

# HONDA

**Question: "One of Honda's core ideologies is "Think not about what might happen but about what you want to do." Given this kind of corporate culture prioritizing individuals what kind of previous experience comes to your mind, could you explain in your own words? (As an example of previous experience: the situation, your capacity of involvement, your responses, and the results )"**

"Believe in yourself even when no one else does."

This particular quote resonates in my family. My father, an engineer, was handed over the responsibility and had been instrumental in setting up a factory (Indo-Asahi Glass Factory) in Kolkata, my hometown, in collaboration with his Japanese counterparts even though he lacked seniority. My elder brother came back from a 2-year gap in his academics to make it to one of the Ivy league colleges in US. These examples have solidified my confidence and made me realize the importance of having belief in oneself and thriving for what you believe in, if that is what the heart desires.

I have always been given the freedom to make choices for myself, but I have also been taught the necessity of owning them. Ownership is imperative to decision making, and I believe this translates to the corporate sector as well. During the course of my internship last summer, I was working with a co-intern on a project having deliverables on a fixed date. Our manager had suggested a solution, but always gave us the leeway of brainstorming and putting our own ideas into effect. We had chosen to experiment with an idea which all of us were confident about - we took ownership. And we succeeded. Had we been sceptical and proceeded with the suggested method only, we might have missed out on the better way out. However, in case our experiment backfired, we had to take ownership of the mistake, and make amends for it. But this should never act as a deterrent towards incorporating innovative ideas into a preconceived framework.

Having a free space to experiment with ideas is what drives innovation, and that is why Honda is at the forefront of innovation.

**Question: "What would you contribute in the next 3-5 years to Honda and thereby its future customers? What do you think Honda (especially the team you are hired by) should do to help you in achieving these goals? "**

"Nobody who ever gave their best regretted it."

Honda is a firm of high ethos and values, and to uphold them is our responsibility. But when it comes to value addition at a personal level, I, as a member of the Honda family, would thrive towards pushing my boundaries of research and innovation and bring my best to the table.

After completing my undergraduate in Statistics, I joined IEOR at IIT Bombay to learn from the best, with the best. Here, I was introduced to the world of machine learning, deep learning and optimization - each of them being immensely captivating. I have always tried to dig deeper into the subject, breaking down the algorithms taught and understanding their functioning bottom-up. The underlying mathematics of these algorithms are often labelled as "overwhelming", but being from a quantitative discipline has always helped me grasp the foundational mathematics well. Working in diverse projects, a few of them being online learning in communication networks, natural language processing in context of my native language, optimization of existing neural architecture using pruning strategy, has helped with greater adaptability and perspective. I believe I will be able to put these learnings to use at Honda on the real-world challenges undertaken by the corporation.

In the journey towards innovation, it is imperative to ask the right questions - and even more important to seek their answers. With the right questions being asked, it is apparent that Honda will witness new breakthroughs. In the process, I hope to gain the relevant expertise from the experienced researchers and fellow peers in the team and beyond, and improve myself each day at Honda. In time, I hope to be on the other side of this table and give back what I am privileged to gain today.

Arigato gozaimasu!