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CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

Hosted By Isaac Oakeson

EPISODE 40 - FE TIPS AND ADVICE WITH MAITHILI DEY

The FE and PE exams are standardized tests that professionals need to pass in order to receive the official title of Civil engineer and work within the US. Although the majority of test takers may be from the US itself, international professionals who have had their academic careers outside of the country also need to go through the same process in order to be able to work in the US. Today's episode, directly from Bangladesh, [Maithili Dey](#) elaborates a little bit on her journey as a trained civil engineer and some of the tips and habits for those seeking to pass the FE exam

Born and raised in Khulna, Bangladesh, she decided to pursue a science degree while still in the ninth grade and, after passing her admissions exams, she went on to pursue her major in civil engineering at [KUET, Khulna University Of Engineering & Technology](#). As soon as she started her major, she fell in love with water and wastewater treatment and ended up writing her thesis about this topic. After graduation, she worked as an intern at BuildTech for approximately nine months, where she would help with the design of five- and six-story buildings and where she was the only female engineer within the company.

After the nine-month period, she joined SAMES, Southeast Asia Management and Engineering Services, as the manager of their international division. Maithili is the concrete example that hard skills are not the only valuable skills a civil engineer should possess. During her time with SAMES enterprise, she learned a lot about bidding documents and interviewed a lot of international experts, all of which added immeasurable value to her networking and knowledge.

The experience with SAMES was truly enriching when it comes to her personal skills. But after that, she decided to pursue the passion for water treatment that she had developed during her college years. In order to do that, she joined the [Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project](#), as a junior engineer, where the main goal was to build shelters for people to use and maintain their lifestyles during periods of natural calamities, such as a cyclone.

After getting married in 2014, she moved all the way to Wisconsin, USA, and started to prepare for the FE exam. As Maithili herself mentions, “we engineers are always under pressure”. And that’s true not only after passing the exams but also before, while still preparing for it. She took [CEA’s FE on-demand course](#) and [CEA’s Youtube tutorials](#) in order to better prepare for it, and recommends it as a go-to resource for everyone planning on taking the exam. On top of that, the most important tip she mentions is *Time Management*. She mentions that, on her preparation journey, she would set timers while solving problems and would establish some time limit for her to solve specific problems. This turned out to be a good way of preparing and getting her subconscious into the correct pattern which it should work on Exam Day

These and many more tips, such as discipline, leadership and networking, are shared and explained in a detailed fashion in the episode. If you are a FE/PE future test taker from the US, this episode will give you a kick start on your journey to prepare for these exams by providing you with the best advice on how to practice your problem-solving skills using time management. And, if you are an international professional who wants to come to the US and work here as a professional engineer, Maithili’s story will definitely serve as a model and a guide for you. Listen to this episode and check out [CEA’s home base](#) for more information and tips to ace your exams.

Resources Mentioned

Maithili Dey - maithili.dey@gmail.com

[Dare to Lead](#), by Brené Brown - Maithili’s book recommendation

[CollabSuite](#) - Maithili’s Facebook Group recommendation

[Civil Engineering Academy](#) - If you need exams, solved problems or courses, make sure to check out our home base

[CEA Community](#) – Haven’t joined up on our free community? What’s wrong with you? J/K. Ok, just go there and join a group of like-minded civil engineers!

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