



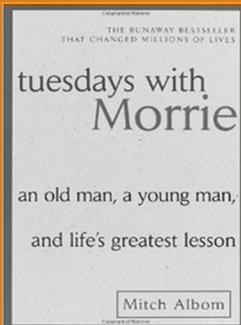
The Perspective



January - February 2016



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EDITOR'S NOTE

2016 is here, folks!

We have no teleportation machines or intelligent robots yet, but we do have a fresh academic term and a lot of plump puppies on campus; which is almost equally incredible, if not more. So, as we welcomed the not-so-cold New Year at IMT with a bright bonfire and never-ending dance moves, 2016 gained our adoration since the moment of its inception.

Each and every New Year that hits us is combined with a lot of new promises, resolutions, beginnings and endings. As the year progresses; some fade out, some become stronger, and some calmly maintain the status quo. In this very festive spirit, we bring out the first edition of *The Perspective* in the year 2016.

This month, our very own Amphitheatre enlightens you with its views on the campus, students, life and beyond. We have featured Aniket Vaidya as our Artist of the Month - a passionate cricketer and a talented musician; he talks about his interests, motivational factors and life goals. This edition also features an interview with the people who are responsible for feeding us with those delectable Chole Bhature and Sarso ka Saag – the mess workers.

For the Alumni Corner, we have an interview with our favourite alumni; yes you guessed it right – Mr. Prasoon Joshi. We also roped in Vysakh Madhavan to share with us, his experience of the famed STEP program at IMT.

Since this is the New Year edition, we have followed the tradition of bringing in something 'new' for our readers. This is the first time that the MRRC team of IMT Ghaziabad has joined forces with the MRRC DCP team in order to get you a sneak peek into life at the Dubai campus. This also helps the DCP students stay connected to the Ghaziabad campus and become acquainted with the environment here. We have the columns, Guest Corner and Mosaic, compiled by the DCP team. Here's to the start of a fruitful association!

We also have the regular Campus Buzz to keep you in touch with the various events happening on campus. The month of December saw successful execution of IMT's annual media conclave, Communicon. Turn those pages to get all the highlights from the event.

Winter has finally set in, bonfires are getting more inviting, and so is the chai at Arcus. Let's ring in the New Year with all these synonyms of comfort and the good life, and be sure to have a pretty good 365 days ahead of us.

Lastly, we sincerely hope you enjoy reading this New Year edition as much as we enjoyed preparing it for you.

Cheers to 2016! Let the good times roll.

Dharna Chauhan
Editor, The Perspective





Quote Unquote

“And now we welcome the New Year, full of things that have never been.”

-Rainer Maria Rilke

“As long as I am breathing, in my eyes, I am just beginning.”

- Criss Jami

“The chief beauty about time is that you cannot waste it in advance. The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you, as perfect, as unspoiled, as if you had never wasted or misapplied a single moment in all your life. You can turn over a new leaf every hour if you choose.”

- Arnold Bennett



“It’s never too late to be what you might have been.”

– George Eliot

“Morning will come, it has no choice.”

– Marty Rubin

“The beginning is the most important part of the work.”

– Plato

“All great beginnings start in the dark, when the moon greets you to a new day at midnight.”

- Shannon L. Alder

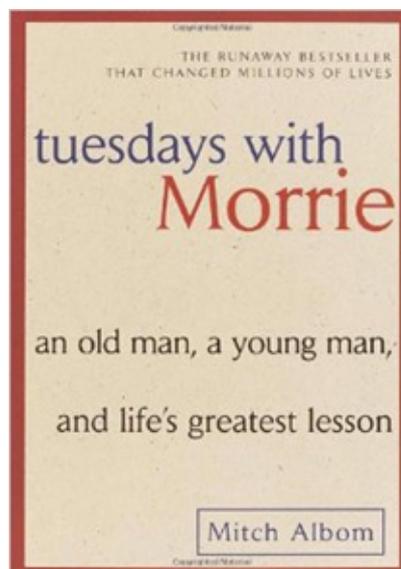
Book Review: Tuesdays with Morrie

Shynu Sethi

“An old man, a young man, and life’s greatest lesson”- this one statement sums up the plot. But there is much more. It is a tiny book in comparison to the ones I have read, and as they say “big things come in small packages”. The joy and the realization the book brings along needs to be savored in full. No review or summary, in my opinion, would suffice.

We all have had that one professor/teacher at school we just love, not ‘love-love’, but a love that stems out of admiration. in Mitch’s life, his ‘Coach’, person who would dance known not to ever miss his developed ALS in his late swimming, his privacy, he was bent on making ‘uselessness’.

