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Context to the nugget

Meher talks about how her early years have shaped her approach to life, specifically around giving and social impact. She also talks about how her parents treated her and her brother in a gender-agnostic way and the impact of that on her attitudes.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): How we get shaped by our formative years and can you talk about your early formative years.

Meher Pudumjee : I think both my brother and I were treated very equally, there was nothing about you being a girl you need to do certain things especially in the Indian context that a girl does, my parent believed very strongly in the value of education and they felt that is the only gift that they can give their children after it it's up to then to do what they do it with it, so they invested in education both for Kurush and Me very equally, I was interested in Sciences and wanted to be an Engineer and I was encouraged to do that, Kurush when he was very little was very interested in eating and in cooking and my mom would encourage him to come into the kitchen and help her, I was not at all interested in cooking and still am not and that was fine too, so it was never sort of had to do what a women ought to do, totally gender diagnostic, my grandmother on the other hand was slightly different, my father's mother very much believed that, if there was one chicken piece left over from lunch that would go to her grandson when he came back from school. She had a particular ring which was one of my favourites but she said sorry that will only go to my grandson, I mean I think everybody is moulded by their formative years and the way they have grown up so she brought that to the table and on the other hand my mother's mother was very pro me so in some ways it balanced out, another thing I think that really shaped me as I am today is this whole idea of being privileged and giving back I think my mom being a social worker by training it always helped because she was always involved in some form of social work or the other, she picked up two boys from the street and brought them at home to stay with us and tried an experiment to see whether she could really lift them off the streets, start sending them to a school and look after them, unfortunately it didn't work after a week they both went back to the street and said that freedom is far more important to us than being in this Bhoot Bangla, so we went to mother Teresa's home with her so we always did something or the other, we had two of our friends who grew up together a girl and boy, and we grew up together in each other's home, so we would put up place every may be twice a year, invite our parents and their friends and bake some cookies sell it to them get tickets, I mean get then to buy tickets, we would give that money to mother Teresa's home so that kind of a thing started from the time that I was very little, so I think that sort of stayed with me and so where I am today.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: Couple of thoughts occur to me. It is fascinating to hear how childhood plays such an important role in how men and women think about role of each gender. A similar theme came up in my earlier conversation with Anu Madgavkar of the McKinsey Global Institute. She also spoke about how in her household the roles were not gendered as she and her brother were growing up. Please visit Nugget 20.01 if that is of interest to you

It is also interesting to hear her talk about the role of parenting in shaping her attitudes towards giving. One of my earlier guests Vijay Amritraj spoke about how his father's approach to paying it forward has profoundly shaped his approach to community service. Do look up Nugget 1.08 if this is of interest. Thank you for listening for more please visit playtopotential.com

End of nugget transcription

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Meher Pudumjee - Nuggets

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- 22.08 Meher Pudumjee - In Summary - Playing to Potential

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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