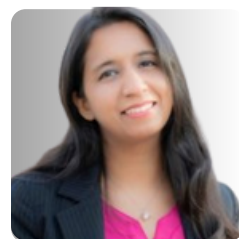


Balancing Academics and Beyond: Nurturing Holistic Growth in Education



KID: 20230418

My name is Dr. Priyanka Verma, and I am currently working as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. I was born and brought up in New Delhi. I did a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, and an MSc in Chemistry from IITH, followed by a PhD from Osaka University, Japan.

I wanted to pursue my higher education at a reputed institute, and based on my ranking in the JAM exam, I was offered the position to pursue an MSc in Chemistry from the prestigious IITH. Although I was a top ranker in the University of Delhi Master's entrance program, I chose to join IIT to have a different learning experience in a new place.

I enjoyed studying physical chemistry and electrochemistry concepts. Also, we were introduced to a new subject of nanochemistry and its latest applications, which was very interesting. It formed the basis of my current research expertise. The efforts and dedication of faculty members toward teaching also helped create interest and make complex topics appear simple. The chemistry practical labs were also informative and exciting.

Besides academic activities, I participated in a sports event (friendship race) and got an award. Also, I did a fractional credit course on Photography by a famous cinematographer, Navroze Contractor. After completing the course, the selected photographs were put up for exhibition at IITH. I also volunteered for a full-day duty for the electoral process.

Apart from the thorough knowledge of the courses, I learned a lot during 1-year research training in Prof Ch Subrahmanyam's laboratory. I got hands-on training on sophisticated equipment, analyzing and interpreting the obtained data and materializing it into a research publication. This process has helped me understand research-related skills and further motivated me to continue research in the future.

My specialization in Chemistry and the research project at IITH laid the foundation for teaching and research. The coursework was designed in such a way as to provide us with in-depth knowledge of the subject and presentation skills of research-related activities. This has helped in building confidence and nurturing communication skills. It motivated me to pursue doctoral studies, without which it wouldn't have been possible for me to land a position as a faculty member at IIT Delhi.

On the day of convocation in 2014, winning the institute gold medal award, I was fortunate to attend it with my parents on Aug 8th, 2014 (pic enclosed), which was the best moment I can recall from my life @ IITH.



MSc Chemistry Batch of 2013 (seniors) and 2014 (classmates)



Independence Day Celebration at IITH (2012)



IITH-Japan Academic Panel Discussion (2016)



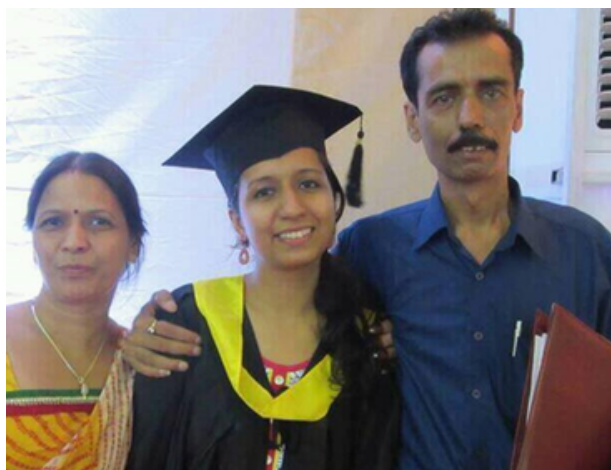
Fresher's party at IITH with MSc Chemistry classmates (2012)

A well-rounded education should encompass academics and the development of physical, emotional, and social aspects of a student's life. So, do well not only in academics but also in extra-curricular activities. **Make new friends and socialize often, which will help build solid relationships and are crucial for success in the future.**

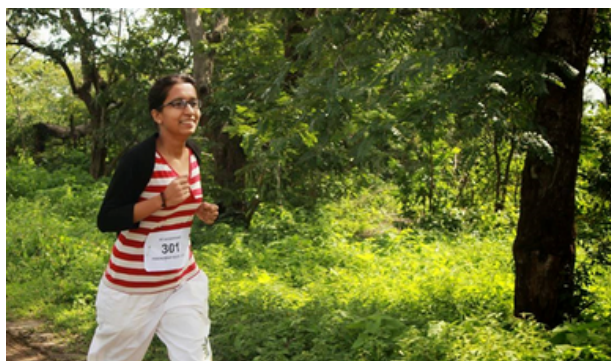
The interaction and number ratio between students and faculty members, research atmosphere, and kindness of people (not only academic but also administrative staff) are the highlight factors of IITH.

Through alumni associations and activities, I intend to keep in touch with the institute and demonstrate my thanks and support by contributing in some manner, participating in events, conducting sessions, or answering queries from students wanting to pursue an academic career in India or abroad (Japan & UK). I also aim to initiate research collaboration and facilitate access to analytical techniques, which are available at IIT Delhi. **The best way to contact me is by email: pverma@iitd.ac.in and X (previously Twitter): @plasmonicpriya.**

I wish to convey my appreciation for my experience and knowledge while studying at IITH. I am grateful for the IITH-Japan Friendship program, which enabled me to pursue doctoral studies in Japan. I appreciate the remarkable influence the institute has had on my life and the information and skills I acquired during my master's program in Chemistry.



IITH convocation on Aug 8th, 2014, with my parents at the institute.



Friendship Race @IITH (2012)



IITH Academic Fair in Japan (2016)

Dr Priyanka Verma
*MSc (2014), Department of Chemistry, and
Assistant Professor, IIT Delhi*