



Stanford eCorner

Time Versus Money Trade-off

Ankit Gupta, *Pulse*

April 24, 2013

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3134/Time-Versus-Money-Trade-off>

Pulse Co-Founder Ankit Gupta shares his personal challenge of balancing time versus money during his time as a graduate engineering student at Stanford. The essential thing, says Gupta, is that "time is more valuable than money."



Transcript

This third project is actually part of a research that I was doing at Stanford. And so when I came here in 2008, I had just come from India directly and I had no scholarship or any kind of grant and it wasn't really exciting to think of taking that much of a loan and trying to repay that later. So the first thing I did was try to get a research position at Stanford, and I was really lucky. This project in the radiology department and it was a really, really cool project, it was about using image processing on scans to detect the type of breast cancer and so without doing an active surgery, you can just look at the scan and try to classify what kind of cancer a person has. And so initially it was really exciting project, but throughout my first year, kind of towards the end I got slightly bored of the project and other things that I could have done with my time, like meeting new people, coming up with new ideas or trying out new prototypes, all of those things where I wasn't able to do that. This project was cutting into that. But on the flipside, I was able to actually pay my tuition and be at Stanford because of this project. And so it was a really mind-boggling trade-off like in hindsight, it seems very simple, but it was very difficult. And I struggled with that almost towards the end of my two years wherein my last quarter, I decided hey, this is not worth it. I actually want to value my time.

So essentially the big learning was time is more valuable than money. And so I took all of the earnings that I had, it was about \$5,000 to \$6,000 and spent it on tuition, food, rent, and basically spent that money on that D.school class that we started at Pulse.