**Academic journey from class topper to the University topper and beyond..**

My strong belief to embark the journey towards education for the life time started early during school days and firmly held up with being intrinsically connected with strong academic family background. With the drive to excel and continued passion right from first year of schooling and the undaunting support from parents has led me to success all through out.

The journey continued to top all levels of academics which grew stronger as times goes by and acquired knowledge in various areas subsequently becoming the topper of the university and graduated with majors including Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Sciences as specialization scoring above 90% percentile. With the interest on developing smart solutions, pursued post graduate studies Master of Computer Applications (MCA) from the reputed Osmania University with an aggregate of 78%. The key take-away being part of University determined the core innate nature as good team player which driven me to assist fellow students eventually led to lead them in academic wise which was unanimously acknowledged by all. The core belief system of growing as team and working together for success continuously been enhanced keeping predominantly the long-term goals perspective. All this progress and key values of working together untapped specific interest into management studies so the dynamics can be better understood, and natural lead can be ascertained and thus developed to pursue MBA. The institution not only transformed me to better at managing self and look ahead perspective however it also provided the opportunity to grab the offer from reputed firm (Visual Soft Technologies Ltd.) and professors persistence to accept the offer has eventually turned out to be timely help. The campus placement provided the platform to learn the organization structures well and then chose the right stream for further studies based on the experiences and evolved interests continued. The journey as a developer/computer application professional kicked-off in the year 2004 and it led me to Robotics delivery lead at JPMorgan Chase & Co with strong 15 years of software development and delivery expertise with many aspects of management, technology expertise, business process analysis and leadership in nutshell.

**Career Progression…**

VisualSoft Technologies being my first company to start the career in the year 2004, transitioned from being a college graduate to a software professional, have acquired deeper knowledge on applications development using Microsoft .Net, various frameworks, organizational structure, different variety of etiquettes and work-life experiences in parallel honing principles and improving the knowledge on values, integrity and being a valued individual. Later, moved on to Infosys during year 2007 as a Technology Analyst role at Infosys, the company known for its highest importance to values and ethics naturally connected me with the deeply held values and instantly fell in love with the company held belief system. The opportunities at Infosys have added a lot to the perspective on leadership where it enhanced the skill as a project lead for global deliverables and coordinated many other organization-level activities. The company provided the opportunity on learning front which includes various technological and domain specifics to enhance knowledge and be consistent with industries ever changing adaptive situation. Being good at mentoring and liaison skills, it helped to bridge the gaps generally exists between development teams and senior leadership to resolve the sensitive problems thus further honing up inter-personal skills and it continued the entire tenure until 2011.

Later, there have been several cross-cultural experiences with direct and virtual interactions while working with vast group of stakeholders. Genpact and Polaris Consultancies / HSBC have provided me an opportunity to connect with diverse stakeholders across the globe at all levels varying from a process SME to directors and vertical heads delivering varied technological solutions. The stakeholders were located in wide geography, starting from East including Australia to APAC countries like China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong to name few to EMEA including London/UK/Germany/ Austria, UAE to West including USA, Canada, LATAM and South Africa is no exception in the big list too. All the work assignments throughout have given an opportunity to learn and deliver solutions across domains like Retail, Logistics, Manufacturing (Energy), Banking and Finance industries. The process, terminology and standards differ from industry to industry.

Along the path, have acquired the trade-off of business to business, delivery models and leadership values. All this has further led me to another level up into the management and instilled continued interest to pursue studies. With an immediate effect, have enrolled for a certificate course on Entrepreneurship where it gave a perspective on how the entrepreneurship can be perceived as a mindset instead of just as a career path. It helped significantly to practice and implement knowledge gained along with training on diverse types of technologies across all the industries domain, software delivery methodologies, frameworks and process improvisation techniques.

Being an excel and achiever in learning, it has helped in obtaining various certification like Certified Scrum Master (CSM), Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt and Entrepreneurship Development to my credit along with some rewards and recognition from the organizations like Star Employee, Best Delivery, Excellence awards for Innovation, SPOT awards and a good number of appreciations from client base.

After spending overall 15years, donning multiple roles in the software journey which was very satisfying and knowledgeable including so many aspects like project management, stakeholder management, leading teams and programs, still the dream to see into an executive / leadership position, which being the primary driver that led me to research for good business schools and that in turn looked towards Trent University / Windsor University, big thanks to my contacts and Google! Participation in the recent [Trent: Open House / Windsor: interaction with South Asia student advisor] has given me good view on how the university’s Master of Management course can accelerate my career progression by variety of program modules like [Trent: strategy management, Marketing, Organizational Effectiveness, Legal Risk and Leadership in Organizations etc.][Windsor: Marketing, Finance / Accounting Techniques, Strategy management and Quantitative studies / Analytics for business decisions] with an understanding of larger social issues facing business and organizations in today's changing environment. The diverse student base can definitely be a good value added to prior proven cross-cultural experience with an additional competitive collaboration edge to acquire the much-needed perspective to pursue more knowledge on several management concepts and upbeat on moving into definite placement with an intent to celebrated leader in the market considering the great demand for diverse leadership across the industries.

Submitted By: RajyaLakshmi Kotamraju

Desired Course of Admission: Master of Management