THE INTERRUPTED PATH

ICT Network Manager & SEND Consultant

Sunil Pindoria

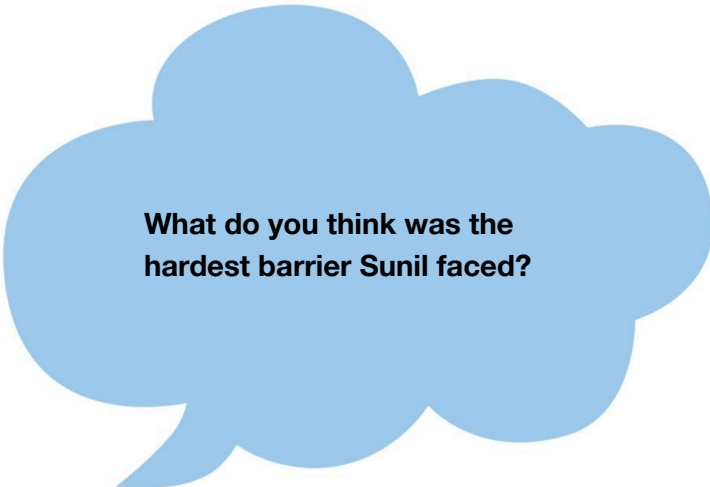**Overcame illness, physical disabilities & language barriers to transform lives using ICT.**

Part 1:Childhood

In a small village in Kenya, there lived a determined young boy named Sunil. Born with a challenging condition called severe haemophilia, he faced life's hurdles with courage. Sunil's family, residing on the fourth floor of a lively apartment block, worked hard and shared moments of joy.

However, the lack of medical support posed challenges for little Sunil. Without the care he needed, untreated bleeding disorders brought about pain that affected his joints. This discomfort made it impossible for him to attend school and play like other kids.

One day, a tumble down the stairs changed everything. Sunil found himself unable to walk and, without a lift in the apartment, his mum became his hero, carrying him up and down the stairs. Even with his family's unwavering support, school remained out of reach, and Sunil spent his days indoors. Yet, within those walls, he discovered the magic of creativity, crafting playful inventions from sticks.

Life took an unexpected turn one day during a visit from some friends of Sunil's brother. Whilst they played with some needles, one landed in one of Sunil's eyes, resulting in a loss of sight in that eye. His world, already confined, became even more complex.

What do you think was the hardest barrier Sunil faced?

Part 2: Change begins to happen…

For the first 12 years of his life, Sunil's world was his apartment. Then, hope arrived in the form of a journey to London for medical treatment. The bustling city opened new doors, including school. Although English was unfamiliar, Sunil encountered a magical device – a computer. The excitement of this newfound tool ignited a spark within him.

What do you think Sunil does next:

a) Sunil becomes interested in learning computer programming and starts experimenting with coding to create his own software or apps.

b) Sunil discovers his passion for graphic design on the computer, expressing his creativity through digital art and design projects.
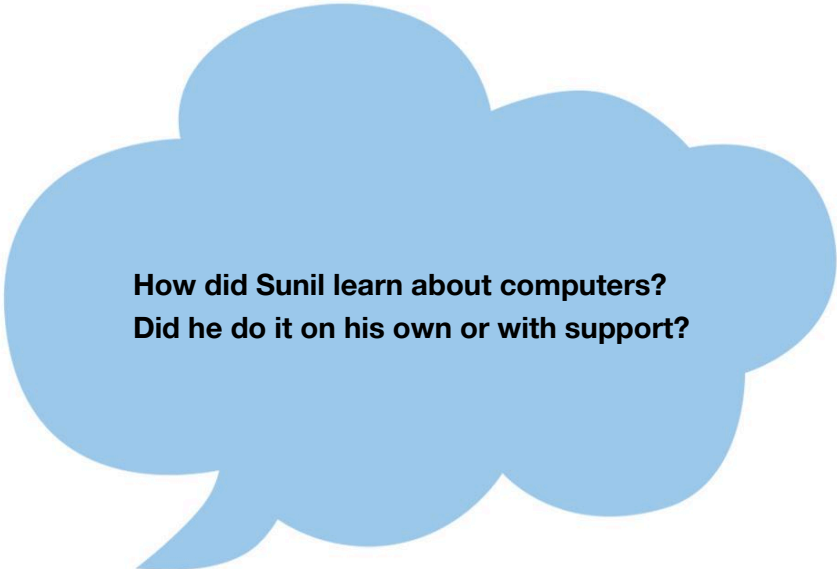
c) Sunil, fascinated by the power of the computer, develops an interest in exploring and understanding cybersecurity, eventually pursuing a career in the field to protect digital spaces.

d) Sunil, enchanted by the world of computers, decides to start his own quirky YouTube channel dedicated to teaching others about technology in a hilariously entertaining way and becomes a YouTube sensation.

Sunil's passion for learning about computers didn't go unnoticed by his teachers. One day, Mr. Salter, his IT teacher, approached him with a special proposition. He told Sunil that if he could learn English within six months, he would teach him to become the very best with computers.

Sunil, fueled by the same determination that had carried him through the challenges of his illness and learning to walk again, took on the challenge. In just a few weeks, he showed an incredible ability to grasp the English language. His dedication was not only impressive but also inspiring.

Not stopping there he learnt everything he could at school about computers. Recognising his talent, the school went a step further. When he turned 16, they employed him as an IT technician. Sunil's journey from a determined learner to an IT expert had taken another significant stride, thanks to his unwavering commitment and teamwork with his teacher.

How did Sunil learn about computers?
Did he do it on his own or with support?

Part 3: More interruptions create opportunities for new skills

As Sunil's journey unfolded, he reached incredible milestones that were once distant dreams. Achieving the esteemed title of a Microsoft Certified Enterprise Engineer and completing various technical courses from renowned institutions like Aruba and HP, Sunil's expertise now forms a strong foundation in enterprise-level IT. These notable accomplishments showcase the remarkable power of determination and continuous learning, transforming him into a valuable asset in his chosen field.

As he entered university, a bleed in his shoulder meant that he had to take some time out. This was difficult as he didn't want to interrupt his university degree. But, Sunil had learnt how to keep going when things got tough. He knew that practical experience was important so Sunil faced these challenges head-on, choosing to qualify as a Microsoft engineer on the job. He proved again that setbacks were not roadblocks but stepping stones moving him closer to achieving his goals.

However, Sunil's journey is more than just a career; it's a passion that has evolved over time. Beginning with childhood tinkering, it has grown into crafting specialised tools for special needs students and developing intricate systems. The same school that gave him the opportunity to find his love for computers is the school where he now works and enables each child to access fun, learning, adventure and creativity through IT. Sunil's interruptions created spaces for him to learn skills which now help children have access to a life of learning.

What skills do you think Sunil has developed from his experiences?
1. Problem solving
2. Resilience
3.

How could the things you've been through help shape what you want to do when you grow up, especially after hearing Sunil's story?