A serendipitous incident after 16 years and from then, ‘Tuesdays’ together. Mitch on Tuesdays in college they decided to meet every describes, ‘there were no Assignments involved comfortable spot on pillow his nose. Kissing him



Morrie Schwartz is that professor his social psychology coach. A till the floor crashed and who was round of swimming at YMCA. He sixties. Slowly, his driving and and his secret came to an end. But ‘dying’ anything but a symbol of

brings Mitch and Morrie together starts the magical chronicle of their always had a class with Morrie and to keep the tradition going, Tuesday for lessons. As Mitch books, and no grades were given. adjusting the professor’s head to a or placing his glasses on bridge of good-bye earned you extra credit.’

The lectures covered topics from culture, faith, regrets, family, emotions, love, marriage, forgiveness and many others. At regular intervals, the author i.e. Mitch gives account of his interactions with Morrie during the college life. During those lectures, Mitch sees a whole new dimension of human life, which he had left behind. Morrie would invite dozens of people every day to talk to, spend more time talking to people and reading books, rather than watching television. He would go sit outside whenever possible. He was pleasant, even in the phase of life when drawing breath was so painful that he had to take morphine to dull the pain.

The book inspires and motivates at all the right places. It humbles and also tells one to respect oneself. It tells us to ask ourselves the right questions. A must read.

One of my favorite lines from the book:

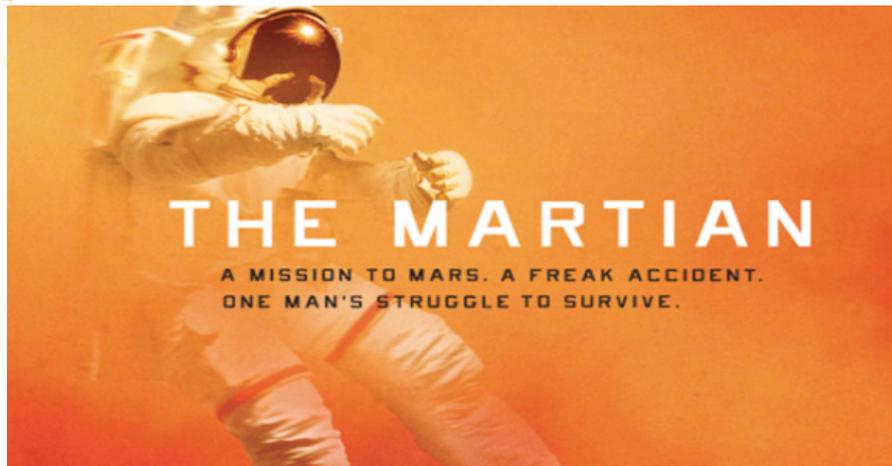
“Once you get your fingers on the important questions, you can’t turn away from them.”





Movie Review: The Martian

Prashanth Srivatsa



“Bring Him Home,” they said, summing up the emotional challenge of the film, a spectacular but pedantic nose-dive into the depths of other-worldly survival. The Martian is the tale of astronaut Mark Watney, left behind on the ever-suspicious Mars by his otherwise loyal crew who presume him to be dead to a terrible sandstorm. What follows is a riveting space opera, with the entertainment quotient that far supersedes the bludgeoning trauma of a man alone in a distant planet.

Polished and gripping, the Martian gives up on space bromides and instantly leads the viewer to the desolate plains and plateaus of Mars, where Watney and his crew, led by the empathetic Melissa Lewis, played by Jessica Chastain, fall prey to a severe dust storm. Watney gets hit by the storm and the crew is forced to leave the planet without him.

The beauty of the film, though, surfaces once Watney wakes up. Damon’s struggle to survive through the adversity is shockingly optimistic, away (again I iterate) from the usual space dystopias. While NASA finds out about Watney’s survival and lists down alternatives and exigencies, the latter is putting

together his life’s learnings in order to remain alive, ever so aesthetically delivering it as to ‘science the shit out of’ the situation.

Damon is terrific as Watney, his loneliness and determination palpable through his journey across Mars. He is the character who makes you believe the hopelessness of the situation, but keeps you tethered to the edge, with promises of a silver lining. This is what Director Ridley Scott excels at: in creating that environment of despair only to entertainingly churn it into something grander, happier and yet in tune with a viewer’s expectations of a space film.

All in all, Scott’s ‘The Martian’ is as smart as blockbusters get. Filled with laughs, abstruse science and punctured heroism, the film rides on the power of its cast and an optimism shouldered upon years of acting experience. It is a gripping display of man’s power as the gobble of technology, but ever affirms his limitations which have risen as a consequence of it.

Through the Eyes of.....

The Amphitheatre

Nishtha Bhasin

No, not there, you dimwit. It will fly off with the first gust of wind. No! Not there either! Those adorable pups will rip it apart, specially that white plump ball of fur. Yeah, perfect. Go and keep it right in the center. Your innovative mind makes me cry tears of astonishment.

Hey, there! Oh, I was just trying to shower some enlightenment on your batch mates who were trying to install a creative on-ground promotional piece. Alas.

No one listens, actually. The elation of coming up with an innovative idea supposedly overpowers all sense of rationalism.

