

TOWARDS AN EDUCATED INDIA:



Classroom instruction and its utility as part of learning cannot be undervalued. Academic institutions with a noble intention of well being of students are trying to promote classroom learning as an important way of learning. On the other hand, students' interest in class room instruction is on the decline. Here the relevant question is - is it worth to chase the grown up



Higher Education Forum

students of higher education towards classrooms? In terms of magnitude, in India alone there are at least one hundred million students enrolled in various higher education institutions who are supposed to comply with attendance rules.

Typical attendance rules in vogue in case of MBA programme of two years in a premier institution are mentioned below as an example. Students who join this programme are graduates, with 30 to 40 per cent of them having work experience.

Compulsory attendance rules for students: Need for rethinking

- A minimum of 75 percentage attendance is compulsory to take written examination in the concerned subject
 - Students who put in 60 - 75 per cent attendance are allowed to take written examination but penalised by awarding a standard 'Minimum Pass' grade despite they getting better grade.
 - Students who put in below 60 per cent attendance in any a subject are (i) not allowed to sit for the written examination (ii) asked to take the subject again and put in minimum attendance as eligibility to appear for the written examination (iii) for repeating the course students need to pay an additional fee of ₹1,000 to the college.
- On the lines of the above example, all academic institutions try to push for strict attendance rules for students. In a sense, the above rules are harsh and meaningless. Harsh in the sense that academics go to the extent of levying penalties and devaluing the academic brilliance achieved by the students who do not comply with the attendance rules. It is even surprising, that an absentee student scores such good grades. It is unfortunate that the system, rather than appreciating and recognising

the academic brilliance of those students, who could do well in the written examinations, take to retaliatory stance and penalise them. It is nothing but discriminating Eklavyas when it comes to rating their brilliance.

Academics are treating the issue of student absenteeism as dishonesty and indiscipline of students and trying to curb it through harsh attendance rules. Adult and mature learners will have their own reasons for being away from class room instruction. At the same time they are also sufficiently aware of the extent of loss they incur by being absent from the class room instruction.

Academics may argue that attendance is part of curriculum design and hence, it must be complied with. Argument seems to have no sound logic. On one side, the Indian Constitution recognising the maturity of the adults above age of 18 years, guarantees Universal Adult Franchise. In contrast, higher education institutions impose compulsory attendance rules on the same people assuming that they cannot understand the value of classroom instruction. Academics needs to treat adult students as

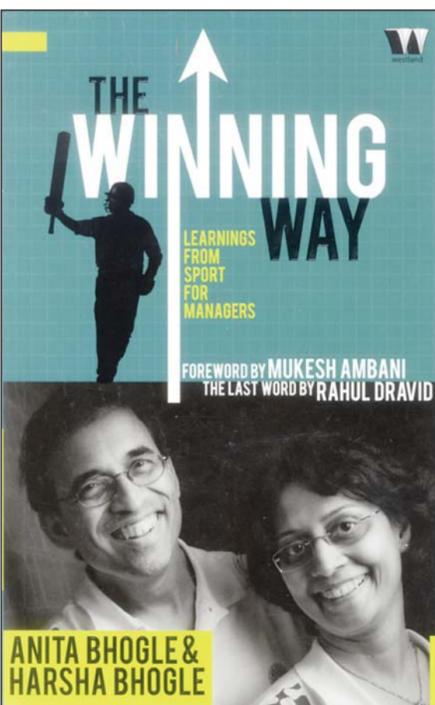
grown ups in their evaluation process.

Further, when an adult student pays the tuition fees to an academic institution, logically speaking, he/she has bought an option to attend the class room instruction but not surrendered his/ her right to attend or not to attend the classroom instruction. In customer service parlance, by accepting the tuition fees from the students, it is the responsibility of academic institution to pull the students to class rooms rather than pushing them in.

In reality, student attendance is an indicator of quality of teaching that happens in a traditional class room. Challenge for the academics is to offer a value to the students for the time and effort they spend in the classroom. Quality instruction in the class room is always the best weapon in the hands of academics to pull the students into class room. It is a matter of debate as to what extent students feel that they are benefitting by spending their time in the classroom.

