



Something More About Me

Calcutta, India (now Kolkata) – that is where I spent my early adulthood and my childhood. In fact, this is the first time I am going to stay for a long time outside Kolkata. This city and my life in this city had a deep impact on what I am today and most probably what I will be. I put forward three aspects of me which I think will interest anyone who wants to know me better.

Born to a middle class family in India, humility is not a virtue for me. It is simply a way of life. No, I do not feel humility is a lack of pride. In fact, it is a respect for everyone's self-pride. It is not just feeling that I am the only one right. I truly believe that the other person can be right like me. He or she can just have a different way of looking at life. And that needs to be respected and understood.

Humility generates a sense of 'rightness'. That sense of rightness gives me confidence and courage. Problems and challenges do not bother me as much as they should. Yes, they do scare me sometimes. But I keep on keeping on. My friends say I have above average persistence. I think that my almost intrinsic courage keeps on telling me that I can overcome the seemingly insurmountable. It keeps on pushing me to chase my dreams.

One of the best parts of growing up in India is that the country is several countries with diverse cultures rolled into one. Every summer and winter breaks I used to travel – with my friends or family or even alone. I love travelling. But, more importantly, I am always hungry for more. Sometimes it is illogical. But logic, I guess, is not a great friend of extraordinary.

How This Degree Experience Will Benefit Me

When I attended South Point High School, we were always reminded about Mahatma Gandhi's famous quote - "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." Heard it so many times that it almost becomes boring. But then there is a degree of timelessness in the saying. And there is an angle of 'joyful learning' in the Mahatma's saying.

I will not say that all the learning I have received have been joyful for me. But learning does build joy and self-confidence. I want to plant a seed of happy living for my immediate friends and family. However, I cannot spread happiness if I myself am not happy. Continuous learning leading to self-confidence and personal joy is the foundation of my personal happiness chain. I believe that this degree will provide effective knowledge to strengthen that foundation. I will be in a better position to impact the lives of my social circle.

In my teens, I travelled a lot. I still do. Most of my travel is in the remote corners of India. The National Intelligence Council Global Trends 2030 report points to a 'Growing Food, Water, and Energy Demand' as a mega-trend around the world. While travelling around India, I witnessed this shortfall first-hand even now. India is the 3rd largest economy in Asia and is expected to be in the global top 3 by 2030. But still, there is an India where there is no drinking

water, people do not get even one square meal in a day, and children have to walk for hours to attend basic education. But that is changing now with India's growing economy and the government's serious efforts to bring in rapid transformation. I want to be an active participant in this change wave. I want to look back and see myself as a catalyst who contributed in his own way in bringing in this social transformation. I believe that this degree and my education will make me a powerful and effective change agent.

Martin Luther King Jr. said that - "Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education." Character is crucial for whatever we do and is a critical asset of a leader. I believe that this degree and the opportunity to exchange ideas in a multi-cultural global setting will make me more persevering, more mentally strong, more alert to diverse viewpoints, and build my overall character.