You ask why I sound like Uncle Scrooge? Firstly, I am not exactly thrilled by the hip and happenin' nickname given to me – amphi – eh, what? It is called ‘amphitheater’, you cool ones. Secondly, forgive me if I expect to be utilized for some actual events. PDP sessions, ahaan? I am really not into that sort of stuff – people standing on my stage and welcoming the fresh batch with garlands of expletives. It’s a f***** amphitheater, for crying out loud. The alumni nights? Yes, listening to a different era of music each month does increase my vocabulary of (in)tolerable music. I do enjoy the parties these people throw, though. Good

music, good lights, people yelling ‘Supersonic!’ at the top of their voices. Perfecto!

Also, I have a hunch that these get-togethers are the reason that the BBC burns up whenever my name is mentioned. He is a nice chap, doesn’t meddle in others’ matters, but he actually loves his nickname! I think the guy needs to get out of the green for a bit and smell the coffee (the Nescafe one? If you say so). I also overheard him mumbling to Arcus that he thinks I am a snob. Huh? I like him, he should be thankful of that, I guess!

I am a pretty content person, actually. I am good as long as no one interferes with my daily schedule of basking under the winter sun, inspecting each and every soul who passes by, and enjoying those heart-to-heart chats with that oldie; the tree (he has some pretty incredible stories to tell, trust me). I have been allotted the best spot at the center of the campus, so life is pretty good. Keep adorning me with those adorable rangolis, riveting competitions and ravishing parties; and maybe I will bear the weight (and wit) of your remarkably innovative OGs. Ah, the winsome piece of thermocol art has been knocked down by the mighty mother of pups. Do I even need to say that I told you so?



Faculty Interview:

Prof. Kasturi Das



Q1) For the purpose of enlightening the students you haven't taught, could you please tell us a little about yourself?

I was born and brought up in Calcutta in a middle class Bengali family. I moved to Delhi to join JNU for my PhD, after completing my Masters in Economics from Calcutta University. Little did I know, back then, that JNU would hold key to my future career. Looking back, I feel whatever little I have achieved in my life thus far, would not have been possible without the unconditional

sacrifice and relentless support of my parents, my elder sister and my husband. Over the past one and a half decades or so, since I embarked on my professional life, I have had a very diverse experience of working with government, business as well as civil society in academics, policy research and consultancy in India and abroad. In the past I have advised Ministry of Commerce on trade and environment related issues, and at present I serve as a 'Member' of the E15 Expert Group on Climate Change and Trade under the aegis of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva. I am also a 'Member' of Climate Strategies – a network of some of the most world-renowned practitioners in the field of climate change economics and policy. It provides world-class and independent policy and economic research input to European and international climate policy. As for my research, I have published extensively on diverse topics and areas including in select ABDC-A* category journals.

Q2) You have the reputation of being very student friendly. In an effort to further that bond, could you please share a couple of things about you that your students don't know?

First of all, thanks for that comment about my reputation. I am flattered. Well, it's a bit tough to pick up a few! There are too many perhaps – that most of my students don't know! Perhaps they don't know how emotionally attached I am with them, how accomplished I feel when I get to know about their achievements. Perhaps they don't know how passionate I am about my work, that my sole endeavour is to add value to them even if that demands travelling those extra miles! I don't know how far I have been successful in my endeavour. After all, adding value according to me is not merely about scoring marks in exams. It is far beyond that. I may sound a bit preachy here, but still let me take that risk and share with you what Mahatma Gandhiji had once said, and I quote: "You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results". I do believe in this philosophy.

On a lighter note, let me share with you guys that I am a big fat foodie. No matter how strict I might be with you as far as your exams are concerned, one exam that I myself have not been able to crack so far, despite trying harder each day, is how to control my passion for delicious food. Any tips from you all are welcome.

Q3) Talk us through your experience at IMT so far. What experiences have you cherished the most?

IMT is an excellent teaching institution to work with. It has indeed been a fascinating journey for me at IMT thus far. I have learned a lot in the course of this journey and perhaps have also learned to unlearn, which I believe is extremely important if you want to evolve in your life as well as at work. I owe a lot to IMT.

What experiences have I cherished the most? Well, well, there are far too many. But if I look back, it's all about my interactions with my students. And again there are too many fond memories with my students, present as well as past. If I try to choose one from the more recent past, I am reminded of how fascinating and gratifying was it to interact with the highly enthusiastic, energetic and intelligent batch of 2015-17 as the Pillar Head for the 'Perspectives Pillar' in the Foundation Module 2015!

Q4) When you teach “Economics and International Business” to a classroom, students are usually from varied backgrounds and carry vastly different perspectives. Do you view this challenge? How do you handle it?