The culprit for the decline of conventional classroom learning is ever growing Internet and electronic resources as an alternate method of learning. Sooner or later these changes will force the academics to come out of their obsession for classroom instruction as the ultimate way of learning. In case students prefer to be away from the traditional class room, the learning process should be designed taking this as a limitation. The new challenge for academics is to design innovative learning methods which utilise the students' experiences outside of the classroom for effective learning. A paradigm shift in teaching and learning is awaited so as to harness the students' time, energy, and endowments and utilise them for effective learning and nation building. Let us hope higher education sooner or later will rise to meet this challenge.

Authored by Dr T Prasad, Associate Professor and Faculty Adviser, Center for Student Enterprises, NITIE, Mumbai. He is also a senior member of Higher Education Forum, HEE The views expressed here are author's personal and do not represent the views of the employer organisation



Reading room

The Winning Way - Learnings from Sport for Managers

Author: Anita and Harsha Bhogle
Publisher: Westland
Pages: 96 pages
Cost: Rs. 200

"India has no dearth of talent but talent is not much use without the right work ethic, and hugely-talented people can actually be a burden if they can't fit into teams."

What happens when two IIM alumni, one a highly successful sports commentator and the other an equally well known advertising consultant, decide on capturing their consulting experience over a period of six years in a single book? *A Winning Way*.

The Bhogles - Anita and Harsha have produced exactly that in their blockbuster paperback - *The Winning Way*. This unpretentious 193 page power packed paperback is a reader's delight.

For over two decades we have been used to following sport through Harsha's commentary-panel discussions, interviews and quizzes, apart from other references over the digital media. The book is a breeze-with nuggets from some boardrooms of the best managed firms in India-as well as wisdom shared by some of the best sportspersons globally. Harsha, in his characteristic chatty way, weaves through - giving us glimpses into the highly analytic brains of those who have ruled the basketball courts (NBA), historic moments in football, and analysing why some champions had enviable track records in winning consistently!

Rarely do you find nonfiction which keeps you captivated all through and is really hard to put down. Harsha's style of narration, his command over the English language, his choice of vocabulary is unmatched, as the book flows from corporate lessons and learning's

Sporting business

blending neatly with sport situations and real life incidents.

The chapters link to each other throughout the book, right from the contents page. Beginning with defining the Business of Winning, which starts with Goal Setting, leading into Attributes that translate goals to winning ways, which nicely sets up Burden of Winning and Learning from Losing, culminating in Change, Teambuilding and Leadership parameters that really makes up *The Winning Way*.

Similarly, the idea of summarising each chapter with the key takeaways was an extremely thoughtful one, for not only does it allow for a quick revision, but actually serves as a ready reckoner for future use.

The real life examples are enthralling to say the least. For example, the point about 'Winning in all conditions' was a master piece. We are all familiar with the old adage - 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going'. This is extremely well related to the corporate world, as well as to the sporting scene by two wonderful situations.

For the corporate world, Cadbury's famous Worm controversy and how the company stood up to face the challenge, by not shying away, but taking the bull by the horns, explaining possible gaps, their initiatives to fill them and their commitment to quality is a perfect example. The sporting scenario describes the situation that the Australian team found itself on the eve of the world cup in 2003, when most of their leading players were down due to various issues. Instead of sulking or giving up the rest of team rallied around to create history. This book is really peppered with such realistic examples drawn around concepts, kept in simple yet elegant style of writing, which is really the game changer.

Some of my takeaways from the book, enabling me to re-look at talent acquisition, comes from trying to understand the salient points of a winning team:

Winning teams are happy teams. Winning teams attract the best talent and because they create a climate where talent is allowed to flourish, players get better faster and that contributed to winning more often. Probably the biggest reason some teams win more often than others is

that they know how to win. To know how to win, you must win frequently!

On the flip side, growing up in a losing environment could never have learnt the discipline of winning. Self belief is an essential aspect of development and if you are not winning, you'll never acquire it.

