

Siddhartha Garikapati

Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) 2018-2020

Gold Medallist – 1st Rank Holder

Siddhartha secured the Director's Merit List award, presented to the top 10% of the class. He was selected for the Booth School of Business, University of Chicago, for the term exchange program. He participated in the Global Network for Advanced Management programs: Managing across Cultures, Inclusive Business Models & Social Entrepreneurship. Siddhartha represented IIMB in the meet with the group from London School of Economics (LSE). He was promoted to Director, Program Management Office at Herbalife Nutrition in October 2019. He also embraced learning through various experiential programs – he trekked Kedarkantha Mountain at 12500 feet as part of the Himalayan Mountain Challenge expedition, and attended the Deekshana, a cultural immersion program at Mahagami Gurukul – Aurangabad.

For Siddhartha, the PGPEM at IIMB has been a life-changing learning experience. "Having worked in MNCs over the last 15 years in various capacities, I had a lot of learning around Product Development, Product Management, Staff and Portfolio Management. This journey has taught me valuable practical lessons in self-organization, technical and staff management. However, there were several aspects around Strategic Leadership, Organization/People Development, Corporate Governance and Operations Management that I wanted to learn and practice to improve self. Hence, I embarked upon this beautiful and valuable journey to be a better self."

According to the 37-year old, balancing one's career, personal life and the coursework is an achievement in itself and highlights the true potential of each of the individuals in class. "Correlating to the concept of learning taught by one of our professors, my learning at IIM Bangalore comprised three major processes – *knowing*, *doing* and *being*.

The Knowing – I have gathered a good understanding of the principles from various disciplines – from the basics of organizational design to the core message of Bhagavad Gita, from the supply-demand curves in Microeconomics to the world of Global Financial Markets, from the 5-forces in strategy to the 5-biases in decision making, and many more. The discussions in the classrooms, interactions with world-class faculty, the rigorous coursework with never-ending case studies and projects/presentations challenged our limits. However, this whole process increased my learning exponentially!

- The ***Global Network for Advanced Management*** programs helped me connect with individuals from various countries, from diverse cultures and backgrounds. In addition, I was truly excited about the learnings from my interactions with the Social Entrepreneurs in India.

The Doing – When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change. I have experienced this when I extended my horizons by doing/participating in several interesting activities.

- **Himalayan Mountain Challenge** (HMC) – a trekking expedition to Kedarkantha Mountain at 12500 feet – taught me life skills, leadership skills, team skills, humane skills and lastly, environment skills.
- **Deekshana**, a cultural immersion program, provided me an opportunity to understand and respect our Indian heritage and culture.
- The beauty of the PGPEM is the design of the programme itself - we can practice the learnings at work, or discuss our learnings with our friends/faculty, thereby improving our leadership abilities.

The Being – I went through un-learning and learning phases and found opportunities to use my learnings.

It is said that *“Knowing others is intelligence, knowing self is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength, mastering self is true power”*. I can confidently say that all the learnings through the knowing and doing ultimately led me to be a better being (self) - *a proud PGPEM-er and an equally proud IIMB alumnus!*”

Sharing his future plans and dreams, he says he wants to slow down in life and enjoy the present. “The experience at IIMB reignited my quest for learning in pursuit of excellence and fulfilment. Dreaming big, I hope to be an authentic leader driving Organizational Strategy of large organizations or social enterprises and find joy by practicing sustainable living standards.”

Siddhartha comes from a middle-class family from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh and has been staying in Bangalore for the past 15 years. “My parents, and my family, in specific my uncle, have always taught me to dream big and make the most out of the resources we have. I am happily married for seven years and am blessed with two lovely boys, my stress busters! My wife, an engineer by qualification and profession – a true Master in Life Administration, and my brother, who lives in US with his family, have been my support system over the years, motivating me to pursue my dreams.”

Siddhartha was a recipient of the Director’s Merit List scholarship of INR 1 lakh in each of the years over the duration of his course, for which he says he feels very thankful to the institute.