No, I don't consider it to be a challenge at all. Rather I treat it as an opportunity, to learn to improve myself so that I succeed in reaching out to the entire class, no matter how diverse it might be. Diversity in the classroom, to my mind, adds more value by bringing on board, different perspectives. Economics, after all, is about real life and real people and their behaviour. Isn't the real world full of diversity? So, I always encourage my students to engage in the class discussions and it's the diversity of views and perspectives that trigger the debates, making the entire exercise engaging and interesting. I improvise my teaching materials and pedagogy as per the requirements of the class as well as the course I am offering. One size doesn't fit all.

Q5) Could you tell us a little bit about “Triple Bottomline”, the Facebook group you created for your students at IMT?

I created 'Triple Bottomline' – a closed Facebook Group - when I was offering my maiden course at IMT. I clearly remember each one of my first set of students at IMT – Section G of Term V of the 2012-14 batch. That was the first time the 'Business, Government and Society in India'

(BGSI) course got offered at IMT. I felt the urge to create this Facebook Group only for my BGSI-Section G students, as I strongly felt that at least for the kind of course I was teaching, learning could not be confined within the four walls of the class room and within the stipulated class hours when so much more was happening around us which I felt my students must be made aware of and encouraged to develop opinions about. Subsequently the membership of the Group was opened up for all IMTians, irrespective of whether I am teaching them or not. But participation has always been voluntary even for the students I teach. It's heartening to see that most of the students who joined the Group and subsequently graduated from IMT have opted to continue with the Group – for reasons they are only aware of.

Q6) Thank you, for the enlightening interview, ma'am. Any final pearls of wisdom for your students at IMT?

Don't lose faith in yourself and your goal, come what may. A slight delay in achieving success doesn't mean you will never achieve it, unless of course you stop trying and lose faith in yourself. Have patience and remain focused. I can tell you from my own experience, if you believe in yourself and your goal and remain determined, success is a matter of time only. My very best wishes, for everyone student in IMT. And, thanks to MRRC for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with my students. It's an honour and a privilege indeed. Cheers!





Campus Photojournalist



"Empty Corridors". Courtesy: Akshay Sharma. Location: IMT CDL

“

Lost in the corridors of
time and space

”

Resolve to Evolve

Suraj Sridar

We all like to be liked: it's just human nature! We therefore try and avoid conflict. We prefer to "get along", "be a team player", "be a great person to work with" and hence avoid ruffling the feathers. It is high time we stopped "being nice".

Creative ideas always stem from constructive conflict. Conflicts happen when there are bright, ambitious people with different points of view, disparate and often times controversial ideas. There is no way we can get along with everyone all the time. When it does happen, it is very easy to blame it on the other person. Contrary to the popular belief, the real underlying cause of the conflict is really the situation itself rather than the people involved in it. So why do we keep automatically blaming our colleagues or peers? Most of us are, by nature "cognitive misers", a term coined to describe how people have a tendency to preserve cognitive resources and allocate them to things we consider important to us. To solve a conflict, we need to find, diagnose and address the real causes and effects. Above everything, we need to stop being nice.

Finding the right balance between the need

to deal with conflict and the instinct to avoid it, is one of the toughest challenges that we face. While unbridled conflict can create a toxic atmosphere with low morale and high turnover, not enough conflict can be just as damaging. Hesitating to speak up about poor practices or processes that don't make sense creates a significant amount of unnecessary complexity and fosters a passive acceptance of the status quo. That's why "stop being so nice" is often of the key necessities for being an effective and efficient leader.

So the best thing to do is encourage conflicts in the right spirit. More than anything else we have to resolve conflicts and not blame people to evolve.





MARKETING WORLD CUP 2015- MarkUp

IMT's premier annual marketing events saw students from top B-schools across India, face off in a plethora of marketing challenges, to bag the coveted trophy of Marketing World Cup.



PASTA NITE – Messcom

If ever, there was an event dedicated to the foodies of IMT, it was the Pasta Nite. Feasting on the sumptuous fare of creamy white sauce pasta and delicious chocolate pastries, it was indeed a dinner to remember.

CAMPUS



BE A SANTA- Messcom

Keeping the tradition of caring and sharing alive, this holiday season, the Mess Committee organized a visit by the students of IMT to the local orphanages in Ghaziabad. The enriching interaction was one filled with fun and frolic; it involved the children performing to various songs and being presented with gifts from the students of IMT. At night, the Mess Committee also distributed shawls and blankets amongst the homeless in Noida.

KNOWLEXIR - RACE

Knowlexir was a multi-round quizzing event hosted by RACE. Competing on an innovative online platform, the participants were tested on a variety of topics ranging from marketing, to finance to general knowledge.



E-CONCLAVE 2015 – ECell



IMT's annual entrepreneurial event, E-Conclave, had the theme of – "Digitalized India: Land of Opportunities", this year. The conclave consisted of three events, namely Next Big Venture, which provided students with a platform to pitch their ideas for mentorship under investors, Case Maze, which encouraged students to find implementable solutions to real-life problems faced by startups and Celeb Speak, which saw the who's who of the business industry speak to the students.

