

My Life @ Chetana's

Being a student of science background, a Chemical Engineer by graduation meant that it was a more technical outlook that I gained during my initial years of learning. Post my engineering degree I worked for fifteen months as a *Business Development Executive* at *Blue and Green Consultants Pvt. Ltd.*, a small scale water and waste water treatment consultancy in Thane. I decided to join *Chetana's R.K Institute of Management & Research* for a MMS (Masters of Management Studies) degree during the summers of 2014.

It is often said that the first impression is the last...and my initial days of Semester 1 was nothing less than exciting, knowledge enriching, fun and a new dimension to what was then back to student life but in a managerial perspective of the corporate world. As a MMS student my first year was in the R.K building, which will now be going into reconstruction from this year (2016), and so we were privilege enough to be the last batch of students to have studied there. The 2nd floor of the R.K building comprising of lecture rooms, the Computer lab, the Library, the admin office will be one of the finest of infrastructures that I have encountered as a student. It also gave us the advantage of being the only students to use the entire campus wing. I was in MMS A, a class that many professors would often refer to as the class of superstars. A look back now and I realize our class had great talented individuals, experienced students, fresh minds and the bonding of the class was nothing but incredible. MMS A ended the Semester 1 having class toppers in academics, students as core committee heads in all the events that year including the placement committee.

The transition to year 2015 i.e. Semester 2 was toughest for me as it involved decisions of which specialization to choose, electives and career focusing options as compared to a Semester 1 that was more towards academic centric and getting the managerial concepts in the right direction. I think the faculty guidance in this case was far more valuable than I can put down into words; Professor of marketing that comes to mind is *Prof. Rashmi Kanetkar* who helped a lot in making me clear on career paths and goals. The first year involved *off-summers* which were in its own way a unique concept of giving a student, a day in his academic week as an on-field experience day into sales and research (marketing students). I did my off-summers in a start-up firm called *Tag8*, my work involved consumer and retail research for warranty related products mainly in FMCD (Fast Moving Consumer Durables) sector. The leanings from the same went a long way to even help me secure my executives. Semester 2 would have the annual intra-sports event-The Challengers, event included outdoor sports, indoor games, flash mob and street play. Each game would be a knockout hence skills like team work, decision making and wining spirit were in display as classes from both PGDM and MMS competed in this tournament. Our class MMS A would eventually go on to lift the *Challengers-2015* trophy. I have always believed that events and sports are great simulation to a real time managerial experience and at Chetana's one can be rest assured of an entire power packed calendar as far as annual events were concerned. Year one would end for me being part of core committees in *KCS 2015 (Khandelwal Case Study)* and *National Conference 2015*. Both the events helped me understand and improve skills such as team coordination, communication and the right ways of planning for events of such magnitude. We also had an *Industrial Visit* for a week to Silvassa to retail and storage industries.

My first interaction with *the placement cell* came during my summer placement wherein I got selected into *AppsDaily Solution Pvt. Ltd* a start-up for mobile applications. My interaction with *Ms. Neena Katkar (HOD Placements)* and *Prof. Anand Desai (Marketing)* was an amazing experience and their inputs helped me a lot during my summers. *AppsDaily* allowed me to interact with students from the top institutes of the country like the IIMs, NMIMS and TAPMI.

The second year, post 2 month of summers and we were The Senior batch of students at the institute. Seniority means a sense of responsibility and leadership and Chetana's Buddy mentoring program for marketing student was no less than a great example of the same. Fortunately for me due to placements and lecture session timings in Semester 3, I was given the opportunity to mentor an entire MMS B junior division for the Knowledge enrichment session. It was definitely the highlight of Semester 3 for me, it allowed me to not only develop my leadership ability, people interaction skills, networking but also understand the crucial aspect of people management. *Knowledge enrichment* sessions were coordinated and conducted by *Dr. Sunita Srivastava (Dean CIMR and HOD Marketing)*. Dr. Sunita also introduced us to the first ever marketing conclave of the institute *Vipanan-The Millennial Wave* event to which I was Chairperson from MMS. The event experience was one of the finest that I have ever had given the excellent planning, team work and the departments that we as Vipanan team handled from areas of Sponsorship, Publicity, Branding, Social Media and Hospitality. The last event that I would participate would be the *Reminiscence 2016 (Alumni night)* as part of the Annual Newsletter-Atoot committee in making a creative memory of the year gone by...to our Alumni.

During the second year we had a number of visiting faculties to our campus and their vast experience into industry and an orientation towards practicality while teaching the subjects would help us not just with the exams and career point of view but also during our placements/campus interviews. This Semester would also see me get placed with one of the biggest IT organizations in the country. I think the assistance from placements cell right from the beginning of year one i.e. the process of preparation for campus drives like interview, aptitude tests and group discussion has been absolutely phenomenal. Eventually in Semester 4, I would also get an opportunity to do a winter internship at *Business Enhanced* a research firm which would be part of my industry oriented project.

To aspirants of PGDM/MMS always remember that “*Winners don't do different things...they just do things differently*”. And at Chetana's Institute you are a winner from the beginning. The heads-start you get here compared to other institutes around is via the faculty (core and visiting), great infrastructure and the placement assistance which is one of the finest in the city. Our session of Alumni interactions, Industry experts, HPDP (High performance Development Programs), BNA (Business News Analysis), Team building activities, Industrial Visits, Mock GDs & PIs give us a invaluable support to not just in getting good placements through campus but also eventually become good managers and great leaders for the future.

Finally I wish to thank our CEO @ Chetana's Institute Dr. Madhumita Patil for her always supportive nature towards students, to the Directors of both institutes Dr. Jayshree Bhakay (CRKIMR) & Dr. K.C Pandey (CIMR), Dr. Sunita Srivastava (Dean CIMR) and my teachers. To friends from PGDM and MMS the seniors, my batch and the juniors for one great journey of two years at Chetana's. *And finally to my Class MMS A for being the best...*

“Not everyone can be a Great Leader but a Great Leader can come from anywhere.”

Thank You.

“And as usual as always keep working harder and keep dreaming!!!”

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