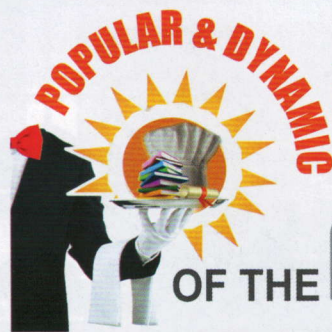


Presents



ENLIGHTENED HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONALS OF THE MILLENNIUM

ARUN RAJ GENERAL MANAGER TURYAA, CHENNAI



JOURNEY THROUGH ENLIGHTENMENT

"My first experience in the kitchen was in my 12th standard when I was introduced to hotel management in my school. I got interested in the field and joined **Institute Of Hotel And Catering Management, SRM University** in the year 2002. I knew only 4 major fields in the hospitality industry front office, kitchen, housekeeping, and F&B service. Initially, I wanted to become a Chef but I changed to service field in my second year because I felt the service sector gets more glory whereas the kitchen sector does not get much recognized.

Chef Das kept me close and guided me in the first year after which I trained in the **Chola Sheraton** for 4 months and this had a great impact on me. My F&B lecturer **Prakash** would always tell me that I was well off in the service sector.

In 2001, I took leadership in putting up a stall in the Mexican food festival which got fantastic response. This was when I realized that even though the kitchen staff does well, people who are in the management take the glory and appreciation which made me decide the kitchen field is not my forte. Since I didn't know much about housekeeping

MEET THE MAN

Arun Raj, is a charismatic personality, and is the present **General Manager at Turyaa, Chennai**. He completed his education at **Institute Of Hotel And Catering Management, SRM University**.

Turyaa, Chennai



and front office, I chose the F&B field. I improved my personality and language with the help of the college faculty and give them the credit for making me the person I am now.

The faculties I give credit to for my growth are **Venkat, Mano, Prakash, Kasturi and Antony Ashok Kumar, my Principal**. It's because of him only I am successful in life. My Institute stands out for me because of the focus on practical and discipline. If we were late, we were to stand out and listen to the class and complete the missed practical on our off days.

The best thing about this Institute is that there was hotel inside the campus and this gave us a real time experience. Though we had model kitchens and labs, we would go and work from 4-6 in the hotel, whatever department it maybe, and this gave us lot of experience.

My **Principal Antony Ashok Kumar** is really the reason I am here today because I was from a small family, and my parents had to strive hard to pay the college fees. But after I joined there were few other expenses like the cafeteria and caution deposit which was really tough for me to pay, so I met the principal, explained my situation and promised to be a good student in return for the fee exemption. He totally understood my situation and accepted it and told me to just go ahead and make my parents proud.

As I promised, I took care of my food and focussed on the course. Our Institute would get campus recruitments from **Sheraton, Oberoi and Taj**. After completing my course, I went on to the final level of interview in OCLD but couldn't clear it. When I came back, I applied for Taj and I got placed as the **Management trainee in Taj WestIn, Bangalore**. But because of personal reasons I couldn't take that up, so my principal spoke to the Taj management and got me placed at **Taj Coramandel, Chennai**. I owe him a lot and am still in touch with him".

ABOUT THE CHANGING TRENDS IN TODAY'S EDUCATION

Arun feels that the changes happening in the industry are so quick that it seems difficult to cope up with them. "For example, in the year

2000 a vacuum cleaner was new, but now there are so many things that have come up", he says. Even the cuisines in the restaurants are up to date, with all types of food and cuisines. That's how the system has changed. "Accordingly, the Institutes are also changing and moulding their courses".

IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

Arun thinks it's important to keep up with the times because of the rapid changes happening to the industry. He is quite proud that the Turyaa management enables to train the staff and keep them updated. Also the rise of online education has been of great help for in keeping updated.

OPINION ON ONLINE/DISTANT EDUCATION

He feels that online education is very essential and is a great boon for this generation. The luxury of learning and updating your knowledge can be done when you get the time and this certainly is very important to keep yourself updated.

ADVICE FOR GEN NEXT

"When the students choose an Institution, they should see the affordability criteria and what suits them best and whether they can be concentrated. This will guide them in the right path".



SRM University, Chennai