SANJEEVANI BLOOD DONATION CAMP – MADF

Make A Difference Foundation, IMT Ghaziabad, in association with Rotary Club, organized Sanjeevani, a blood donation drive. IMT supported this noble initiative with full zeal donating close to a hundred pouches of blood.



BUZZ

COMMUNICON 2015 – MRRC

IMT held its annual media conclave, Communicon, on December 18-19, 2015. The event started with an insightful panel discussion 'Vichar Vimarsh', on the theme – 'Does India have a sense of humor?' by Mr. Pranay Manchanda, Ms. Prajakta Koli, Mr. Vishnu Jain and Mr. Indu Shekhar Sinha. The discussion was moderated by Commander V K Jaitly.



The second event – 'Big 10' - saw top colleges from across the country battle it out in an intense debate on prevalent social issues plaguing our country. Ms. Shutapa Paul, Forbes India; Ms. Neha Batham, Aaj Tak; and Prof. Lipi Das; attended the event as judges, and provided valuable words of advice to the participants.



The event concluded with a superb rendition of the play 'Don't Dress for Dinner', by the drama troupe University Gigs.



Mosaic - Snippets of the Soul

“Siren”

Pratiksha Kumar

“If I was a story, how will you write me?” she asked him impishly
He looked at her for a few moments, his hands clasped in hers
It tightened imperceptibly, making her catch her breath at the intense light
In his soft amber eyes
He spoke low and hoarse

“I would write you endless
Like the mysteries of the oceans
Eternally indecipherable, and unquestionably fascinating
I would write you bold
Torrid like the heat of your skin against mine
I would write you deep and dark
Like the potent twin pools of your eyes
Then I would write you innocent
For only you see me fine and pure
I would name you “Angel”
If angels could kiss the way you do
I would call you “Siren”
If my body was all you stirred
I would write you so beautiful, darling,
I swear that to you
But I know that I would get lost carving in the words
That would be just a pale imitation
And tortured that they will always be like
Broken stars to the infinite galaxies of your glorious soul.

Artist of the Month: Aniket Vaidya

Food that makes you drool: Absolutely anything. I am a foodie with no biases for either vegetarian or non-vegetarian food.



A colour that defines you: Turquoise

Best thing to watch with a bucket of popcorn: Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

Tell us something about yourself: I am a fun loving person with high regard to integrity. I have always believed that if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well.

What fuels or drives you in life everyday: If you don't eat the lion, you can't expect the lion to not eat you. Life is unfair. For life to run smoothly, there are things that you are supposed to do, irrespective of whether you want to do them or not. And true happiness is a rare gift. If I can make one person smile and

give a gift of pea sized happiness and along with it, find time to do what makes me happy, I really would believe that the day will have been spent well.

What gets you through a rough day: Just knowing that even this will come to an end.

Talk us through your interest and accomplishments in sports and music: In cricket I have represented Vidarbha Cricket Association at the National level for four years in a row and have played against the likes of Varun Aaron, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Abhimanyu Mithun and Manish Pandey to name a few. I have also played at the university level and led the VCA team in 2006. Engineering happened to me just when I was named as one of the 30 probable players for the coveted Ranji Trophy. I couldn't pursue the sport professionally but continued to play the A-league at my hometown whenever possible. Wherever I go, I happen to find people with whom I can play and enjoy. I played TT to improve eyesight and reflexes so that I could be better at cricket. Eventually I started doing well. I have been the district champion for 7 years and represented Maharashtra State at the national level in both school nationals as well as open nationals. I worked as a table tennis coach for almost 3 years while I was studying engineering. I've run two half marathons till now and I dream of running a full marathon someday. Not just running but, practicing yoga also, has equally helped me to keep fit. Guitar and singing just happened to me as the maternal side of my family has some background. Also my elder sister is a trained vocalist. I have never been professionally trained. I was the lead vocalist of my college band.

How has IMT helped you to keep going and further pursue your interests:

IMT is a parallel universe in itself. It's got all that I would want to follow my interests. A beautiful campus, a playground, a well-equipped gymnasium and people from all walks of life. It's a crime to ask for more.



Corporate Life: How to Succeed

Deepak Mehra

I was visiting one of our regional offices for a few days and noticed one particular officer always buried neck deep among papers on his desk. While most of the staff on the floor would be seen walking around, socializing at the water dispenser or hanging around in the pantry, this particular gentleman would always be at his desk. On my third day in the office I approached him and asked him to join me for a cup of tea. Chatting with Avi (name changed for privacy purpose) about his job and experience, I soon realised that I had opened a Pandora's Box.

