

MLK Design Seminar
17.922 IAP13
Assignment 3 – Autobiography

I was born in Bangladesh. My mom was an Economics teacher and my dad was a Research Scientist at an Agricultural University. I don't remember too much about my life in Bangladesh because I lived there for the first 5 or 6 years of my life. However, I do recall that I went to preschool there and unfortunately my grandfather passed away while I was still living in Bangladesh. When I turned 5 (or 6) my family and I moved to the Aberdeen, Scotland because my dad was accepted into a PhD program at the University of Aberdeen.

I saw snow for the first time in Scotland. My sister and I were both enrolled in "primary" school there (primary school is the Scottish name for Elementary school). Scotland is a beautiful country littered with medieval castles, water falls, gardens,...etc. However, the schooling system in Scotland (at least at the primary level) isn't so great as the standards for the students are very low. The education I received in Bangladesh actually helped me breeze through primary school in Scotland. In any case, I made many friends in Scotland which is not necessarily a good thing because some of my friends were "bad" and their actions greatly influenced mine. However, before I turned to the dark side, my dad completed his PhD and landed a job at the U.S. Department of Defense (New York Office).

I came to the U.S. (at this time I was around 12 years old) and enrolled in 6th grade in Brooklyn, New York. I still remember the first day of class and how all of the students and the teachers were amazed at my Scottish accent. New York public schools were definitely a cultural shock to me because the school contained so many different races (Scottish schools were predominantly white). Junior high school was actually a rough transition to me personally and academically. Academically, I was behind the rest of the students because of the low standard Scottish educational system. Personally, I had a hard time fitting in with the kids. I had quarrels with one student in particular, Imran. However, Imran is now one of my very best friends. In any case, eventually I managed to do well both academically and personally and after 8th grade, I went to James Madison High School (Brooklyn, NY).

High school was fun now that I look back at it. Like you, I was also involved in sports, clubs, science fairs, various competitions,...etc. I managed to do all of this while still maintaining good grades (as did you). During junior year, I got accepted into the MIT MITES program. MITES is a summer program for rising high school seniors. I got a taste of MIT during MITES and met many great people. I enjoyed my time in the program, so much so that I decided to apply to MIT and was accepted in the fall. I was very excited about coming to MIT and starting a new chapter in my life. I'm now a senior at MIT. The past 3.5 years has been bitter sweet. It's been filled with moments of joy and moments where I questioned what I was doing in a place like this. In any case, next year I'll be working in Consulting and after that hopefully in a PhD or MBA program.

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