

When I came to BYU, I carried with me my roots—deeply tied to my Indian heritage, my faith, and a desire to serve. What I found here was more than just education. I found mentors who believed in me, a community that inspired me, and a place where both my dreams and identity could grow.

Through the BYU MBA program, I learned how to take an idea and turn it into something real. Every class—from finance to supply chain—helped shape what would become **ZAYA**, a brand I created to share the beauty of handmade, sustainable products crafted by Indian artisans. ZAYA is a piece of my heart. It's how I honor where I come from while lifting others through meaningful, dignified work.

Beyond ZAYA, I've been grateful to serve as a **Finance Career Manager, adjunct faculty member, and Education Week speaker**—mentoring students and sharing stories from my culture with the BYU community.

BYU gave me more than skills—it gave me purpose. Today, I strive to be a small light in the lives of others, both near and far. I'm grateful to live the words: “**Enter to learn; go forth to serve.**”

— *Saritha Ignatius*