The life story that Avi narrated was not new; I have heard it so many times in the last 25 years: Solid academic background – Avi is a CA and an MBA on top of that; high degree of commitment – he comes early and works late; screaming with sincerity – he is highly dependable and often comes to office on weekends; and boss's favourite (or at least he thinks) – he is openly appreciated by his boss for his hard-work and diligence in preliminary credit appraisal of all loan applications that come into the branch. And you will wonder that this sounds like a fairy tale; so where's the problem? The problem is that Avi has been doing the same job now for four years since he joined the bank after studies – sitting in the same corner while many others who in his words are "below average and undeserving" have moved up the hierarchy overtaking him. Sensing my empathy, he was quick to complain that his boss, the regional manager, did not understand his true worth, did not appreciate his high academic qualifications and probably was biased against Avi and was playing favourites towards some others.



Deepak Mehra is the author of "Ready, Steady, Go!" a book that takes a unique perspective on personal success in the professional world. He is a regular speaker at local and international conferences and seminars, conducts workshops for young professionals and regularly gives his views about the financial markets on Dubai Eye FM radio. He is a banker with over 24 years of experience and lives in Dubai with his wife and two daughters. Deepak graduated from IIT in 1989 and secured his MBA from IMT

This is a common theme I have heard so many times while mentoring young professionals – these are people who could endure the tough competition and grinding selection process at school, college, and university to bag a lucrative career, but soon find themselves at sea, when they are in the complex world of a corporate. These hard-working and brilliant people, for reasons unknown to them, end up toiling without reward or recognition while many others just seem to whiz by. Sadly, many of these capable and committed employees end up being bitter and frustrated – because personal success eludes them. They often blame their bosses or the unfair “system” but seldom try to analyze the root cause of their problem and definitely do not want to take any responsibility of what is happening with them.

I did not have time to spend much time with Avi as I had to come back to my office but in most of these cases, I have often traced the problem back to the attitudes and attributes such executives developed way back during school and college days. Many professionals fail to realize that there is a world of difference between school life and corporate life. Hard work and achievement of objectives may give a promotion in school but these alone are not enough to pull someone up the corporate hierarchy. There are numerous other factors that go into making someone successful in the real world. Success in the real world is a different ball-game. Very often, the rules of success that worked wonders in school suddenly seem to not work at the place where this very school led us to. Many young professionals fail to recognize that they have to completely overhaul their outlook and conduct in order to succeed in the real world.

The four basic aspects of engagement that change radically when we enter the corporate world, whether as an employee or an entrepreneur, are:

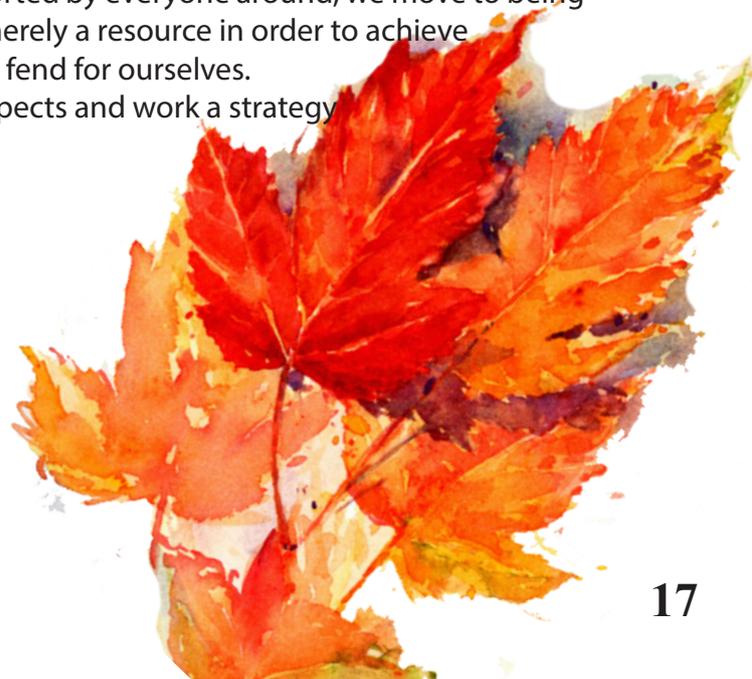
1. Work: From studies that are highly structured and exams that are fairly objective, we land up in a situation where everything exists in numerous shades of grey and very often only the objective is defined, whereas the path is not.

2. Authority: From teachers who are indirectly paid by us and who mollycoddle us with kid-gloves, we land up with bosses who primarily exist to achieve larger corporate goals and not to take care of us.

3. Peers: From classmates who can also be classified as friends, we move to colleagues who are inherently in a competitive relationship. In a classroom, the environment is non-competitive, even though it appears competitive: all, including sub-par performers, get a promotion to move to the next higher class whereas in an office only a few get to move up the pyramid. The rest have to stay down and support the mass of the pyramid.

4. Self: From the center of the world, being supported by everyone around, we move to being a cog-in-the-wheel (at least in the beginning) – merely a resource in order to achieve bigger objectives of an organization, left alone to fend for ourselves.

