

Walks of life

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Autobiography

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Everyone has their own stories, no matter it is meaningful or not it is their life and their memories. When I told to write an autobiography, I could not come up about any ideas. So, I ask Professor for help, my Professor told us that everyone has their own stories and it is interesting because that is your experiences not ours. People like to hear stories because it is not their experiences and they want to know what you have been through. Here are little stories about myself.

My name is Prachi Nidhi Verma. I was born on 25 June, 2001 in Military Hospital, Secunderabad, Telangana but due to defence postings we left Secunderabad when I was 2 years old. My parents are Lakshman Verma and Sarita Verma and I have one younger sibling, Ved Verma. My father is a defence personnel and my mother is a primary Hindi teacher. Being a daughter of defence personnel I enjoyed visiting different states of India. So, after spending two years in Telangana we posted in Punjab and then Jammu & Kashmir and lastly in Pune where we settled as permanent resident. I went to school in Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 afs, Pune, where I completed my elementary and high school education. Currently, I am in St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune, doing my under graduate degree in economics.

I grew up in Pune where I learned the importance of family and tradition. Values, like patriotism, self-reliance and watching out for your family and neighbors. I am proud to say that I still try to live my life according to those values. I have a strong sense of justice. It is pretty much black-and-white. I do not see too much gray. I think it is important to protect others. I do not mind hard work. At the same time, I like to have fun; life is too short not to.

Remembering school days I believe I adopted both my parents' brilliant brains because I was always the best students academically. I always score in exams in the list of first division percentage or rank holders. However, my abilities were not limited to the classroom alone. I also excelled in co-curricular activities. In primary, in third standard I participated in English



calligraphy competition and I won the first prize i.e. lunchbox this prize seems too small but I was delighted so much that I still have that lunchbox with me; the first prize of my life which I remember and surprisingly from the third standard till twelfth standard I was continuously winning first prize in English calligraphy competition. I do participated in sports, especially in athletics and handball. I won the gold medal in ninth standard in the under 19-handball event of Regional Sports Meet 2015 organized by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Mumbai region held at Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 afs, Pune. Talking about other activities like solo dance, group dance, drawing, debate competition and essay writing competition I do participated at least once in school days. Being part of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 afs, Pune I got the opportunity of representing my school in a program of 25th Regional Children's Science Congress on the focal theme for science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, held at KV IIT Powai, Mumbai. I could not clear it for the national level but nevertheless I was fortunate enough to receive a certificate of appreciation on outstanding presentation and good wishes for future endeavors. Apart from achievements in academics and non-academics field there are so many memories with me of my school life and I would like to mention some of them.

“School picnic” this phrase gives us contentedness whenever our principal announces in the morning assembly but we all have little hesitation of asking our parents for it because parents especially our mothers fear of sending their children away from her due to many concerns; for instance, safety, taking care of yourself or not, going in safe place or not, stay with the teacher always. But regardless of mothers' concerns my mother sent me in all school picnics by telling, “Enjoy your school picnic but be safe.”

One of the best school picnics was when we went Mahabaleshwar in eight standard in monsoon season. Visiting Mahabaleshwar in monsoon season with your family or friends is the best combination I have ever known. So, two days before our visit in Mahabaleshwar, we asked our class teacher about Mahabaleshwar. She gave us the glimpse of history of Mahabaleshwar that Atibaleshwar temple is located among the group of temples around Mahabaleshwar temple. It is a very old temple. There is a mythological story behind Mahabaleshwar as well as Atibaleshwar temple. It is said that there were two demons namely Mahabal and Atibal. They were very wicked and robustious. To get rid of them lord Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh was prayed and



Vishnu killed Atibaleshwar and Shiv could not killed Mahabal as he was having the boon of will death i.e. “ikschhamrityu”. So brahma called Mahamaya, who allure him of love and enticed him to death. He agreed but prayed that gods should stay at that place by their names so that those two demons become immortal. He died and thus shiv stayed there in the form of Mahabaleshwar, Vishnu Atibaleshwar and Brahma as Koteswar. Name of the city is also said to be derived from Mahabal. It is a small temple. The height of doors are low and there is full darkness inside the temple. You have to keep your torch on to see but there are other beautiful places in Mahabaleshwar as well; for instance, Dhobi waterfall, Mapro garden, Venna Lake and Elphinstone point. Mapro garden is famous for strawberries. After hearing the story we all were excited to visit Mahabaleshwar just because of strawberries and we all decided that we will buy strawberries from Mapro garden. So, what happened was on the picnic day we all collected our money in a bag and decided to buy strawberries. We went to Mapro garden and bought strawberries and ate half of the strawberries and decided we will eat half after sometime but unfortunately that bag filled with half of the strawberries was in the hand of most hungry friend of our group and you can imagine what happened next. We did not talk to him next two days of the school until he bought strawberries from the market for all of us on the third day. Irrespective of fights, angriness among us we have chosen to help each other and enjoyed those times.

