

My journey of self-discovery started at an early age since after the death of my father when I was 14. My father always taught me that there are two types of people in the world: Givers and Takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. So, I denied being the taker thus took the responsibility of my family on my own, being the eldest child and decided being the giver by making commitment to serve the humanity. I acquired a position in KARACHI WRITERS CLUB, an NGO as I have good writing skills and wrote for my country for its development. Writing for my country made me think about its development and when we say a country is developing which means a major part is with infrastructure development, stepping towards smarter cities, implementation of green environment and many more. Since my childhood, I realized the infrastructure of my whole country was creaking under the strain of overpopulation, gross mismanagement, and sudden climatic changes. These challenges fostered the need for new and efficient techniques which should be in accordance with modern architectural requirements. Thus, to contribute to the design of efficient infrastructure I got admitted into Civil Engineering.

We live in the kind of society where, in almost all cases, hard work is rewarded. I received scholarship in the very first year of my BACHELORS on basis of my merit. Throughout my university life, I have always strived for a balanced life, maintaining academic and extracurricular activities by scoring 3.75/4 CGPA and being the member of ACI student chapter and different societies along with supporting my family as a writer. My classmates turned to me for their academic difficulties, especially at the end of semester near exams. In due time I realized I had both friends and followers throughout my academic life. My colleagues at the club appreciated me a lot as I was the only girl in the whole vicinity of the club, who was working along with studying, but that never hitched my learning process. However, during my summer breaks, I tried to attain various certification courses, doing community work, and opted to visit diverse industries, such as NESPAK (Pvt.) Ltd and Paragon Constructors Pvt. Ltd for internship purposes and to execute projects. These are the top consulting and construction industries, and I was selected there based on merit. I always believed that courage is not trying to be what you are not but instead it is about realizing your full potential being what you are and honestly this sublime exposure to the actual industrial world made me

technically stronger and a braver person. In this way, I succeeded in becoming an inspiration for all my classmates by attaining 5th position out of 216 in the whole department.

Experiences that I gained from these exposures helped me later in life, while searching for job. They eventually became the secret of my success because I was one of the few people who got hired by reputed companies within a few weeks after graduation. I worked as a Structural Engineer in a private consultancy company, namely “A. A. ASSOCIATES PLANNERS AND CONSULTANTS.” Our key focus is on Sustainable Construction, Engineering and Knowledge management. I learned a lot by working and designing various typical projects. Later, I worked as a researcher at NED UNIVERSITY to gain some research experience in my field. Currently, I am working in a self-directed firm where my role is not limited to office but to site visits as well.

But all these academic and professional achievements were not enough to satisfy me. I have a deep-rooted desire to work for the community. Concerning this, I did various voluntary works held by different sectors and societies of MINHAJ YOUTH LEAGUE, as the league focuses a lot on the betterment of society. I have worked in army camps, to pack food for flood and earthquake victims back in 2010, raised funds for the IDPS and for the flood affectees of Nowshera and Muzaffargarh, admitted and looked after many orphans in AGHOSH (a unique orphan care home), organized various workshops at The MEDIANS AND MEDIATORS ACADEMY (a school of media sciences). Currently, I am conducting a door-to-door campaign as a peace worker to end terrorism in my beloved country Pakistan. I like to inspire people towards positivity, and that is what actually makes me happy.

Now, I want to broaden my horizon by devoting myself to the more global problems therefore pursuing my masters in “GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES (by research)”. While writing a research paper for ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK for the best paper competition on key development challenges in Asia, I came to know that the biggest problem is tackling climate change as the region is currently producing a half of the global greenhouse gas emissions. This is not only a grave concern for ASIA but for the world which is a victim of global warming primarily due to Asia. That encouraged me to find solutions

for my region and for the world. Experts have said that much of the global effort to fight climate change is dependent on Asia cutting down its carbon emissions. As this would be a collective effort by all the stakeholders in the carbon generating sectors, I can make an effort by decarbonizing ASIA through construction sector. I have a well-meaning experience in engineering and construction sector and reducing carbon emissions in buildings will be critical to achieving the Paris climate goals and achieving net zero emissions by 2050. By decarbonizing Asia through my sector of construction I can come up with the solution to the global challenge of climate change. To do this, Asia must decarbonize the whole life cycle of built assets- building and infrastructure, according to World Green Building council. Therefore, I chose Building for the future as my research project which is about designing the future house, based on the existing and perhaps not yet- novel technology which should be introduced. It could be novel building material (made locally), novel energy storage and natural ventilation for human comfort, reactive lighting, and exterior paint with varying emissivity, depending on the needs (reflective or deflective). After learning these techniques my next research would be on implementing those techniques in Asia. Hence, utilizing my previous knowledge and experience for the benefit of my country, my region, and the world.

Studying abroad will make me see the world from a wider horizon and new perspective. This will enable me to become a better human and help others in need. However, fully funded scholarships will inspire me to do much more for instance, BRISTOL THINK BIG SCHOLARSHIP and GREAT SCHOLARSHIP by British council for developing countries evokes my interest in studying UK that offers me to pursue my education abroad without any financial hurdles. This led me to the doorsteps of BRISTOL UNIVERSITY. Through this scholarship, I will continue to have a thirst for knowledge needed to give back to my community, to help others, and most importantly to prove that what really matters is not where one comes from, but where ones heading to. It is believed that “Education is for all, finance does not matter”. Sadly, I have seen financial hurdles, but my country appreciates and supports merit and I expect the same from the countries across the globe. So, I will work hard to make the most out of this chosen carrier path – in the most Challenging sector, and I intend to continue doing so in the future.