For success, we need to be aware of these four aspects and work a strategy to tackle the new environment.





Tête-à-tête with Praseon Joshi

We proudly present to you, Mr. Praseon Joshi's exclusive interview with the Sampark team from **Alumni Relationship Committee**.



HOW DID YOUR STAY AT IMT HELP YOU IN BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER?

I must say that IMT Ghaziabad is a unique institute at post-graduation level in India. The bonding among the students that you get to see here is something that you don't find across other B schools; where students are busy with their own work and stay aloof from one another. During our times, when the batch sizes were much smaller, everyone knew everyone on campus; there was a sense of openness in the culture. While everyone was discovering new things about themselves, they still managed to take out time and get involved in the lives of their friends. I remember a number of my friends, who were aware of my inclination towards creativity and writing, told me that I should join an ad agency. We were not factory products back then and there were constant brainstorming of ideas that used to happen. It was this open ended culture that I have taken along with me and tried to incorporate in my workplace.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE ANY MESSAGE TO THE CURRENT STUDENTS?

To create any brand, there is a sense of ownership that comes along with it. The students need to understand that they are the torchbearers of brand IMT and wherever they go, they will take a part of IMT along with them. They need to keep it in mind that whatever they do, howsoever they perform, is going to make a difference to brand IMT. The name that they make for themselves, good or bad, is going to be attached with the institute as well. The brand and the student are one. I personally always make it a point to mention IMT whenever I get the opportunity.

WHAT IS THE CORE STRENGTH OF IMTIANS THAT MAKES THEM SUCCESSFUL?

Most students graduating from the premier institutes of the country have this notion in their head that 'they have arrived.' In contrast, IMT students, as they graduate, keep it in mind that they still have miles to go and the journey has just started. It is this zeal and the desire that is the single biggest differentiating factor that sets IMTians apart from other B school graduates. Institutions are not created overnight. The best institutes have years of tradition and excellence behind them. IMT has all the tools to become a great institute but at the moment, it is still in a transit state; still in pursuit of that destination.

WHEN YOU JOINED THE INSTITUTE, IT WAS STILL IN ITS EARLY STAGES. BUT NOW THANKS TO ALUMNUS LIKE YOU, WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT INDUSTRY STANDING. SO WHAT IS IT THAT WE CAN DO AS STUDENTS THAT WILL MAKE ALUMNI PROUD?

Don't let the institute down; don't let us down (chuckles). Live up to the standards created by the people who have passed out of this institute. All great institutions in the world have an unsaid code. To give you an example, say tomorrow a student from Harvard is accused of doing something wrong. The immediate reaction would be that 'No-No, he is from Harvard, he would never do it.' It is this belief that a student from Harvard would never get involved in any wrongdoing that is the code. This code eventually comes into the popular culture and manifests itself. Similar is the kind of belief that you as students need to pass onto people that come in touch with you. Such should be your work ethics; that every time someone around you reads or hears about IMT, he should automatically think on the lines of excellence and quality. That is the code you need to generate. You represent IMT and you need to respect that and at the same time, be responsible as well.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE ANY MESSAGE TO YOUR BATCH MATES?

I owe everything to my batch mates; they made me what I am today. They tolerated me, indulged in me. I used to tell all kinds of stories and sing random songs to them, yet they never undermined me. Your belief comes from your peer group; the kind of belief, which even your family cannot provide. They accept you the way you are. I was not an easy person. I was involved in all kinds of weird things. But I always could sense the support that my friends gave me and I was very lucky to have people around like the ones I did.

I remember how it was compulsory for every member of the batch to attend any birthday party that we had on campus, irrespective of

whether we knew that person or not, that's how close we were as a community. We used to have a blast during our Chungi nights. I hear stories from different B schools as to how certain students fail to cope up with the stress that comes with a management degree. But I have rarely ever come across such a story in IMT, at least not in my time. The reason is that the institute provides you the mechanism to tackle that stress. Your peer group becomes your greatest support system during such times and you need to ensure that the people you stay with now are there to stay with you for the rest of your lives. That is the only advice I would give to current students.

WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOME OF YOUR SONGS HAVE BEEN INSPIRED FROM YOUR TIME AT IMT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMMENT?

Yes. There is an interesting story behind the song "HawanKareng" from the movie BhagMilkhaBhag. I completely owe this song to IMT and its hostels. During our times there used to be hawans in the Amphi, which gave me an inspiration to write this song. While I was penning down the song, one of the lines that I originally wrote was "IMT aakarkyakareng? Hawankareng."





Life at IMT: The Mess Workers

Vikas Sharma and Kshiteesh Kohle

“A recipe has no soul. The cook brings the soul to the recipe.” – Thomas Keller

As we opened the door of the empty mess, the afternoon sun filtered through, casting a golden glow on the freshly cleaned floor. Our bellies let out a loud grumble upon encountering the delicious aroma of butter chicken being prepared for the night. Our taste buds, already in a tizzy, implored us to go inside and dig in. However, determined not to get distracted, we continued on with our mission. We wanted to delve into the lives of our beloved mess workers, and see how they manage to function so effectively, day in and day out.

