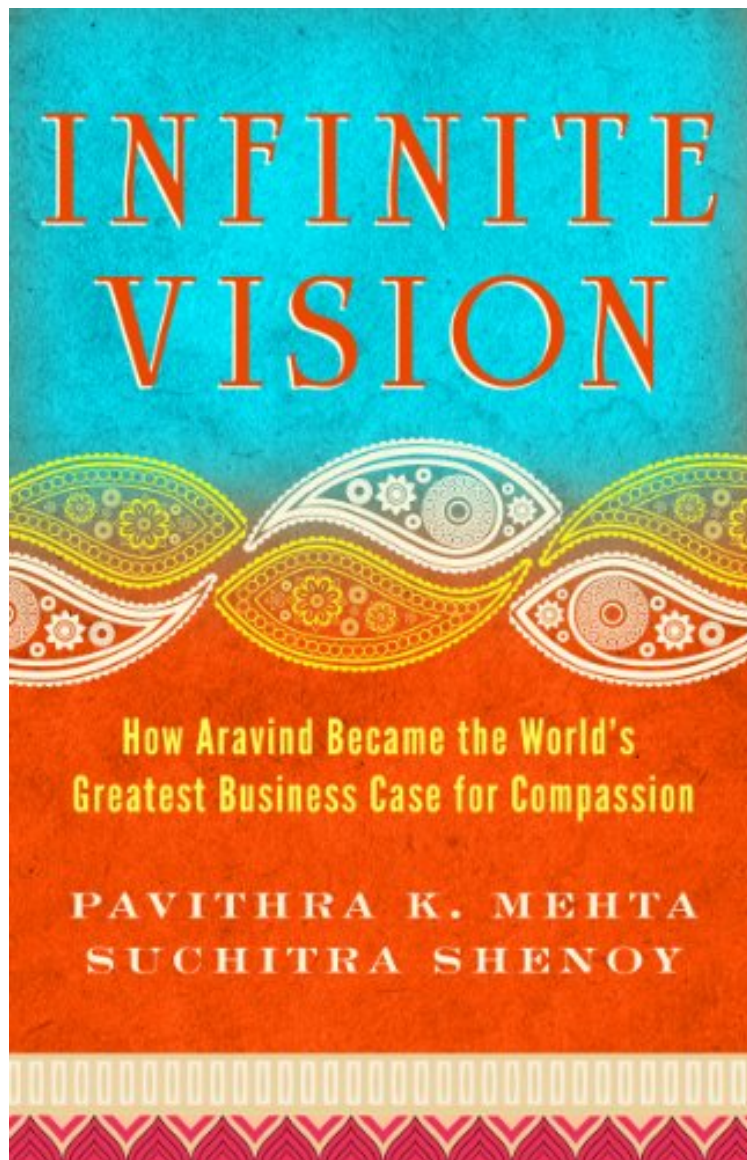


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Infinite Vision: How Aravind Became the World's Greatest Business Case for Compassion

Pavithra Mehta, Suchitra Shenoy
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Pavithra Mehta, Suchitra Shenoy : Infinite Vision: How Aravind Became the World's Greatest Business Case for Compassion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Infinite Vision: How Aravind Became the World's Greatest Business Case for Compassion:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Infinite Vision is so much more than a business case...By John

