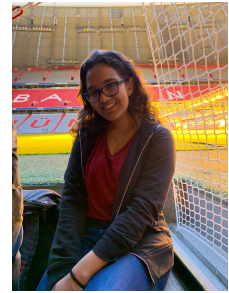


Intricacies of Foundation Program

Word Count- 1000



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I remember this memory of me being probably 5 or 6 years and constantly immersed in conversations taking place among the adults regarding this strange word called “business”- it was something I had never heard before. I remember bugging my parents day-in and day-out about it only to finally approach one of my teachers. She explained the concept in one of the simplest ways I have ever been taught, “Its always delivering more than expected”. This has stuck with me ever since. I am the eldest sibling so somewhere, negotiations became a part of my personality and aligning people’s perspectives to match mine became my second nature. I was so absorbed that I would even make small lunch-time deals with my friends and I guess that led to the “a-ha” moment when I decided that business is “it” for me.

I had envisaged my first day of college to the extent of even deciding what perfume I was going to wear. The kind of take-aways I would have and the conversations I would make but I can assure you that nothing would’ve prepared me for this virtual system. College has always been a dream experience for me and throughout my entire high school, the only thing that kept me going was this mere thought. Physically meeting people, physically experiencing the air of the campus, physically just being there- these constituted my dreams, emphasis on physical presence. I have never been the one to thoroughly welcome and enjoy virtual platforms, bar a few. In these times, where there is no other alternative but to adjust to this virtual ensemble, I felt dejected at this prospect thus my eagerness reduced. Now, when I think back on this, I feel that it was a little bit naïve of me to think that this feeling of mine was irreplaceable and irrevocable. Flexibility in approach and having a radical thought process is what truly matters.

The foundation program will always be embedded as one of my fondest memories as all of my paradigms and limited beliefs were either rudely dismantled or discarded. On the very first day of my virtual college, we were briefed about the assemblage of our course and the myriad of responsibilities that we have to bear. While the teachers were explaining to us, I was amazed at the organization and the thorough planning behind everything. As a person, I have always been a more impulsive type who isn’t much into detail. I would dive in head first without any regard for the consequence. In retrospect, those notes that I made are proving very useful now. One thing that I noticed was that the teachers didn’t really beat around the bush and got straight to the point. This got a lot of things clear: firstly, when there are no deliberate distractions, more work can be achieved due to the slick focus that is present and secondly, it captivated my attention as I now knew that it was time to pull up my socks. The teacher then kept on giving more information about the happenings of the week which contorted an enthusiasm in me.

Looking at the kind of impact this single exercise had on me, its clear that the thrill of the “first time” for anything can be sustained by indulging in continual efforts. The foundation

week gave me an idea of what I had signed up for. I had gotten accustomed to just lounging about and doing nothing. Consequentially, I was very excited for the classes to begin. From among the plethora of ideas introduced, two of them caught my attention: goal setting and professionalism. In goal setting, “SMART” goals were highlighted. Essentially it means that when vague and non-definite goals are set, it’s a fool-proof set up for failure. There is no sense of direction thus defeating its purpose. “SMART” goals must ideally be pushing you farther and farther and help you reach your goals. They undertake the “organizing” part of it whereas the “implementation of the plan” is in our hands. Until and unless there is no firm action, streamline focus for the ultimate goal will not exist in us. The purpose of having all these wonderful activities was to create a bond among us students and I thoroughly enjoyed them. Never did I once underestimate the value of these activities or brush them off simply because I was enjoying every single moment of it.

The lecture on professionalism really opened my eyes to a lot of things. And now, in token of candor, I must reveal that I have been a victim to the misconception that personality is always going to prevail over education. The loop-hole that I found out was that a “personality” is formed when someone has some exquisite knowledge about a particular thing that is not quite well known by the masses thus giving them something to look forward to. I realized that it was all in the details which very conveniently contradicted my belief of always looking at the bigger picture. These details that are stressed upon because they create a sense that you understand the tiny nuances that go into it. When you “sweat” the details, it’s going to get you involved on a personal level which is quintessential. My work-life balance has always been out of proportion because I have only ever learnt to focus on one thing. I will now strive for a healthy amalgamation of academics and extra-curriculars because I desire the best of both worlds. The coming of age influencer marketing system is also mainstreaming this concept though in a subtle way. The endorsement campaigns provide an incentive for quality control.

This Foundation Week has proven true to its name: it really got my foundations in perspective and showed me that in order to truly develop, it’s necessary to combine my past and present knowledge about everything. There is some goodness in every moment, every hour, every day and learning opportunities are present everywhere—we must simply have the vision to see it.