



MEET THE TECHBLAZERS

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Sailaja Bhagavatula

Hi I'm Sailaja. I come from this small coastal town, Vishakhapatnam. That's where I was born and did all my education. It's a very beautiful town. I cherish my childhood memories of living in a joint family—three generations under a single roof. My parents taught me and to this day I remember is, one is you have to be independent and stand for yourself, and you have to carve out your own identity.

I did not have a lot of clarity on my career, when I joined engineering. I just knew that I was interested in math and logic. After working in two other companies, for about 6 years, I joined Accenture in 2003. And Accenture was just setting up its operations in India and I was probably the first 50 or 100 to join our Bangalore office. Over the years I have seen it grow to now become a 100,000 strong organization.

We've really created not only a diverse workforce but a culture where people can be themselves and they can really come up and perform in a very inclusive culture where everybody is sensitized that, irrespective of

your gender or your religion, your sex, your ethnicity, you know you can just be yourself and your skills will be appreciated rather than the other things right.

I have also witnessed rapid changes in the IT industry. In 2011 we were just setting up our salesforce practice in Accenture and then one of my supervisors at that time just called me up and said "Would you like to be in this practice and kind of lead the practice" and I was again like, Oracle has been my place for the last 10 to 15 years.

Does it really make sense for me to change? But then I immediately got the answer that this is a great opportunity to learn a new technology. So, it's very important to step out of your comfort zone have the courage to learn something new and pick up something new.

I have never been afraid of change or new challenges. In fact, I like taking risks and that's one of my advice to many women – take risks. And be willing to adapt with an open mind.

You can take help and succeed at Accenture. We have the ecosystem to ensure that you have the new means to succeed in a new role.



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You know we have trainings on every single new skill be it AI or be it AR/VR robotics and you know technologies like Salesforce.com, Workday, which are heavily growing in the market and are very niche.

I personally think that there is no ideal work-life balance. Everyone must define their own balance. To me, it's important to have the flexibility when I need it. And that is really my work-life balance.

My family and I like outdoor activities. Swimming and playing badminton is something we do regularly. We also plan our family vacations every year and it's great to spend that time away from work with family and friends.

My advice to young women leaders or for that matter anyone, is: Always keep learning. There is just no other way to be relevant.

It may not only be about work. It could be a new perspective, hobby or anything that interests you.

You just have to be more holistic.