

*"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it.*

*One must work at it."* - Eleanor Roosevelt

When I read the newspaper every morning, I see unfulfilled promises and false commitments – one of the major causes of the political instability in the country. This was the way I used to feel even when I was young and, given my upbringing and the fact that mind has constantly been open to the winds of political influence; my feelings have not changed much since.

My father was a student of English and Politics. From a very young age, I had an interest in politics which later got converted into an inclination towards the subject. Political Science has been my subject ever since I could exercise it as an option. I had Political Science in my school-leaving examinations (equivalent to A-levels). I have completed my graduation from the University of Calcutta, India with Political Science along with Economics and English as my subjects, and then I completed a Post Graduate Advanced Diploma in Political Science from the UK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND COMPUTING.

I hail from a modest background. I sensed my first feeling of achievement after scoring well in my school-leaving (Class 12) examinations. Besides for doing well, I also bagged a State Government Scholarship of Rs. 600/- per month – a significant amount by Indian Standards – throughout my undergraduate college education. This, apart from filling me with a sense of

pride also made me feel responsible for now I was sharing the financial burden of my education along with my parents and of course, more importantly, it filled me with renewed enthusiasm. I started believing even more firmly that success would follow if I was dedicated towards following my dream.

My deep interest in Political Science and my commitment to delve into its intricacies helped me make up my mind towards this as the subject of my study.

My fascination with Political Science started surfacing early on in school itself but practical interest started setting in once I got into college. In college, I found myself taking active interest in seminars related to Political Sciences and on many occasions, I was an integral part of the team, which made presentations at such seminars. Though I was working in the background, my contribution was valued and my ideas implemented. I often served to be a source of information and a pool of resources, which they could draw upon at anytime to dig out information and statistics needed to compile a presentation. Slowly and steadily, the subject became a part of me and morphed into an inherent desire to know it deeper... and better.

I am often surprised at my love for the subject. In my free time, I find myself glued on to political journals or the internet trying to understand the political structure of countries, discovering how they work and exploring the practical details of that system. Comparing and contrasting various systems sometimes makes me wonder how the shortcomings of one could be

replaced by the pluses of the other. This leads me to believe that if all countries were united in their vision and worked closely together, the world would be a better place. It is thoughts like these that strengthen my determination to work for people and help them to rise. Thoughts like these that inspire me to study the subject further to help me achieve my dreams of contributing towards the betterment of society in particular and the world at large.

When I see the hunger-stricken people on the pavements of Kolkata, I am filled not with a sense of pity but with the desire to help the large number of people in India still living below the poverty line. When I come across certain corrupt practices and evils present in our system, I do not feel angry at the way our leaders behave, but a strong urge to first equip myself with the knowledge and then strive towards making a difference.

The sound education and a multi-cultural study environment that I will be exposed to in Canada will provide me with this tool. As a destination for higher studies, Canada has always attracted me. The fact that people from all over go to Canada to pursue their dreams and the high-standards in education are the major reasons that attract me to this lovely country. Studying in Canada, I believe, will open my mind to Western influences. Nothing would be better for me than to learn a new way of doing something, come back to India, and incorporate it into our system. As I said, the world will begin to progress if we learn and adopt the best from each other.

Coming from a background as diverse as India, one can expect from me ideas that are fresh to those who have not had a first hand experience to the place. Her culture, her heritage and of course, her rich diversity. Being an Indian has imbibed in me a spirit of togetherness, a spirit of belonging and a belief that people no matter how different in culture and living can co-exist if they share a common commitment towards the betterment of the nation.

After completion of the Masters program, I wish to pursue further towards obtaining a PhD in the subject. This would perhaps equip me better to enhance my career. I plan to return to India and work under a counselor or a municipal authority. I would like to be involved with local politics to begin with, exploring the grass-root levels and gradually work my way up. I understand that my ambitious nature require me to have extra-ordinary perseverance, poise and determination. Living within constraints, growing up observing the political system of India complemented by sound fundamentals in Political Science from your university will help me achieve my dreams.