



Q&A

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What initially drew you to a career in M&A?

My love for mathematics when I was in school. To be specific, I loved advanced mathematics and working with numbers. This influenced my career choice to study Economics, as I realised I could work with numbers, analyse economic indicators and provide advisory support to people. And voila!!!

What did your path into this field look like — was it intentional, or did you discover it along the way?

Oh, it was intentional. From day one, I knew I wanted to play in the financial services industry, whether as a banker, an economic adviser or a financial consultant. I started my career as a banker and evolved into an economic adviser.

How have you built resilience in a high-pressure, male-dominated environment?

Working smart and efficiently has really helped me to avoid burnouts in a high-pressure environment. Also, having an escape route to let off steam has helped me build resilience. To thrive in a male dominated environment, I had to be the best at what I did, and I did it with confidence.... I looked, dressed, spoke and acted the part, like I belonged in those meetings and board rooms, and slowly but surely, I broke through the industry mindset.

How have you balanced your personal life with the demands of a career in finance?

I have tried to balance my personal life and my career by being more intentional and deliberate about creating time for what matters the most to me outside of work. Also, I have my escape routes for letting off steam, which include travelling far, far away from the work environment...lol

Did you have any mentors or role models? How did they influence your journey?

I do have a mentor, my former boss. Working with him gave me the solid foundation I needed on which to build my career. The

intellectual discussions on economic, policy and financial issues, and watching him handle client engagements, have partly shaped my career and the person I am today.

What kind of leader are you, and how did you develop your leadership style?

This is an interesting question. My leadership style keeps evolving, taking into account the work climate, colleagues, etc. Currently, I would say I am a democratic leader who encourages participation among my team members.

How has the landscape for women in finance changed since you started?

It is more accommodating. Initially, it was a man's world, but I'm glad to see how it has transformed. Women are beginning to hold more sway in the finance space. Women now hold top positions, are being called to share their opinions, are involved in ground-breaking deals and transactions; women are now being respected and seen as equals. It's heartwarming to see this in my time.

What barriers still need to be broken down for women in M&A or the corporate finance industry?

The mindset still needs to evolve further; women need to be given more opportunities for growth, and to be supported.

What advice would you give to your younger self starting out in this field?

Be more audacious, and step out of your comfort zone. It's ok to fail or be afraid, as long as you don't stop there; continue, keep pushing.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

Encouraging words from mentors, colleagues, my family (who are my support system and biggest fans), and knowing that when all is said and done, my actions would have made an indelible mark. 🙌