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Context to the nugget

Neera talks about how her early years in a Boarding school in Bangalore (while her parents were in Canada) shaped her as a person and gave her a grounded understanding of India despite her parents immigrating to Canada after graduating from IIT Kharagpur.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): If you went back in time are there two three things that stand out which still forms a core part of who you are?

Neera Nundy (NN): I was ten years old when my parents sent me to boarding school to India so I was born in West in Canada and my parents immigrated both of them went to IIT Kharagpur and my mom was the first woman electrical engineer from IIT Kharagpur so they all went through the brain drain to Canada so we sort of grew up their like regular Indian family and at the age of 10 my parents sent me to boarding school with this with this whole understanding that I would learn about my country and my culture and be more of the balanced person is what they told me. In retrospect not that I have kids around the same age I realized, so great to just to send kids after boarding school cause you can learn and be disciplined and its easier for parents in some ways, it was in Bangalore, called Bishop Cotton girl's school and my mom really just chose because the weather was nice in Bangalore, but I think that really shaped me in a number of different ways. I think when you are 10 and you are sent off to school there is an element of like being independent but you start to form relationships and you start to realize how important who you are with influences you and at school I was very privilege to the extent, I was one of the few folk who came all the way from Canada and so I couldn't go home that often and so my matron there would always kind of make me feel very special and I felt very spoiled and at times I think I took advantage of my position cause I bring like bubble gum and stuff tuck and I would trade my gum for like Chana or Banana Chips and it was never sort of fare amounts but I think that experience really shaped me in terms of being more comfortable with myself, with where I am coming from and I think also just the sense of discipline and routine and I think what boarding schools end up shaping people, you don't realize at the time but in retrospect I think that was probably, one of the important moments, if we are still on a 10 15 years so I most of for those years went to all-girls school, so when I came back to Canada I went to all-girls school, I think it helped me, I mean I complaint all the time but it helped me because and now that I even look at research for single sex education for girls I think girl start to opt out in the caveat format from math and science and I think, oh I didn't have she has an option so my parents were like you are studying math and science and I was like but what about Art and Drama and liberal arts? And they were like no you don't get jobs with that, so my sister and I basically studied science and I think that was helpful to be in a sort of protective environment in those years and then some way that shaped me in some way that when you go after college you just a lot more confident.

DJ: Given you had children around that sort of stage do you think about it any differently?

NN: So I married to someone who didn't go to boarding school, so I think what happens in that by the way the one who didn't go to boarding school usually wins because you really don't want to send your kids away I think they are very fulfilling to being together I don't think it's an easy decision and so I didn't fight that battle.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The key take-away for me here was the point around the independence that Neera got at a young age. In a world with abundance of choices and multiple forks in the road ahead, fostering independence of thinking and helping them build relationships with the ecosystem around them, I guess, is a meta-skill that we need to be thinking about as we raise our children.

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End of nugget transcription

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About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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