

I have lost a little part of me

I think it is going to be extremely difficult for me to go back - whether it is 3 years, 4 years, or 5 years.

I know it will be as hard going back because this 1 year it has been very difficult for me because I have left my family, my son, everything behind.

I think when I go back it will be the same. . When you go home, there is nobody there.

For the whole day, you would be talking to absolutely nobody, and I think it will be extremely hard. The challenges are there, but they are different challenges.

Here, there are challenges and you can overcome the challenge.

I think it is going to be extremely difficult for me to be go back, I would have left a very large family here because I will get to know a lot of people here.

I would have experienced such wonderful things that I will not be able to experience there and I will feel really empty in my life.

I am an Indian by birth and I come from Canada.

I lived in Canada for the last 30 years. Because of business, we have moved here now and I was here over 6 months first it was a challenge for me to set a home and make this house as my home and make it warm.

So I was told about this wonderful group that I must get to know which is OWC and it stands for Overseas Women's Club. So, I got to know them.

I must say that it is a big support for all the newcomers here, many people who have not even been here once.

So, it is extremely difficult for them to settle down here with children, to have a social life, and to build a friend's circle. I think it is quite a shock for both the husband and wife because the husband is so busy in the work and the wife, I am sure, does have some withdrawal symptoms, about feeling very homesick, about not knowing where to go, losing the

independency because here you are so dependent on your driver, your cook, your maid, your aaya, everything – you are dependent; so you are lost.

I have lost a lot of my ability that I used to do there because I was very very creative being in Toronto. Here, I have not been very creative. I have lost a little part of me by not being able to do what I did there. I used to do watercolors, acrylics. I used to do design clothes. I used to do pottery - that was one of my major things, I am doing it for the last 10 years, and I absolutely loved it. I used to organize functions. I used to design parties. All that, I have not done. I have given up.

So, for me, OWC became my family. I don't know anybody here. I don't have relations here. So, whoever I know, it is from OWC and there is a whole range of people here. There are very young people who are in their early 30s. .

They immediately start exchanging their telephone numbers and mails and find out where they live, and many of them live in the same compound and they do not even know.

I have met some very very wonderful people and their experiences. Also, I met a lot of very nice British people. . I got to know a lot of French people as well.

People are moving in and out very fast, and by the time, you get comfortable with one person or a couple of people, they are moving out again and new people are coming. So, really, you don't find the jumble to have that bond with any one person or any few people to have a good friendship because here, I feel the friendship will last maximum a year or perhaps 2 years, and yes, I suppose you have to really nurture that friendship once you are here because you have nobody else, make the most of those friends that you really like and then, I suppose, move on to somebody else.

It is difficult because I am not used to that and I like my friends and I like to have them close to me and I enjoy the company, but here again, to say "Ok, 2 years have gone.

I have enjoyed my company with this person. Now, I have to find somebody else”, it is hard.

I have met some Indians who belong to OWC. I have not met anybody local whom I can say “I am really good friends with” because I just find...

Perhaps they feel that way towards me that, you know, “I am going to be here only for 2-3 years, is it worth making a friendship” I don’t know, I am just guessing – that could be the point that they don’t want to spend their energy in writing you or being friends with you because it is for 2 years, 2 years will go by then.

You know, “she will be off, what is the point?” – that is my perception of thinking. And I think also, the local people, they are extremely busy, extremely busy. They seem to never have the time.

There is a huge distance between expatriate people Indian people and I don’t know how to get involved, but I am trying to get to know local scene.

I look at the newspaper and I go to all the local programs whether it is at one of the bigger halls or whether it is in a community or a school program.

I would love to have a pottery studio. I would love to teach art as well, watercolor, and acrylic. I enjoy food a lot and I would like to teach healthy food, how to make healthier foods and eat healthy because I think although some people are getting very conscious about food and eating and oils and what not. What else can I say, I would like to stand up for the right of women as well. I would like to speak up on their behalf. I would like to have a forum.

Overseas Women is actually an old group. It was started by some expatriate women who have come here about 20 years ago and they needed a support system basically for them to get to know one another and how to deal with living in India, but for the last 3 years, it is a foundation which means that we are

registered as a charitable organization, it is Overseas Women's Foundation and it is a trust. So, whatever money we raised through charity and our functions - we have 3 to 4 functions here a year – We have about 25-26 local Bangalore charities that we give money to each year. Our main focus is to help local charities; it is children, HIV hospital, orphan children, schools, giving milk, food, uniform, stationery, lots of things that we gave. However, we do not guarantee that we will be supporting those charities each year or for a matter of say, 3 years or 4 years.

It is a punctual help.

My name is Jayashree Khimasia I am the president of OWC