ANIL'S CRUTCHES

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Intent of these jottings.
- ✓ *Parents should not be over anxious and over protective*
- ✓ *They should not make things too easy for your children and wards to grow*
- ✓ *Teach them to walk on their legs and be responsibly free*

The Story.

Once upon a time, there was a lovely little boy, Anil was his name. He was healthy and strong as any other able bodied boy could be. One day, at games Anil tripped down and broke his leg. The doctor plastered his leg and to help Anil walk, he gave him crutches.

Somehow, Anil with his plastered leg and his crutches on went to school and moved about. After a few weeks, the doctor removed the plaster and told Anil's parents: "Now slowly take away from Anil his crutches and see to it that, bit by bit, he walks again all by himself''.

But, Anil's over-anxious parents reasoned out: "Oh, our poor little boy! His leg is become so weak and frail! How will he be able to walk without crutches? No! No! The doctor does not know what he talks. If we take away from him his crutches, he will fall and break his leg again! Later on, surely, when his leg becomes strong, we shall take the crutches away."

And so, our little Anil went about in crutches. In school, in the street, on the play ground, at home all over he went about leaning on his crutches. Many days later, he wasn't able to walk without crutches. His crutches had become part of him.

Months later, the doctor happened to see little Anil still with his crutches on. He called the parents and enquired: "What's this I see? Why does your little Anil still move about with his crutches?" They replied: "But, Doctor, his leg is grown so weak and frail!. If we take away his crutches, he is sure to fall and break his leg again!"

Angrily, the doctor forcibly took the crutches away. And ordered: "Anil dear, stand. Put both legs on the ground! And walk! Anil stood; then he tried to walk, but he fell flat on his face and broke his leg again!

Sadly, shaking their heads, his parents remarked: "It's clear that we were right! The doctor was wrong!"

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

- Growth demands pains and sufferings. It is unkindness to your children to spare them the pains of growth
- Tuitions, coaching classes, or any other sort of aids are like crutches. Do not give your children any sort of crutches unless absolutely necessary
- And if required, give them only to them for the shortest possible time
- Over-anxious parents bring up shy, withdrawn, nervous and helpless children.

- The best thing to give your children is self-confidence, self reliance, assertiveness and ' responsible freedom'
- Patiently, encourage them to take their independent decisions.
- Teach your children/wards to help themselves. Do not rescue them under the guise of helping them
- Allow your children to suffer the painful consequences of their free choices. Let them learn from their ,mistakes
- Do not bail out your children when they are wrong
- Assist them to bear their sufferings, but do not take the sufferings away from them
- Allow your little darlings suffer a little to grow independent and responsible men and women. It's worth the pain.
- Mistakes nod failures, if properly handled, are good teachers.
- A person who is not allowed to do mistakes will not learn.
- Weaning causes pain to a baby, yet it's a must. Likewise, weaning   from parental protection is also painful but necessary.
- Teething though painful and troublesome, is part of growth.   Figuratively, a child, has to experience teething many times over until he reaches maturity..
- Loosen the apron strings for your children as soon as possible
- Early in life, gradually, of course, but consistently, force your children to stand and walk on their legs.
- Single child families tend to pamper their darlings and keep them immature.
- It is better to lose a child, than to cripple him/her for life
- Right from its earliest days, help your child to be responsibly free.
- Help your children, with your advice and guidance, to solve their problems. Do not take the problems of your children upon yourselves