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Context to the nugget

Roopa first talks about what she learnt at IIMA before she delves into what they don't teach there but should. She talks about the notion of first principles thinking that gets deeply ingrained during the time at IIMA. She goes on to talk about the criticality of work experience before pursuing an MBA.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): *What they don't teach at IIMA but should?*

Roopa Kudva (RK): It's a tough one, because I must say that I quite sure of how the IIM curriculum has evolved over 30 years now and it's a long time but I feel that there are a few things that IIM did personally for me, number one I think at some level it provided some tools and some framework but then those I could have picked up those things even elsewhere I presume, the most important thing for me at IIM was that it taught me how to think and it taught me how to think from first principles, being the product if you are a non IIT graduate the Indian education system doesn't teach you how to think at all its about knowing and memorising some facts and studying a few days before exam but I think IIM changed truly changed that for me so there is something that they did for where I was for a person with my background and my kind of exposure I think that made a very big difference and I think it also provided a platform for interacting with really truly outstanding and brilliant set of peers, who I would never have met elsewhere so I think there's a lot of focus on the questions about what IIM don't teach you and there's a lot of talk about how it's just one more screening layer to kind of narrow the funnel even more but I do think things like this and for me particularly some of this frameworks and learning how to think were very important and I think there's no enough talk about what IIM does teach you. I think when I look back I feel that with a little more work experience I would probably have appreciated and got more from the program then I did as a fresh graduate and as more and more people with work experience I joining the institutes today I think they probably be able to get more out of the course than I did in a lighter vein I think IIM teaches you to be a CEO to think about being CEO from day 1 and not enough and not about the journey of what it takes to get there.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: In my personal experience, I would have to say that given a choice, I would have liked to work for a bit before going into IIMA so that I could have appreciated some of the softer aspects of the course and have some real life experiences as a context to soak in the insights.

I also liked what Roopa says about IIMA preparing you for the top job but not for the journey. It is worth bearing in mind that rising in your career does require you to build a lot of muscles that don't really get built in a place like IIMA.

Thank you for listening. If you are new to the podcast and want to get a sense of the nature of content that is covered, you might want to go to YouTube and type "PlaytoPotential Highlights from 2017". I have tried to capture the key takeaways from my various conversations last year with leaders across disciplines. If you want to listen offline say during a car ride home or during airplane travel, you could also access the Podcast on iTunes, Stitcher, Saavn and several other podcast apps. Google has recently launched an app for podcast listening on Android platforms too. If you went to playtopotential.com, you would also have the opportunity to listen to multiple voices curated by a topic. Play lists topics include – Reinventing Self (which is about how people changed trajectories significantly), early formative years where leaders talk about how their childhood has influenced them profoundly, Insight on career paths (various professionals talk about the ups and downs of their career and how individuals should think about embarking on that path)

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End of nugget transcription

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Roopa Kudva - Nuggets

- 29.00 Roopa Kudva - The Full Conversation
- 29.01 Roopa Kudva - Omidyar Network and innovating for next Half Billion
- 29.02 Roopa Kudva - Early formative years
- 29.03 Roopa Kudva - Growing through the ranks at CRISIL
- 29.04 Roopa Kudva - Transitioning to a General Management role
- 29.05 Roopa Kudva - Choosing career direction post CRISIL
- 29.06 Roopa Kudva - Flexing leadership style at Omidyar Network
- 29.07 Roopa Kudva - Developing a sense of judgment
- 29.08 Roopa Kudva - Women Leadership - The barrier that doesn't get spoken about as much
- 29.09 Roopa Kudva - Perspectives on Success
- 29.10 Roopa Kudva - What they don't teach you at IIMA but should
- 29.11 Roopa Kudva - In summary - Playing to Potential

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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