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Context to the nugget

B-school education can often be focused around picking up the “tool-kit” that makes students ready for the world of employment. Prakash talks about some of the non-academic elements that end up mattering so much in the long run.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): In your opinion, three things that they don't teach at B-school?

Prakash Iyer (PI): It's been a while since I left business school. But I'm guessing that they still don't really teach you enough, formally, around the whole area of being a better leader. I think, they teach you with a lot of tools what it takes to get it right for a business, to manage your business, but to be a leader, I think, they could do a lot more around helping people to be better leaders.

I'd love to see a course on failure in a B-school. I think, there's just too much of a premium placed on getting it right, on winning, on succeeding and not enough around making mistakes, not being good enough, being clumsy, trying and failing. I think, if they could teach us a little bit more of that. If the next batch of students coming out was a little better at it, I think, they'd be far more willing to take risks.

The third one, I think, is that I'd love to see business schools get a little bit more outside of the academic piece into, perhaps, a more health and wellness space. I think, the biggest challenge for many young people today and for their long-term success is their own health, is their own inability to keep pace. Therefore, learning to play a sport, learning to stay fit, learning to watch your weight, learning to have healthy habits, I think, can be a big differentiator. If you can say that your career is really going to be a marathon, just being able to stay the course, I think, is going to be an important one.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: If I juxtapose this point around health with the insight from Prakash earlier in the conversation about knowing how much enough is, the point around health is an interesting one. I see several leaders grappling with this. To get nerdy for a minute, if the leader needs X and can run comfortably at pace Y, I see several people getting 2X or 3X while running at a pace which is way beyond their levels of comfort. While that solves for the P&L, health is a balance sheet item and that does take a hit and shows up sometime or the other. Just ensuring that we don't treat health as a residual figure but as a variable we solve for is a good place to start possibly.

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End of nugget transcription

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About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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