

My expectations on applying to the mentorship scheme was to learn and grow. I was open to whoever became my mentor, not concerned or having a preference for a particular gender or occupation. I was introduced to Daljit Sanders and was quite nervous during my first chat with her. I wondered, *“What if I wasn’t succinct enough during sessions and couldn’t connect with her? How was this mentoring thing going to work?”* among others. It’s okay to have some fears before embarking on something new and different. Just remember to still take that leap of faith. I love this quote from one of Rihanna’s tattoos – “Never a failure, Always a lesson.”

From our 1<sup>st</sup> session, Ms. Dal has taught me to network without any prejudice but with an openness and eagerness to enjoy the time and space of any person, making the necessary adjustments to build an effective relationship.

I've learnt that support knows no boundaries – women definitely do support one another – and the world is a global learning space and thanks to technology, we can have access to the enormous information and knowledge out there. Often, it's just little things in our lives that make stuff complicated or inefficient. And that a small change in one's lifestyle, environment etc. goes a long way to solving some problem. I am learning to enjoy breathers and manage distractions to be a more effective person. Being stressed out doesn't achieve anything and just slows down progress.

She also provided guidance on how to work with micromanagers - to understand their personalities and provide information early enough to help them reduce their micromanaging.

My mentor is an inspiration to me. She is a survivor, an ambitious and loving woman. And through our 6 month journey, I've been more inspired to ensure that everything I do is giving back to build someone – to make a change in our world. That passion is very important to enjoying every aspect of one’s life including one’s career, relationships, spirituality, sports, hobbies, dreams etc.

During the scheme, I began a new job as a career counsellor and I get to mentor others and share what I’ve learnt with my students, friends and family.

Key take-aways include”

- A to do list helps a lot. One might not complete all but it's serves as a reminder to reset one's goals.
- Also, be flexible in life. Distractions are bound to happen. Don't be too hard on oneself and just reorganise to achieve goals.
- I must learn to "breathe". There's no point over stressing to the point that I can't do what I'm passionate about.

This has been an awesome mentoring experience. Thanks to the Commonwealth Youth Council and all the mentors that dedicated their time to supporting us, the mentees.