**Anukul:**

Looking into the past, the most stressful decision that I had to make was the decision of coming to Graduate School in the year 2014.

Before joining the graduate school, I was working in an Indian IT firm as a senior system engineer and my career was flourishing. Coming to graduate school would have meant taking a step back and redefining my career starting from the scratch. The choice that I had to make was, Do I want to stay and carry on with an already flourishing career line or do I dare to start it from scratch again, asking my father to invest about 300-400K amount (Indian Currency) on me, derailing everything in life, plans to settle down at 28  just to fulfil a dream of learning a little bit more.

To make the choice even harder for me, my manager came to me one day after I told him about my plans of pursing higher education and leaving the company, that how serious I was for higher education as the visa was expiring (6 year period of H1B) for my team's onsite (one person from each team working on client location in the US) counterpart, and they would like to send me in place of her.

I would be coming to the US anyways and did not have to worry about finances, settling down or moving forward towards a comfortable life.

I talked to my family and friends about it and with each new person came to a new opinion, some one said don't go it's too late now as you have already invested a lot of time in this career line, it's best to just stay with it. Some said it's ok and every thing will work itself out as soon as you come. That was a very stressful decision, but at the end, I just depended on my gut feeling and went for Graduate school.

The result whether I made the right call or not is still to come, I learned a lot in past two years and dream of achieving a higher education is ticked but seeing how much I struggled in maintaining the minimum requirements for graduation and extending over summer just to complete my requirements, I wonder if I had made the right call.

**Sreyasi:**

Looking into the past, the most stressful decision that I had to make was the decision of coming to Graduate School in the year 2014.

Before joining the grad school, I worked in an Indian IT firm as a senior system engineer and my career had been flourishing. But coming to graduate school meant taking a step back and redefining my career right from the scratch. The choice that I had to make was whether I wish to stay and continue with my already flourishing career line or I dare taking a step to redefine it. It isn't just about that. There are other considerations that I had to consider. For instance, I was moving from earning stage to spending stage. Asking my parents to support me financially, derailing everything in life, plans to settle down at 28 and everything was stake with one decision of mine. However, I wanted to learn more but my choices were not just restricted to financial constraints. One morning, my manager called me after I told him about my higher education plans. He said that the company wants to send me for an onsite project to the US as one of my colleague's VISA was about time to expire. That meant I would be coming to the US,  and did not have to worry about finances, settling down or moving forward towards a comfortable life.

I talked with my family and friends regarding my situation and all my conversations lead to acquainting new opinions and suggestions anew. Some suggested it was quite late for me to pursue my Masters after having a fruitful career. On the other hand, few asked me to go with the idea of grad school. But that was the moment where my dilemma was at the peak and an immediate decision has to be made. It had been the most stressful decision. Although, I realized what I want truly is, a proper global canopy to enhance my learning knowledge to define a better career. And here I am at Clemson, pursuing my MS.

The outcome of my decision is yet to be revealed. All I can say is, grad school taught me beautiful lessons, and I am really happy to gain knowledge.

My dream of achieving higher education marked done on my list. However, some hurdles make me wonder if I had made the right choice as transforming from a work environment to classroom environments had been a little harder.