Week 8 Journal: Respect as an XP Value

-Rushikesh Pawar

This has been a fantastic journey so far! Working with an enthusiastic team for more than 2 months is such an enriching experience. Moreover, learning XP values with this team and following them religiously throughout the project development has taught all of us a lot about teamwork, friendship, companionship and being helpful human beings! This was made possible by following one of the crucial XP values among others- Respect!  
Respect is something that should come from within. There’s a saying “Give Respect, Take Respect”. Which interprets as- in order to receive respect from others, you must know how to respect others first. This holds very true, especially if you’re working with a team, where opinions of the team members might be conflicting some times. What matters, is how gracefully and respectfully you resolve these conflicts, without hurting other team members’ sentiments and ego.  
True leaders are those who know how to handle the egos of their colleagues and deputies. This being a team project where all the members are working at the same level, this becomes more important. Thankfully, our team had good rapport and understanding between each other so this was never a problem.

Apart from project, we worked together in 2 hackathons, which demanded a very high level of coordination among team members. Though we couldn’t complete the tasks in given limited time frame, we were satisfied by the way we coordinated with each other and supported each other. Also, brainstorming in such crucial situations gets even more stimulating which makes the entire process rather enjoyable.

Working with this team has taught me many things about software development process, XP values, coordination, communication, honoring and applauding the efforts of fellow teammates and most significantly-the teamwork! When I look back at it now, I believe ‘Respect’ for fellow team members was the bedrock of all this—the foundation on which this team project was built. This project has not only given us all handy experience but it has also given us friendship based on appreciation for our work, honor and mutual respect for the things we do.

After more than 2 months now, I believe the real objective of this project—to teach us values crucial to be a good software engineer, has been achieved. I hope I get to work on many such projects in days to come, which will help me grow as an engineer, a programmer, a leader and most importantly—as an individual!

To summarize it all in one sentence—Respect for others is the key and the foundation for every software development process; as well as everything else where individuals come together to work as team!