DAY ONE @ SURFBOARD PAYMENTS as an INTERN

INTRODUCTION:

It was my first day at Surfboard Payments. I was excited because it was my first company in my career. I was nervous about whether I made the right decision by choosing Surfboard, but when I saw the session, I thought this would be the right place. There were around 17 interns who joined me and MR. Koushik started the session. We introduced ourselves, and he started the session about the skillset. He asked us what is your hobby or anything you like to do. everyone said their hobby. i mentioned playing keyboard is my hobby, others said gardening, reading manga, playing cricket, driving, etc.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SKILL GROWTH:

He took the example of Virat Kohli. Virat Kohli is strong in Batting not in bowling or wicketkeeping but he is very good at batting. he represented his skill in a vertical bar graph and he took another example Ravichandran Ashwin. he is good at Bowling Batting And even he is good at playing chess. so he made a horizontal bar to represent his skills. he knows various skills but he is not pro at it. he mentioned another example who is super good at one skill and knows some other skills but not so pro at it. he represented in a T-shaped bar graph and he asked which is a good way. everyone said T-shaped bar graph but he said there is another type which is V shaped bar graph. you are learning a skill from that skill you are learning 2 more skills related to that from the two skills you are learning five more skills related to that and keeps on growing. He represented it in a V-shaped bar graph and he took the example of Captain MS Dhoni. Dhoni is very good at wicketkeeping, From that he developed his batting skills and fielding skills from that he developed his captaincy skills, decision-making, pressure handling, and so on.

VARIOUS SKILLS:

He asked us to name a skill and he would write it on the board, we had to tell till the board was full. everyone started to say some skills. It kept on going for more than 10 minutes and somehow we finished the board. He asked us to rate which is an easier skill and which is more complex. we said some skills he asked us why it was more complex and we explained it. After that, he asked what are all the skills needed for programming or coding. we said problem-solving, decision making and we don't know after that and he said there are some basic skills for that and he wrote learning, writing, reading. these are the basic skills that we are gonna train you in this internship.

BASICS OF PROBLEM-SOLVING:

He started with problem-solving and questioned us about what is problem-solving. everyone said something but he didn't look convinced and he said solving our day-to-day problems is problem solving. be it in programming or anything we need problem-solving skills. He asked how to solve a problem and came up with a question. let's say if your car silencer has some issues i.e. smoke is coming out of it, what will you do? we said to change the engine oil, buy an electric car, go to a mechanic shop and he said to see DIY videos to fix it ourselves or change the car or sell the car. from these options, he asked us to pick the best solution and everyone picked the third option. he said there is two types of solving it. one is by avoiding the problem like buying a new car or selling the car and another one is looking into the problem like going to the mechanic shop or checking the engine oil. so for problem-solving skill, the first thing to do is don't avoid the problem. it was the best example.

SOLVING A LOGICAL PROBLEM:

The second step in problem-solving is Understanding the problem. He asked us about a farmer and fox story and we honestly don't know he gave us a small problem. there is a river on one side a farmer is there with the rice bag, goose, and fox. they need to cross the river with the boat with some conditions. only two can travel in the boat at one time. if he crosses the river with the rice bag then the fox will eat the goose and if he crosses the river with the fox then the goose will eat the rice bag. these are the conditions he gave us and asked us to solve them on paper and gave us five minutes. I started to draw the river and checked for all possibilities which came down to only one possibility which is the farmer needs to take the goose with him to cross the river pick the fox with him take the goose from the other side and leave the fox there. and now leave the goose and take the rice bag with him and keep the rice bag on the other side now again he picks the goose and leaves it on the other side. he asked us how we solved the problem, we said by checking all the possibilities and he said the third step for problem-solving is the constraints of that problem. we had a small break.

SESSION WITH THE FOUNDERS:

After the break, we met Mr. Abraham who is the founder of Surfboard Payments, and Mr. Askin(manager of Surfboard Payments India). Abraham gave an introduction and said that probably we will be the last batch as interns and asked us what would be the reason. we said due to more engineering graduates he said no. One boy said AI and he said correct and added that AI will take over the software jobs in the future. it may or may not affect the senior software engineers but it will affect the junior software engineers. we were very shocked and he took a photo and he left. Askin sir came and said to use this internship because it will shape your career in a good way. It was lunch break, we had good food.

IMPORTANCE OF KEY SKILLS:

After Lunch break, Koushik sir gave us a sheet that had various skills in it and asked us to write our top five skills. After a few minutes, Abraham sir came and he saw our skills and asked us to redo it and rate it on a scale of 1-5 because we all wrote learning as our top skill and asked us to redo it. He was busy with a meeting and he came and asked us about the skill we wrote. He asked to say the skills needed for a software engineer. we said Learning, reading, writing, researching/googling, and problem-solving. he asked us now that AI has replaced the software jobs from these lists which has more value and which has less value. we said it wrongly. he explained it one by one, learning, researching/googling have less value than reading, writing, and problem-solving remains same. he added one more skill which is speaking and said it is very important. he concluded it by making us proficient in these skills by the end of the internship.Koushik sir asked us to buy a book called EXTREME OWNERSHIP by Jaco Williams, at the end of the inetrnship we need to finish the book and write a summary of the book. he ended the session.