Why are female engineers needed?

The sheer magic of creating something new, designing and exploring things have always fascinated me. My parents had sown the seeds of curiosity as well as love for learning in me from an early age. I guess Engineering was in my blood, my dad is an engineer, his views and perspectives have shaped my thinking in a big way. Therefore, though I began my career in dentistry, gradually, I started exploring the field of engineering to find answers to many of the burning questions I was facing in the medical field.

What inspired you to become an engineer?

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What's your top tip for girls considering engineering?

Believe in yourself and follow your passion. Do not lose hope even in the most adverse situation, not everything goes right in the first attempt, so it is very important not to give up. Try exploring new horizons and this field will amaze you with its prospects.

Have you faced any gender-related challenges?

 Fortunately, I have never experienced such issues. I was never treated as an alien in this field. Rather, as a woman I have always got support and encouragement at all fronts in my career.

How did you start your career in engineering?

My journey towards engineering was rather unusual. The transition of career from medical field (dentistry) to engineering was exciting and fulfilling.

As a clinician I was able to provide relief to only immediate pain but I believe with engineering I would be able to find long term solutions to the problems.

I wanted to approach the medical problems with an engineer’s eye and to engineer solution with a clinical expertise.

Hence, Master of Technology in Nanomedical Science was my first step towards engineering, followed by a PhD in Bioengineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in India.

What attributes/skills do you think help you in your role?

Critical thinking, perseverance and hard work are the key skills required in every field and I think my case is no different.

What is the best thing about your job?

I get to experience new challenges every day. Understanding new concepts and learning state of the art techniques help me in exploring different aspects of my work. It gives me immense joy when my ideas come into life.

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Why should young women choose engineering as a career?

I guess the world is changing and women are doing well in every field. Moreover, engineering is a fascinating field. It gives a platform to be creative and bring into fruition innovative solutions to challenging problems which could impact society.

Contrary to what people think, being a woman is never a barrier to grow and excel in this field. Instead, I believe women bring diversity and different perspective which could improve work substantially.

What has been your proudest moment or highest achievement?

Coming from a medical background, a PhD from the best engineering college in my country and now at Oxford working in the Department of Engineering Science, the best in the world, is a great accomplishment for me.

I am blessed to have experienced both the different worlds, medicine as well as engineering, and had a few good moments such as obtaining the G.V. Memorial prize for outstanding doctoral student, an Endeavour Cheung Kong research leadership Award from Government of Australia, etc.

But I believe the best is yet to come.

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