InmanWhen Pavithra first produced and brought to the world her acclaimed documentary film, Infinite Vision, I was stunned with the quality and emotional impact that the film brought forth. The depth of scholarship, insight, and pure inspiration that Pavithra and Suchitra have provided in this new book with the same title is stunning. If you pick up this book to read a business case for an extraordinary organization, good for you, but you will miss 90% of what this inspirational work is about. Transformation is about a shift in mindset. To simply take the work and try to duplicate it is bound to be frustrating. The mindset of Dr. V is what the profound lesson is about to me. That mindset created the culture which allowed the current Aravind to emerge. It was not planned and controlled into existence, it emerged from the will of those who envisioned it. What is the core to a culture of innovation? What mindsets are critical to its emergence? This book is inspirational and can provide the foundation for transformative conversations that have the opportunity to create social justice in our world. Embrace this book, internalize it, and create the conversations that can heal our world. This book has that spirit within it. Not many do. I highly recommend Infinite Vision and suggest that it be offered to anyone interested in creating a better world. Can one person make a difference in this world? From what I have seen, the resounding answer is yes. If each of us takes this challenge, there is no doubt in my mind that we can make it happen.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. We Can All Have INFINITE VISIONBy Ruth RichardsDon't miss this book, Infinite Vision. It's about one person, "Dr. V.," who revolutionized healthcare for those who cannot see. But it's equally about us, about everyone. It's about our creativity when we don't set limits. And about how it can spread, even globally. It is about our higher potential. If you ever had cataract surgery, take note. You know what it is like; seeing or not seeing can change everything. In India, some have used a derogatory term for a blind elder, "a mouth without hands." Can you imagine?Infinite Vision tells how Dr. V helped reverse this tragedy. The book is personal and inspiring, and it also gives operational details and a recipe for success. Dr. V, Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, a surgeon in South India, began, as a post-retirement project, what became the largest eye surgery operation in the world. And where a great many needy people now get eye surgery for free. His is a required case study for Harvard Business School, has been honored by Bill Gates (Award for Global Health) and many others. His Aravind organization has attracted visitors, promoters and collaborators from Seva Foundation to the International Lions Club, from Dr. Brilliant to Ram Dass to Wavy Gravy. Why? Here's a goodhearted doc moving from a clinic for 11 people to a massive medical movement which has brought hope to the 12 million blind people in India. A movement now spreading around the world. And a man who said, whose stated goal in life was, "to give sight for all." Now Aravind, is doing just that! Here is the story.

The recipe: Good person, hard times, a crippling arthritis that changed his career goals, a fundamental desire to help others. Deep spiritual roots, Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, in Pondicherry, India, astonishing spiritual leaders. And let it be said, with all respect, that this could also have been another of the World's Great Wisdom Traditions. Here, to be sure, is our True Vision. Our True Creativity. And an ability to reach out. To involve others. To collaborate, to share and learn--and this includes sharing with groups that might be called "competitors" in other settings. Instead we learn to thrive together. To have a new bottom line of compassion and love, not profit or loss. Yet to find a greater monetary profit in this approach than in that of the so-called competition.

Dr. V never married nor had a family. Yet a fascinating side note is that a full 21, yes twenty-one, of his relatives have now become ophthalmologists! And all are helping. Talk about family spirit (and the human spirit).Best of all--and this is sometimes hard for us Westerners to believe--here is the Gift Economy. This is what can happen when we move from grasping and getting to caring and giving. Those folks weren't fooling in the Bible (or elsewhere) when they said that we who give will receive in turn. (Actually, we may also live longer as well--which is another interesting story! Here is a new world view we need badly today.As Dr. V. said, "When we grow in spiritual consciousness, we identify with all that is in the world...It is ourselves we are helping...ourselves we are healing."Is InfiniteVision a religious tract? Not at all; it is a business plan--one set in an engaging personal story. But a business plan with a different bottom line, a different way of operating. A different way of living. No wonder Harvard Business School took note. And so should we.Do buy this book, by all means! And also give it to your own doctor. I have done so myself. Let me dedicate this review to my ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon, Gary Aguilar, M.D., in San Francisco, who has volunteered his services each summer, in places including Guatemala, Peru, and China, to help people who could never see otherwise. Whose lives have been changed. He too is part of this story. What a gift. What a role model. May each of us, in turn, help this influence to spread.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Shift in PerspectiveBy awakenA book that touched the very core of my soul! It is riveting story of Dr.V, a man who had a dream of becoming an obstetrician but whose dream was shattered because he was struck with crippling arthritis and was bedridden for two years with unimaginable intense pain.. Dr. V sees this not as an accident, but a calling - he was to become a legendary eye surgeon who lit the eyes of millions in India and around the world. he himself has conducted eye surgeries successfully on over 100,000 people.He started out from a 11 bed facility to build Aravind, the largest eye care facility in India that is based on 3 guiding principles: turn no patient away regardless of whether they can pay or not,give high quality care to all and do not go after government sponsored funds, foundation monies or philanthropy. His vision, his reliance on spiritualism as the corner stone of his success, his awareness for the plight of the poor who need help and his ownership to seek out solutions, indeed makes him unique in history. It is a must reading, it will change you and when it changes you, it will change the world that you see around you.

