

Why get a Ph.D.? Everyone has their reasons. At first, I wanted to make big discoveries and get recognized in top journals, aiming for a respected faculty position. But as I guided students and saw their ups and downs, successes and struggles, my view changed. A Ph.D. isn't just about academic achievements. It's a life journey, teaching you more than just science. Want to see what I mean? Let's look at some images.

•**First Image:** Think of a vibrant photo that draws you in, full of colors and energy. It's not just a picture; it's an invitation to explore and dream.

•**Second Image:** Picture a vast green field. This is like starting your Ph.D. You're the seed, diving deep into a topic, growing with every new day, eager for great results. It's the excitement of new beginnings in research.

•**Third Image:** Imagine a painting that changes over time. Bright colors represent the highs of good research results, while dark spots show the challenges and doubts. It's a mix of confidence and caution, highs and lows.

•**Fourth Image:** Now, see a photo fading to grey. This is the toughest part of the journey. Your goals seem blurry, and doubt creeps in. It feels like being lost in a thick forest, unsure of the way forward. It's a test of your determination.

•**Fifth Image:** Visualize dawn breaking over icy land. As the sun rises, the ice melts, revealing what's beneath. This is when challenges lessen, and things become clearer. With every challenge overcome, you gain more understanding.

•**Sixth Image:** Think of standing on a mountain peak after a tough climb. The view is amazing. Your hard work pays off, and opportunities come your way. Whether in business or academia, the world is ready for your expertise.

•**Final Image:** Fast forward many years. Imagine looking back at your Ph.D. journey from a high point. The specifics of your research might seem small, but the experiences especially the hardships, friendships, and connections stand out. The research was just the setting; the real story was your growth which requires your significant effort and dedication (If you do not take it seriously, you will gain very little). This is the true value of a Ph.D. journey, shaping your story and legacy.













