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My First Job: Rohit Kapoor, Executive Director and COO, EFS Facilities Services (India) Pvt Ltd

TimesJobs.com 0 Jul 19, 2017, 11.21 AM

5-6 minutes



Job experiences teach you many things beyond polishing your skill-

sets. These learnings tend to be your guidelines for the coming times in personal and professional life.

*The **'My First Job'** captures this essence from the industry leaders. Here is an account from **Rohit Kapoor, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, EFS Facilities Services (India) Pvt Ltd.***

'My First Job was': I started my career as an Accounts officer at Ericsson Communications. It was a great learning experience and empowered me to pursue my career with prominent Fortune 500 multinational firms such as American Express, Coca Cola, and EFS.

My experience:

My work has seen me travel extensively through the length and breadth of India, Middle East, and Europe. Opening and exploring the horizons is an enriching experience as we appreciate just how vast, complicated, and inter-connected our world has become.

I consider myself lucky for having a career which has been very enriching and full of learning opportunities around the world. I've benefitted from the wisdom and guidance of selfless colleagues, peers and mentors, who nurtured and guided me over the years. I've realised that every colleague is a treasure trove of knowledge and information, and we can learn something from almost everyone, as long as we're willing to listen.

Also, it is essential to move out and interact with people from various walks in life, embrace the different cultures, sensibilities, and find the common unity in diversity.

Things I learnt:

- One should not rest on their laurels. Instead, one should always strive for something outside our comfort zone - Power of failure. It's

the best way to learn. We must remember to learn from our mistakes, and not repeat them - Take risks and be ready to persevere - Remain humble and learn from achievers in various fields - Never stop learning

Skills I Acquired:

- Judgement and decision making - People Management - Time Management - Active listening

My Manager's Teaching:

- The Power of Perseverance - The magic of Teamwork - Respect for seniors, peers and subordinates - Swear by trust and personal integrity, above all else

My Journey So Far:

I started my career as a core Finance expert, and worked hard to earn my qualifications as Company Secretary and Chartered Accountant. My exposure to multinational corporate cultures inspired me to pursue avenues in core business operations. Every stint and job I've served helped me hone my business fundamentals, leadership acumen, and helped me climb the career ladder, with the support and guidance of generous and patient managers, who served as my teachers.

The EFS board entrusted me to lead EFS' South Asian subsidiaries in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. I now oversee growth of the company's business and portfolio through acquisition and new business ventures, and bear the responsibility of managing the growth and success of a family that is more than 4500 members strong.

Turning Point in my Career:

I had started my career with a reputed Audit firm based out of New

Delhi. The life and learning in the Audit Firm enabled and enhanced my knowledge in the Audit and Risk & accounting functions. Armed with the experience, I continued to take on more responsibilities in global finance and audit functions for 16 years before I was entrusted with leading the acquisition of a Facilities Management firm in India and thereafter lead and grow the company. That marked a major turning point in my career, as I began my stint leading EFS South Asia.

My most crucial step/assignment:

I would say my relocation to India from UAE, to lead EFS South Asia.

My Advice:

There is no substitute for hard work. Also, never lose your dignity and never compromise on your integrity.

Where I see myself 5 years from here: Life is too unpredictable to gaze that far ahead into the future. I like to deal with each day as it presents itself to me.

On a personal level, I would like to grow as a person and as a leader.

Professionally, my ambition is to see EFS South Asia grow 5 times of its current size, and I'm sure that with our skilled and motivated talent, as well as our rich experience, we're well on our way to realise our ambition.

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