We were directed, by the cleaner, towards a senior mess worker named Lal Dhanji. Expertly stirring the huge pot of chicken, while continuously delegating smaller tasks to his subordinates; multitasking was clearly Dhanji’s forte. Standing beside him, Vikas Yadav was chopping vegetables. They both consented to the interview, with the warmest of smiles. Dhanji and Vikas, though quite different from each other, seemed like the perfect interview subjects. Dhanji, a veteran of 30 years, brought to the table a blend of wisdom and practical knowledge, while Vikas, barely older than any of the students on campus, brought in unmatched enthusiasm and vigor. This complementary melting pot of age groups and perspectives, was, as it seemed to us, the success mantra of the mess workers.

“It’s been a busy day, as usual”, groaned Vikas, while pulling a chair for Dhanji and himself. “I start my day at 6 am, with salad cutting. Even though my room is right next to the canteen, it’s hard waking up that early.

“This young generation, I tell you; so soft. You should have seen how we used to work back in the day. Since 30 years I have been doing this, without a single complaint”, said Dhanji, sniggering. His demeanor clearly portrayed his self-confidence and authority.

“Dhanji, is just like a coconut – hard on the outside but soft inside,” explained Vikas. “But everyone in this mess swears by his experience and skill. Though he helps us with cooking and chopping sometimes, he is usually involved in more difficult tasks like estimating the amount of rice to be prepared, or freezing the right amount curd for the subsequent day. I remember his motivational lessons, when I first started working here. He keeps the team going.”

“This boy, all he does is butter people up, “said Dhanji, chuckling. “But yes, the team is indeed very good. My association with IMT goes back to 1986, when I joined as a young worker, quite like Vikas here. Times were different then; less of technology and more of manual labor. But I have seen a lot of changes in the way the mess functions. Now, my day starts at 7:45am. I mostly oversee the work here, or help with the procurement of supplies. The weekends are off. Twice a year, I do go back home to my family in Gorakhpur, but I miss living with them.”

Sifting through his wallet, Dhanji, then proudly showed us pictures of his family – two daughters, four sons, and his father, standing in front of a two-storied house. One could but glimpse a slight hint of moistness in his eye, as he spoke about his family, but the old-timer brushed it off, urging Vikas to tell his story.

“Working here was something I always aspired for“, Vikas exclaimed. “I used to be a bus conductor in Ghaziabad, but my passion always lay in food. Unfortunately, being educated only till class 5th, getting a good job was tough. But I thank my stars I landed up here. I enjoy working with my team. The best part is when we get free time in the evenings to play cricket and volleyball. The college administration and mess committee, especially the senior mess committee, are very supportive. The only wish I have, now, is to become a permanent employee here, so that I may bring my wife here to stay with me.” “He’s been married for only a year, that’s why he says this. I’ll talk to you when you celebrate your 10th anniversary”, remarked Dhanji, getting up from his chair. When the task at hand was preparing food for 1300+ students, four times a day, time was a rare and essential commodity. It was time to serve the evening snacks. As their laughter resonated through the empty mess, we filled our empty cups with steaming hot masala tea. At each sip of that heavenly beverage, we couldn’t help, but pause and admire the often overlooked importance of their work, in our daily lives.





STEP Program: An Interaction

with Vysakh Madhavan

Vysakh Madhavan- a Bangalore boy in IMT Ghaziabad, member of MarkUp and a huge football fan, chose to be a part of the STEP program which took him to Dubai, where a rigorous emersion program was undertaken by him. When asked about his life at IMT so far, he says, "My life here has been nothing short of a roller coaster ride with its own share of ups and downs. I have had some great and challenging experiences here, and all of this with a lot of fun. I have been lucky to have found some great friends as well, in this place."

Choosing the STEP program was a well thought out decision for Vysakh, and he supported his decision by saying that, "STEP program offered a unique blend of fun and learning experience with a chance to know the GCC first hand. What made me really enthusiastic about the program is my inquisitiveness to know how Dubai plays a pivotal role in shaping the Middle East and in contributing to the Global Economy. Who would not want all of this, with some amazing desert experiences?"

Now that he is back from the program, it was interesting to know are his actual learnings out of the STEP program and whether they met his expectations or not, to which he enthusiastically responded, " I gathered immense insight into the business operations in the MENA region and the major distinguishing factors between Dubai and Indian business scenarios. Also, the role of government of Dubai in the nation's rapid growth was a very interesting learning. This entire program gave me a great experience about the UAE market; something that can leverage my understanding of international scenarios." The STEP program is undoubtedly the very definition of *'learning beyond the books'*.

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