

My Journey so far

I am in the middle of a 15 months full time EPGDM from an upcoming, unique and highly supported Business School. Upcoming in the sense that it is the first year of the School, unique in the sense that it is first of its kind and supported as it is backed by one of the highest profit making company of the country: a Fortune 500.

The start for the school has been great so far and renowned academicians and Industrialists across the sector are coming to interact with us regularly. Up till now, we have interacted with couple of CMDs, directors & CEOs of PGCIL, NBCC, NTPC, ADB, IICA, POSOCO, CIL, BHEL, TATA Power etc. Directors from Academic Institute like Wharton & IIM L, highly experienced faculties from IIM A,L,K, IIT D, NITs, MDI,IMT G, IIFT,Cambridge, Bureaucrats like Chairman IICA, IAS officers, Officers from Planning Commission etc.

This fortune in my life hasn't come for free. Since I am a lazy guy, my mental efforts were also endorsed by god for getting me into this institute.

It was the end of July'15 and I was about to complete my ongoing assignment of expediting the Pre-Fab structures of Toilets for SBA. These structures were to be installed at various locations in some of the districts of Haryana. It was a different experience, altogether. From the daily job of preparing price estimates and drawings for works in the power plant to expedite the structural material from as many as 10 vendor locations to 60 school locations, the task was more challenging. As the work was new, I was enjoying every part of it. Nevertheless, on those rickety roads to some remote sites, I used to think of shaping up my future also.

What to do next? Should I go for another job? Or an MBA? Or start something of my own? Or start teaching math?

I was totally confused. Though I was pretty sure of getting a qualifying score in the CAT or GMAT but I knew that putting a continuous effort for 2-3 months with kids moving around was a herculean task. So I have been visiting sites of many colleges and educational institutions for different courses, but was unable to figure anything out. 7 years of continuous job in the Power Plant had already bored me by this time. Choosing NTPC over IITB MBA after finishing Engineering was biting me like it had never done before.

By the time my current assignment would complete I had already thought of landing up in something big. And to my surprise, The God of Justice was counting the mental efforts I was putting in.

On 4th of August after a routine morning, I saw a notice inviting applications for a 15 months EPGDM program at NTPC School of Business, Noida. I took a print and ran for my friends to enquire, as today was the last date. I found that one of my reliable friends had already filled up the form and with that I was extremely sure of what to do next.

I convinced my Boss to forward the application that took me few hours. The target was to pursue and convince him politely and I was successful (Note: Luckily I have been the favorite of my bosses most of the times)

On 5th they called for an interview on a very short notice period (half an hour). We were 5 candidates shortlisted for it. Since it was going to be random one, I was pretty sure of performing well. My zeal for getting selected could easily be seen in my eyes.

At 9 O'clock in the night, when we were celebrating the birthday of a friend at his place, I got a call from the HR Head and I started celebrating seeing his number on the screen. He congratulated me and asked me to report to the college the very next day. I went straight to my wife and informed her. The information was in a way to seek her permission as she had to live alone for a year looking after both of our kids. I must admit, she is the boldest lady I had ever come across. Thanks to her for making it damn simple for me. Next, I called up my father to seek his permission and as expected got a nod from him.

In the morning at 6 AM, with lot excitement, I moved to Noida in my car. In fact, I only called and informed my Boss and confirmed once again from the HR Head. I was only told to attend the Induction program and never realized that the journey had already begun.

I reached on time and attended the Induction Program headed by then CMD NTPC and Other Functional directors. It was a great feeling for me.

When after the program and interaction, I was given the keys of a room, only then I realized that I have really come for a full time 15 months EPGDM.

It was a mixed feeling, good that I have started a new journey and bad that all of a sudden I was away from my little kids for 15 months.

Coming back to July'16:

I have almost done with the Classroom courses and learned a lot about the Power sector. One year back for me, the Power sector was my own Power plant or My Own Company only. I did not know what I didn't know.

But now I understand how the sector works. How one player like any Discom can affect the Gencos, the Transcos, the consumers, the regulators, the lenders, the ministers and many other stakeholders? Or for that matter any player of the Industry can affect all other players.

Similarly, what efforts my company is putting or should put to give the sector a new direction?

How Solar and Other Renewables are going to drive the market and how dynamic has the sector turned?

How big role storage is going to play and to what extent policy makers would succeed in bringing the participation of individuals?

How Microgrids and DDGs are going to solve the Power for all and who has to take the lead?

Now I have realized that there is lot and lot to know, to learn and to apply. In fact I have paid a very less of a fee in knowing what I didn't know and what I need to know.

The Journey Begins!!