sir, tell us in which year did you join Tata Institute.

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L B Momin: I was born in 1949 and I had joined Tata Institute in 1962.

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Shilpi: How and what made you join Tata Institute.

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L B Momin: After my marriage I got shifted to Kurla and was working for BEST. I went to MMT Institute in Sion to learn how to drive heavy vehicles. So after getting the license they sent me to Tata Institute. So that is the way I reached here.

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Shilpi: So when you joined what work did you do here.

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L B Momin: I was a Driver.

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Shilpi: In 1962 how was the campus and how was Deonar?



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L B Momin: The campus was very limited and even people in campus were very less. There was very less development. All these buildings were built at a very later stage. When I got my job here Mustafa was of only 6 days. When he was born we were at Kurla. The roads were very small. There were lots of mango trees here. Over here first opposite to the small roads there were vendors who sold their vegetables now they have made buildings.

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Shilpi: How was the scenario between the students and the professor as there were fewer students?

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L B Momin: Everybody knew each other very well because there were fewer students. Now because the number of students have increased it is hard to know them. Before everybody remained together and knew everyone.

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Shilpi: Can you tell us something about Professor Gore?

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L B Momin: Prof Gore joined two-three months before I joined. He was a nice person.



While I was on duty I did talk to him. First office car was not available so he used to use his own car. Then later he was given a second hand car. Then they bought a Fiat. And now Tata back to back cars.

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Shilpi: How was the Institute during Prof Gore's time and later during Dr Armaity Desai's time?

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L B Momin: During Prof Gore's time my salary was less when Dr Armaity Desai joined salary also increased.

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Shilpi: So did you stay in campus or at Kurla?

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L B Momin: I stayed in the campus. Students used to play in the campus in the free space because there were no buildings. All students use to meet in the evening to play a match.

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Shilpi: You have been working over here since last 40 years. What made you stay over here for 40 years.



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L B Momin: I was given a room to stay here. Once they gave us Quarters to stay so I just stayed here. There was a Professor whose wife was working in a very good company. They asked me to join there. But I had Quarters to stay here so I decided not to leave.

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L B Momin: I stayed here in Quarters so Mustafa had grown up here only. So every one got settled over here itself. I did go to my village sometimes but we didn't want to stay there. We go for a holiday but we like to stay here now.

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Shilpi: Was there anything about Raj Kapoor's bungalow behind?

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L B Momin: There use to be parties organized in the bungalow so we used to go there to see. I have been there and also seen Raj Kapoor. There were there people who knew us in R K Studio. They used to allow us to enter inside because they knew us. Now they don't know us so no one allows us to enter there.

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Shilpi: So where have you traveled with the institute?



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L B Momin: We did go for Picnics. Sometimes it was Pune where we traveled in a mini bus. If Prof Gore had any meetings then we traveled. Or else there were no journeys as such. Once it was Surat and Ahmedabad with Prof Gore. We had gone out with his guest.

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Shilpi: Everybody said that Prof Gore was a different person.

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L B Momin: UGC was giving lot of money to the Institute. We said to Prof Gore to take a car from that money. But he denied it and used his own car. He said even though I have to spend money on my car I will spend but I will not take a new car. If we had to buy something which had great deal of money then there were many formalities to follow with UGC. Now there are no restrictions. It is very easy now.

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Shilpi: So what are your current views on the Institute?

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L B Momin: Today I don't recognize many people because of the growing period. Both the times are different. It has been 10 - 11 years after I left my job.



It had been good. When I learnt driving I did leave and earned in Bijapur but later when I came to Mumbai and I remained here only in Tata Institute. And later I did not feel like leaving it.

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Shilpi: Are you happy to dedicate 40 years to this Institute?

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L B Momin: There are different views. Good and bad views. The stay in the quarters matters a lot. If I had bought a house outside TISS it would have been cheaper. But they gave us Quarters but later we have to leave. But good things are that after staying here my kids have different values because they were with students. If we were staying out then may be their education would not be so great. This was a good thing. It was both good and bad experience. I hardly know people now. There are a few who know me.

Everybody calls me Abba Abba only. They are my kids only who have passed from here and are now working here.