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## Context to the nugget

Amit talks about how his parents have influenced his attitudes towards giving and his parenting style. He talks about how he and his siblings were encouraged to be grounded and contribute with their capabilities (not just money) to help the needy. He also talks about his parenting style where he emphasizes nudging and role-modelling than prescribing and lecturing.

## Transcription

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**Deepak Jayaraman (DJ):** How much of whom we are get shaped by our childhood and if you had to reflect on how much of the Amit Chandra of today got baked in the first sixteen eighteen years, what could some other themes be?

**Amit Chandra (AC):** Probably just a non-Bain capital stuff got at least seeded in the early childhood days in the sense that, my mother always encouraged both me and my siblings to make sure that we were always encourage to be sensitive to society's needs to the needs of people around us irrespective of how wealthy we were, so of course growing up we were from a middle class family we didn't have wealth but we had capabilities and so we were encouraged to use those capabilities which were basically education to do things for people who didn't have education and so I remember early days my elder sister and me spending time, you were trying to educate folks, teach them, trying to make them literate encouraged by my mother. I also remember my father always trying to reach out and trying to do things for the workers who used to work for him and so I think there was always sensitization towards folks less privilege, and I think that sensitization seeded something in us.

**DJ:** Cutting to the present in the context of how you think about parenting given the wisdom of the journey you have had and the work you do in the field of education today how do you think about the parenting or the role of the parent in shaping the child for the future?

**AC:** I think the role is needs to be less prescriptive and little bit more that of a friend and a role model and I think that's what our parents really did for us, they led by example, they didn't force us really to do anything, they nudged us and if we really went too far from a guardrail they try to get us back but they really never demanded that we do something so I think that in my mind is a far better approach and I think that's the approach that my wife and I try to choose to follow for our daughter as well both of us are deeply involved with the social sector she spends 100 percent of her time running a not for profit and I spend half my time, in conversations at home obviously therefore tend to be very anchored around developmental issues in the social sector but we don't have any expectations that our daughter will basically be inclined towards it. She has somewhat of a natural inclination and we have been exposing her to issues in the sector, she is twelve years old and she is

beginning to a naturally exhibit some flare for it she is sensitive to issues around her, but we have never tried to be prescriptive about them.

## Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The key takeaway for me here is the point around nudge and don't prescribe. It is possibly not a coincidence that Richard Thaler, the Economist known for the book Nudge was given a Noble Prize this year. I go back to what I heard from one of the earlier guests in the show – Pramath Sinha. He spoke about how the link between education and careers is getting more and more tenuous with time. In this scenario it is important that we build navigational principles in the child and ensure that they can make good decisions as they go through their journey. In that sort of a context, the more we nudge them with our thoughts but empowering them to make the decisions, the more we will possibly be preparing them for the road ahead. If this topic is of interest, you might want to type in formative years in the Search bar at playtopotential.com to hear from other leaders on how their childhood shaped them.

Thank you for listening. If you are new to the podcast and want to get a sense of the nature of content that is covered, you might want to go to YouTube and type "PlaytoPotential Highlights from 2017". I have tried to capture the key takeaways from my various conversations last year with leaders across disciplines. From people such as Zia Mody, Nandan Nilekani, Viswanathan Anand, Vijay Amritraj, Amish Tripathi, Vinita Bali and the like. For more, please visit playtopotential.com where the content is organized by nuggets and they are tagged by themes so that you could get perspectives from multiple individuals on a topic that you care about. If you want to listen offline say during a car ride home or during airplane travel, you could also access the Podcast on iTunes, Stitcher, Saavn and several other podcast apps but that may not give you the flexibility to navigate across speakers by theme. If you find the content purposeful, please go to iTunes, rate the show and share a review. It will help others discover it.

## End of nugget transcription

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### **Amit Chandra - Nuggets**

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### **About Deepak Jayaraman**

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive’s / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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Podcast Transcript [27.01 Amit Chandra - Early formative years](#)

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