Mukesh Ambani's foreword may not stand out or may not near the narration excellence of the rest of the book but the last word, from possibly one of the greatest ambassadors of the game - Rahul Dravid is a masterpiece. The book is a must have on your shelf and a must read for the sheer experience.

News Bites

PhD admissions open

Jamia Millia Islamia invites applications in prescribed form from eligible candidates. For details and guidelines including eligibility criteria, categories of exemption from entrance test etc are available on <http://jmi.ac.in>

Candidates will be allowed to appear for only one subject at a time, which is the subject of their post graduation or related/ allied subject.

Download form from website and submit before July 8 along with demand draft of ₹1,000 from a nationalised bank drawn in favour of 'Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia' at New Delhi

"EXECUTIVE EDUCATION"

Get prepared to meet challenges in the ever-changing business world

FIND OUT ABOUT THE

"EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT'S DIPLOMA COURSE"

FULL TIME & SUNDAY BATCHES

Get your XII or Graduation Mark Sheet & avail of Discount



DAVAR'S COLLEGE
(A NANI DAVAR VISION)
ESTB: 1900

Enrol Now at 3rd COUNTER
(: 2202 2549, 2204 5072
Website: www.davarsindia.com



B.Sc.
F.Y.-S.Y.-T.Y.
XI-XII
SCIENCE-MHT-CET
REGULAR & OCTOBER BATCHES
FOR HIGH QUALITY TEACHING JOIN
RAVI CLASSES
At King's Circle, Near Shanmukhananda Hall,
24016373 - 24013289



College of Management Studies
RISE WITH EDUCATION

Sri.Chandrasekarendra Saraswathy Vidyapuram,
Jagadguru Adi Sankara Marg, Plot No 1E, Sector V,
Nerul, Navi Mumbai 400 706 Tel: 27708373/ 76/ 77 Fax: 27708379
e-mail: sies@siescoms.edu Website: www.siescoms.edu

ADMISSION NOTICE : 2011-2014

MASTER IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (MCA)

Affiliated to University of Mumbai
(South Indian Linguistic Minority/Institute level Seats)

Eligibility criteria: 1) Maharashtra domiciled South Indian Community (Mother tongue Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu & Konkani) for minority quota. 2) Students from any community for Institute level seats.

Educational qualification: as specified by Directorate of Technical Education, Maharashtra.

Cost of prospectus & form : ₹ 500/-

Last date for sale and submission of forms: 30.06.11

Application forms can also be downloaded from website. For further details contact office.

MUKESH CLASSES

RESULTS 2009-10

 MRIDULLA A STATS 91% BHAVAN'S(A) IIT-JAM MUMBAI U	 KARTIK I MATHS 87% SIES TIFR, IIT- JAM	 JEET D STATS 86% BHAVAN'S(A) MUMBAI U	 DEEPIKA C STATS 85.6% BHAVAN'S(A) MUMBAI U	 ASHWIN M PHYSICS 85% PENDHARKAR IIT-JAM, MUM U	 RADHIKA MATHS 85% SIES MUMBAI U
 UDAY D STATS 85% BHAVAN'S(A) MUMBAI U	 SACHIN B CHEMISTRY 79% ACHARYA MUMBAI U	 DHANASHREE BIOTECH 76% SIES TIFR, JNU	 SHWETA V BT-BC 76% SIES MUMBAI U	 ABHIJIT P PHYSICS 72% RUJA IIT-JAM, PUNE U	 KAUSTUB A PHYSICS RUJA PUNE U

B.Sc. M.Sc-ENT

PHYSICS, MAHEMATICS, STATISTICS, CHEMISTRY, COMP. Sc., I.T.
BOTANY, ZOOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY, BIOTECH, LIFE Sc., BIOCEM

B-13, HAJI HABIB, OPP. FIRE BRIGADE DADAR (E-14)
CELL: 9322221384

Attention.. 12th Students ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR

BCA BSc.(BIS) B. Tech

MCA MBA

• State Government University • No Percentage Bar
• No "Paid" Seat System • Affordable Fee Structure
for enquiries contact :-

The Little Flower Education Centre

(ISO 9001-2000) 2/A Gundowli, Andheri (E).
91673 30091/95/2683 0627/2683 9178