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Picture for a Suzuki employees union monthly booklet, in Indian clothing with Japanese colleagues

Do not shy away from trying something new

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To summarize:

I am Prathyusha, which means Early morning or Dawn. Someday, in the hope to live up to my name.

I graduated from a batch 2018 and now working as an R&D engineer at Suzuki headquarters, Japan.

Why IIT?

I was introduced to JEE in my 10th standard (high school). It felt new, fun and challenging. I signed up for the classes along with my friends. Meanwhile, luckily, I had some opportunities to speak to a retired professor from IIT (Kharagpur). The life he described at IIT seemed

like an alternate ideal universe (My school had a very traditional & pretty strict environment). With the constant support from my parents & teachers, I cracked JEE!

Why IIT Hyderabad?

I wanted to join the electrical department (cause I fancied inverters at that time lol) and with my rank, IITH seemed like a wise choice. In those times(2014), the director of IITH was from the electrical department and the department also had professors with great background(Prof. Kiran Kuchi etc.), connections with foreign universities and cool projects.

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Subject enjoyed the Most:

“Internet of things” was a rising & hot topic then!

And why not!? You can communicate to the things around you from lights to buildings to what not, in a way we have never experienced before!

After all, “It is said communication is the key, Isn't it 😊”

Subject enjoyed the Least:

Calculus/ AC systems/ signal processing.....The list doesn't end!

Honestly, although I could crack the exams with pretty good scores, I couldn't imagine and understand the concepts very well at that time.

At the risk of sounding like a nerd,

I believe We did not have a subject for the Internet of things as such until my final year. So, I and my friends had to work on it in our free time apart from the usual study subjects.

However, I received (and still receive) continuous support from a professor (Dr. Kotaro Kataoka) since my first year in terms of support for knowledge, funding, space for prototyping, attending hackathons....! I also got to intern at the University of Tokyo, some Indian companies & try out my own start-up in the meantime.

I was a coordinator for hospitality in the college tech fest- nvision. I also co-founded and designed events for the “student networking festival” which brings students from various kinds of streams like engineering, fashion, hospitality, hotel management, law etc. for networking while having fun together!

I tried Java coaching in my first-year summer holidays. I do not remember any of it!

Yes, education and training prepared me for my current job role!

I work designing next-generation communication systems & applications for connected cars. So, yes – the Internet of things it is, again.

No education and training prepared me for my current job role!

My job also requires me to:

1. Strongly coordinate & negotiate with my seniors, partner companies
2. Coordinate with my team to assign tasks/ work together
3. Create long term visions and roadmaps to achieve that.

I feel I am not originally good at these things. I am learning with time- It is both frustrating and fun!

However, I wonder if my education could have provided me with this kind of opportunities also or it is something to be realized and learnt on one's own!

The best moment I can recall from my life @IIT Hyderabad, Of course, the weekend parties, late-night chit -chats, projects....!

But the best one which still cracks me up is – In my starting days in IITH, I cut a USB charging cable to powerup an RFID reader from the AC current source rather than using a battery. That was the first & last time - My friends thought I was a genius!

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I want to say to fellow IITHians that you might not be good at things you haven't tried before. Do not let that shy you away from trying something new.

Best about IITH (from when I was there): The openness IITH provided for a student to pursue their interests can be anything!

Improvement area for IITH: The liberty of the college for not just academics but everything else was the best part of IITH. As IITH is growing bigger, rules and regulations are getting imposed to manage the big strength. But rules and regulations always take away liberty slowly and steadily. IITH Deans and the director should always be careful to find the right balance.

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Do try and find to work and associate with a professor. They are always supportive and helping even after graduating!

It has been around 2 years since I moved to Japan.

My company has supported me to learn Japanese from a residential school(AOTS) for the first 3 months. **It is my recommendation for people who come here. (at least to work). We also had around one-and-a-half-month training along with all the new employees. This time (although felt like torture) gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of people with similar hobbies and make a lot of new friends!

My department closely works with India, so I

did get the opportunity to visit India 2-3 times during my first year here and then hits COVID! Although COVID has changed a lot of plans including business trips(both national & international), it has given me an opportunity to work closely with my team (since all of us are stuck here!)

and to ponder more and explore Japan.

Me, along with a friend proposed an idea related to future mobility systems to my department. We are now working on the idea for the past 7 months. We secured a budget and team. We actively work on realizing the technical and business feasibility of the idea. In this process, we talk to different companies and universities over the world for idea brainstorming, collaboration, prototyping. This has introduced me to a lot of things very early.

Also, during my first year in Japan, I was part of organizing the IITH-alumni meet in Japan & got an opportunity to meet the new director of IITH and also introducing him to our company. We all could share some ideas on industry-university collaboration.

Now, I along with my friend, are responsible for starting and maintain around 8-10 collaboration projects including 10 professors and worth – xx crores. We are also aiming to build a sustainable model for Suzuki-IITH collaboration.

Apart from that, since COVID has restricted from travel, I spent my time (along with my friends) exploring new things like Salsa, Scuba diving, river rafting, skewing, Ice skating, Onsen. I realized my profound love for active things. I love riding and recently got my motorcycle license! I also go regularly swimming & recently started kickboxing along with to get some exercise.

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PS: **When you move to any new country: This phenomenon, so-called culture shock consists of 5 stages – the honeymoon stage, frustration stage, adaptation stage and acceptance stage.

I have moved to Japan along with one of my closest friends from college. So, luckily, I already had a friend to share all the stages of culture shock including frustration & adaptation.

I have only mentioned the best parts of these two years. You are always welcome to ask me anything 😊



Fujikawa, river rafting
(Down left - Right before jumping off into the river)



Hokkaido, skewing trip
You ring the bell in hope of lasting relationships!



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