

On a leisurely Sunday, I was having some good time with my family, my daughters were talking about what they want to become and do when they grow up. And the topic slowly came on what I am currently doing at Varcos. I had unexpectedly tough time explaining them about Testing and esp. about Software Testing which I teach at Varcos.

I kept on thinking about how I simplify Software Testing, and I decided to write down my understanding about Software Testing, my journey in QA and Testing, my learnings in the form of series of blogs.

Hope this will be helpful for people who are new to 'Software Testing' and want to pursue career in this exciting profession. My aim is to explain '**Testing**' in as simple language as possible, so that How? What? When? Why? of Testing will be crystal clear to Testing aspirants (I call it 'funde clear' 😊)

So, I will start with very basic question, **what is Testing?**

*Act of Testing is prevalent in our normal life, it's just we don't identify those activities as 'Testing'. Each one of us wears 'Tester's hat' at some point in our daily life. Some examples related to Testing in our day-to-day life are as below,*

1. We **check** the **taste** of a delicious food item multiple times and various stages while preparing it, **before** it is served.
2. Shop vendor **shakes and taps** a coconut to **check** the water content and overall health of coconut **before handing it over** to a customer
3. We **check** clothes we wear for any wrinkles **before we wear** them
4. When we go for a haircut, our hairdresser keeps **checking** intermittently with us about length of hair being cut, the hair style and other aesthetic aspects. He/she **finally shows** us the haircut from all angles to **confirm the final look**
5. We **match/tally** the food items ordered with the bill produced **before** we make the **payment**
6. Farmer **picks** up some **random** samples of crops across the farm to **check** readiness of crop **before** cutting
7. We take a '**Test drive**' for many probable car options **before finalizing** our new 'dream car'
8. We **try out** new clothes by wearing them, to confirm which one fits the best **before buying** one,
9. We (if not all, may be some of us 😊 for sure) **verify** our answers (to be correct and complete) before handing over the answer sheet to invigilator in our examinations
10. We **validate** claims from a dietician or Gymnasium before enrolling for the program

All the above acts fall in the category of checking, trying, verifying, validating, judging, matching with a single most important goal of comparing **Actual vs Expected**

Intention here, is to check the product or service, for what we are expecting (as an *End User*) and what is found/experienced. Based on gaps between the two, we make some

decisions like - to use the product/service OR to abandon it OR to use it and recommend to others as well.

So, in simple words, **Testing is act of comparing Expected vs Actual.**

We cannot leave this task of 'testing' to our end users; it is like directly serving our guests the newly tried delicacy and asking them about how the food is tasting like.... it may create a bad taste in our guest's mouth 😞. We will always prefer to taste it much before (intermittently while preparing) we offer the delicacy to our beloved guests.

Same things happen in industries across; companies test the product and services much before it reaches their end customers. In fact, 'Testing' is one of the key functions in any industry including Software industry. ***In a typical programming project, approximately 50 percent of the elapsed time and more than 50 percent of the total cost are expended in Testing. [Ref book - The Art of Software Testing by Glanford Myers]. This was the case when 'The Art of Software Testing' first got published in 1979 [ yes, you read it right, 1979], and few decades after that, there is hardly any change in above stats.***

This should help you get answers to the questions in your mind like, 'Is Software Testing a good career option?', 'Will I have rewarding career as a Software Tester? ', 'Will there be job opportunities in Software Testing, few years down the line?'...

Off course, becoming a Successful Software is not a cakewalk, Test professional requires skills, efforts and many other good qualities which are necessary for any other professions. We will see about those skills in later blog. *The only word which is 'Constant' today, is 'Change', it also applies to Software Testing. **Nature of Testing has been and will continue to change... it was primarily domain focussed earlier; now with the advent of Agile / CI-CD / Devops, Technical skills are also fast becoming key expectations from a Tester.***

We will stop here today, next week we will take an example of day-to-day product we use, and get into more formal approach about its Testing...

About myself,

Aka **VJ**, among my colleagues, I am the Lead Trainer and Founder at Varcos Consulting and Training ([www.varcos.in](http://www.varcos.in)). After a Successful career of 25 years in IT and Non-IT, I decided to pursue my passion, **Teaching**. Teaching allows me to share my knowledge, experience to my students, who do not need to learn only by their own experience. Teaching is a good 'Learning' experience for me as well. My strength lies in grasping technical stuff and in simplifying them, so they become easy to understand...

