

Dreams over expectations

Growing up, my parents had always made every choice for me, from what I should eat for breakfast to what career I should pursue. They believed that they knew what was best for me, and I was too afraid to go against them. When I was in class 8, after my final term exam, they wanted me to take science subjects. And when I completed my HSC level, I wanted to study Food & Nutrition, as cooking was my passion. However, my parents wanted me to study engineering, and I was admitted to an engineering university.

After completing my graduation, I started a job in a software firm. However, my passion for cooking never left me, and when I went to Australia for higher studies, I often cooked for myself and my friends. I started posting pictures of my cooking on Instagram, and they were well-received, garnering many likes and positive comments. It was then that one of my friends suggested that I audition for MasterChef Australia season 7.

I was hesitant at first, but the more I thought about it, the more excited I became. I prepared diligently for the audition, and when the day came, I presented the judges with a Tiramisu cake that left them impressed with my skills and taste. I was selected to participate in the competition, and with every challenge, I gave it my all, pushing the limits of creativity and taste.

As the competition progressed, I became more confident in my abilities as a chef. I poured my heart and soul into every dish I made, from the mashed potato and brinjal to the traditional Pitha and modern twist on the classic Kulfi ice cream. And as the final task approached, I knew that I had to give it my all.

I created a three-course meal for my final challenge that showcased my skills and creativity. I made Panta Vat, a popular food for poor Bengalis, mashed potato and brinjal, onion and red chili salad, and fried fish. For the starter, I made a Pitha, and for dessert, I presented a Kulfi ice cream with a betel leaf and crushed nuts.

When the judges announced me as the winner of MasterChef Australia season 7, I was overcome with emotion. It was a validation of my passion and a sign that I had made the right decision to follow my heart. And now, with my own restaurant and loyal foodies' following, I knew I had found my true calling. My parents also realized that my decision was correct and they're now proud of me.

So, if you ever find yourself in my restaurant, be sure to try my signature dishes, each one crafted with love, passion, and a dedication to the culinary arts. And always remember, it's never too late to follow your dreams and make your own decisions.