

# An impatient achiever

Chandreyee Bhaumik

‘Do not just think you are the one; just know you are the one.’ These are the lines from the popular movie, ‘Matrix’ and features on the *Facebook* page of Nidhi Saxena, Founder, President & CEO, Karmic Lifesciences. Adept at envisioning and establishing new businesses from scratch, she founded Karmic Lifesciences in 2005 and has built a robust customer base comprising several global pharma and biotechnology companies as well as a scalable clinical operations and data management group in India.

Saxena holds an MBA from SP Jain, Mumbai and is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt from KPMG. Referring herself as impatient, she says, “I was born impatient. I was a premature child of seven and a half months and indeed I am not ready to wait!!!”

## Women at par?

Saxena explains, “I have never believed in any boundaries so I am not for any *pseudo quasi* feminism. I think men and women have their own set of strengths and weaknesses. Correct feminism would be equality for me. And over doing that equality is not appreciated.” She continues, “When I ask

myself if my mother were so much independent that she could not have had time for me, would I have appreciated that and the answer is always no. I would want both my parents to focus on the family.”

## Flashback

Saxena always wanted to be an entrepreneur. She explains, “Right from the beginning I have been highly independent; I wanted to have a company of my own. None of my decisions were based on any convention. I come from Allahabad, a small town. Most of my friends today are married. I have always been different and I believe that as my strength.”

She adds, “My parents were doctors and both of them were education oriented. They wanted me and my brother to either do an IAS or MBA, and I did my MBA.”

She also mentions the names of her cousins Rusi Brij and Sanjeev Verma who have mentored her. Ashok Bildikar, CEO, Neeeyamo, has also helped her in her journey. She continues, “When I completed my MBA I decided to channelise it into something constructive and positive.”

Following the unbeaten track had been the main zeal that drove her to make big in life. In spite of coming from a small town it was the creative bit that brought Nidhi Saxena so far.

Discussing what a perfect life is to her, she says, “There is nothing called perfect life. If there is any situation when I am out of transaction completely, it would be because there are competent people handling it and I can concentrate more on the strategic and innovative aspects - that would be a perfect life. Also, if I have time to pursue my personal interests.” Talking about the regrets in life, she says, “There is no regret as such. Personally I could have been more sensitive. Professionally, if I started a little earlier, like if I started at 25, there could have been more contribution. Of course, experience has its own value.”

## Choice to be single

When asked about her choice to stay single, she says, “I have seen most people who are successful and are attached to others only to a certain extent. Their whole focus is on internal growth. So, time and focus on a second person can be demanding. And unless the second person is understanding, problems are bound to happen.” She continues, “Moreover, there are people who are inclined to marriage and in certain aspects I am not social at all. There have been times when I have not turned on the television for 28 days at length.”

## Success tips

Saxena believes that there is no short cut to success. She says, “There is no short cut to success. One or two big ideas might be the game changers.” She adds, “Creativity is extremely important. I tell everyone in my office that whatever you do it is essential to put that extra thinking.” **MPh**

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## Photographer's take:

Nidhi an avid cyclist, and she sees it as her means of keeping fit!

## Snippets

- **Interests:** Travelling, photography, reading fiction and poetry. At present, I am writing a book and I will be sending the manuscript to Penguin and Rupa. I love reading poetry (Kamala Das) along with fictions of Ayn Rand, Milan Kundera and many others
- **Book:** ‘The Joke’ by Milan Kundera
- **Happiest moment:** Professionally, I would be most happy when my company becomes a \$ 100 million company. I think the birth of my twin nieces (Diza and Sania)
- **Other than Karmic:** I want to start a gig company. I have seen Nikhil

Chinappa for this and I also want to create a social venture fund

- **Holiday destination:** Mountains. I remember going to Rishikesh or Nainital. Goa is my favourite
- **Movie:** *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*
- **Politics:** More youngsters should come into politics. Currently, Indian politics is in a very sorry state. We need transformational leadership. I am a party agnostic
- **Culinary skills:** Chicken biriyani
- **Message:** Follow your dreams; risk is a part of life
- **First few things you will notice at home:** Library and wine collection



**Nidhi Saxena**  
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Photo: Neha Mithibarauler