Comment

When a crippling disease shattered his lifelong ambition, Dr. V (Venkataswamy) chose an impossible new dream: to cure the world of blindness. The tiny clinic he founded in India defied conventional business logic and is now the largest provider of eye care on the planet. At Aravind, patients choose whether to pay or not. Millions are treated for free, yet the organization remains stunningly self-reliant. Serving everyone from penniless farmers to the president, it delivers world-class outcomes at less than a hundredth of what similar services cost in advanced nations. Its model is emulated by organizations everywhere from Rwanda to San Francisco. Infinite Vision uncovers the radical principles behind Aravind's baffling success. Charged with profound insights and stories, it draws readers to the heart of Dr. V's selfless vision, proving how choices that seem quixotic can, when executed with compassion and integrity, yield incredible results—results that can light the eyes of millions.

In the Aravind experience I see the path that we need to take a transformation of life into a powerful instrument of right action. --Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India
From the Back Cover
THE WISDOM OF AN IMPOSSIBLE ORGANIZATION
"Again, may I say, how profoundly I admire your work and how deeply gratifying it is for me to hear that you appreciate mine." --PETER F. DRUCKER in a letter to Aravind's founder, Dr. V
When a crippling disease shattered his lifelong ambition, Dr. Venkataswamy (better known as Dr. V) chose an impossible new dream: to cure the world of blindness. The tiny clinic he founded in India defied conventional business logic and is now the largest provider of eye care on the planet. At Aravind, patients choose whether to pay or not. Millions are treated for free, yet the organization remains stunningly self-reliant. Serving everyone from penniless farmers to the president, it delivers world-class outcomes at a hundredth of what similar services cost providers in advanced nations. Its model is emulated by organizations everywhere from Rwanda to San Francisco. Infinite Vision uncovers the radical principles behind Aravind's baffling success. Charged with profound insights and stories, it draws readers to the heart of Dr. V's selfless vision, proving how choices that seem quixotic can, when executed with compassion and integrity, yield incredible results -- results that can light the eyes of millions. "Reveals the power of a model that combines business discipline with compassion. May the wisdom of Dr. V and Aravind shared here inspire many such initiatives for the wellbeing of future generations." -MUHAMMAD YUNUS, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Founder, Grameen Bank
"A must-read for anyone interested in leadership, service, and the building of institutions that release the best energies of the human spirit." --JACQUELINE NOVOGRATZ, Founder-CEO, Acumen Fund, and author of The Blue Sweater
"Aravind may be a case study for MBA students, and a model social business, but to me this book told a story, with elegance, clarity and intimacy." -FRED DE SAM LAZARO, PBS NewsHour
"In the world of blindness Dr. V has performed a miracle." -RAM DASS, Author, Be Here Now, Co-founder Seva Foundation
100% of the authors' royalties are being gifted to Aravind's sight-restoring work.
About the Author
Pavithra K. Mehta is a writer and filmmaker in a family of 21 ophthalmologists. Her award-winning documentary (also titled) Infinite Vision followed the life and work of Aravind's founder Dr. V. Pavithra is drawn to the intersection of story-telling and social change. She started Aravind's story archive in 2002 and currently serves on the boards of both the Aravind Eye Foundation and ServiceSpace, a non-profit that fosters transformative volunteerism. She is co-editor of the latter's inspiring news portal, Daily Good, and co-founder of its pay-it-forward restaurant Karma Kitchen. Suchitra Shenoy has worked on innovative market-based approaches to poverty, and was the founding member of the Inclusive Markets team at the Monitor Group. She is on the advisory board of Youth 4 Jobs Foundation, which works with companies to give impoverished young people the skills they need for meaningful employment. Suchitra is deeply interested in issues of healthcare, education and financial services for the poor. She holds degrees from Brandeis University and the London School of Economics.