Friendship is the best gift we have received from the God and most importantly school friends. School, the first place where we make friends. School friends are precious for everyone in life no matter how many friends you had in school. I was a school kid who loves to talk to everyone, share things with everyone and help those who are in need. In parents-teacher meeting, I never get scold on the basis of marks I only get scold by the class teacher on two things, first talkative child and the second she does not finish her lunchbox and share it to everyone. This was true till my twelfth standard but when I joined college I made a shell around me, I talk but not to everyone but talking about eating I become opposite of what I was in the school. Now, I eat properly and do regular exercise just to be fit physically and mentally to maintain consistency in my studies.

As I grow older and reach tenth standard and gave board examination, I got three months holiday and in those three months I enjoyed travelling with friends and family in different places of



India. We went Ladakh, Goa, Mumbai and Hyderabad. I enjoyed different delicacies of different places; for instance, Thukpa and Butter tea of Ladakh, Sannas and Bebinca of Goa, Bombay Sandwich and Pav Bhaji of Mumbai and the most famous biryani of Hyderabad i.e. Veg Hyderabadi Biryani. One day I was doing shopping with my mother that day was girl's day out and she asked me what stream you will go for after tenth. This question hits really different to all the tenth board students after giving their board examination because we already decided to choose the stream of our own choice but somehow almost all people with good grades get into the science stream. Yes, you read it right. I decided to pursue humanities stream after my tenth standard. I told my mother about this and surprisingly she agreed on my decision, I was very delighted and was eagerly waiting for my result. The result came and I secured 90 percentage. Happiness moment was spread in the family and I was delighted about that I secured good percentage and now I can take admission in my favorite stream but in India it is little impossible in taking admission in other streams when you secured good percentage, you should only think about two things one is doctor and the second one is engineer and both these jobs comes only from science background so you must get into science stream. After all the things and talks happened around me I took up admission in science stream with deadly combination of subjects i.e. mathematics with biology so that both engineering and medicine fields are open for me. I joined the coaching classes in eleventh and twelfth standards for physics, chemistry and mathematics and studied hard and I secured good percentage in all the subjects of my stream. I was not ready to fill the form for science stream after my tenth boards result but gradually I was inclined to the science stream and in those two years of eleventh and twelfth I started enjoying solving numerical of physics, doing practical in labs, experimenting with chemicals and wearing that white lab coat gives really different feeling. So, I decided to give NEET Examination after my twelfth and without joining any specialized coaching like Aakash Coaching institute for biology with only three months of preparation and no guidance by teachers I cleared examination for BDS but not for MBBS. I was upset but that did not affect me too much because somewhere I felt I do not want to continue science stream after my twelfth. I thought it was hard to convince my parents regarding change of the my stream from science to humanities but fortunately my mother and father both agreed and they said that you secured good percentage in all the standards if you want to change your stream it will be fine for both of us because we know you will do great in new stream as well. So, if someone ask me, "What is the best feeling in the world?" I



will proudly say when your parents do not let you stop from achieving your dream. I am so fortunate that being a girl child in today's era it is difficult for some girls to choose and pursue their dream because of many reasons but my parents believed in me and my dreams and they said yes to new stream.

Currently, I am in St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune, doing my undergraduate degree in economics. The real happiness I achieved in St. Mira's or after changing my stream is I have scored good percentage in all the subjects and in every semester till now and I promise myself that I am responsible for this happiness so I want to make this happiness as permanent by being consistent in studies and of course with break days with my friends. The reason for choosing humanities stream was UPSC CSE Examination. I read it somewhere may be in the current affairs magazine before eight standard and I decided that I want to become an IAS officer because I personally feel this examination is more inclined towards humanities subjects rather than science subjects. There are many toppers of this examination who belongs to engineering background but on the basis of their life we cannot make it our life. Everyone's life is different and too their choices.

Respected teachers, good friends and my wonderful family are the ones who mold me for who I am today. Everything good I have inside of me, I get from them. I experienced lots of challenges that test my skills and personality. All those challenges and problems that I have been through leaves a wonderful lesson. Good days gave me happiness, bad days gave me experiences, which are both essential to life. Success keeps me growing and failures makes me humble.

Right now, I am studying very well so if I finished college, I can sit for the competitive examinations and achieve success in it. Just always remember that, life is like a Roller Coaster. It has ups and downs. But it is your choice to scream or just enjoy the ride.

Thank you!

