

F · O · U · R Y · E · A · R · S

Engineering & Hostel



"Ek muddat ke baad mili iss qaid se aazadi,
Par kismat toh dekho,
Jab aazadi mili to pinjare se pyar ho gya"

Rahul Parwal

*This book is dedicated to Vinod,
Yajant, Lalit Bajpayee, Shivangi & all
my friends from JIET (JBH Rocks!)*

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Introduction

Our lives are not complete without the stories we tell. We are transformed by them, and they form the foundation of our lives.

I found my Engineering and Hostel journeys to be life changing. This short e-book tries to capture my candid experiences, failures, joys, and learnings. I have a feeling that this book can help folks who are looking forward to their transformational journey.

You cannot connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So, you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future.

–Steve Jobs

Keep Failing, Learning, Experimenting, & Smiling 😊

Disclaimer

This book is written from the perspective and experiences of a college teenager and is not written to harm or offend anyone.

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Prologue



I was a mediocre kid. An average student, doing no good in any subject and trying hard to save myself from failing. I was one among the many in this world of human herd. I was just following what others were doing, be it sports, fashion, academics, fun, etc. I did not have my own choices or opinions. I used to consult 10 people to take a decision of my life and would go ahead with the option preferred by most of them. Basically, I had no identity & individuality. It is hard to accept but is certainly true when I look down the lane. The decision capacity had not grown in me till my senior secondary. I was good at mugging up and was from a prestigious Boys' school in Jaipur, Rajasthan. I prepared for my 10th through textbooks and past year papers and fared well in exams, securing 9.2 CGPA (87.4 %).

As the herd mentality says that students with good grades take up science, mathematics and the ones with poor grades take up commerce and below poor take up arts so the man in me forced me to take up science without even considering the other two options. Although now I feel that it was somehow the right decision, but it was the first "Go with the flow" decision of my life. I took optional subject as IP (Information Practices). I opted for IP just because somebody told me that this subject will help me later in Engineering, without even considering the topics that it covers. For all those who has

no idea what IP is, IP is a computer subject in addition to the fundamental PCM (Physics Chemistry Mathematics) and compulsory English. It covers Java, My SQL, Basic of computers, etc. So being a profitable trader in my mind I decided to take up IP. This was my 2nd “Go with flow” decision.

Now, I am sure every PCM student at that time was familiar with the trend of “IIT Coaching”. I do not understand why every Science student wanted to go to IIT, even the parents got driven by this trend & went crazy for it. They forgot about the word “engineering” or “engineer” for the next 2 years and for them IIT became synonymous with everything in life such as “money”, “fame”, “success”, “engineering”, “victory” and everything other than IIT became the opposite of the above. I have seen this attitude in parents 10 years from now till today and I am expecting this to be the same even after 10 years.

So, I took up the IIT coaching although my parents did not force me for anything but as it was a trend, I thought it would be beneficial to go ahead with it. Almost every student in my class took up coaching so how could I not join. It was more of a prestige issue than an academic issue. So, this was the 3rd “Go with flow” decision.



I joined a premier coaching institute in my city (nation's top-ranking institute) and the fees was exorbitant. They used to take an annual amount of 75,000 Rupee and that too in only 2 installments. Today I wonder, how a middle-class or lower-class family would manage their children's coaching expenses. Now coming back to coaching classes, the classes were good initially. I still remember them covering 1 chapter in 45 days and 2 chapters in 70 days but then the speed went so high that I could

not catch up with that pace and started losing grip on the topics taught. Then solving the DPP's (Daily Practice Problems) became the next impossible task for me. Every Chapter was divided into modules and had various practice problems to solve. Today I realize that the tutors just made us remember/mug-up every solution they gave to a problem. Although, the concepts were far from the solutions. I got shifted to the 2nd batch of coaching based on my performance in monthly tests and the teachers here were not great since they just explained the concepts and not demonstrate or inspire. Now understanding the concepts got even more difficult. I could not manage to learn/practice what was taught here in coaching classes and school. My condition became miserable with time.

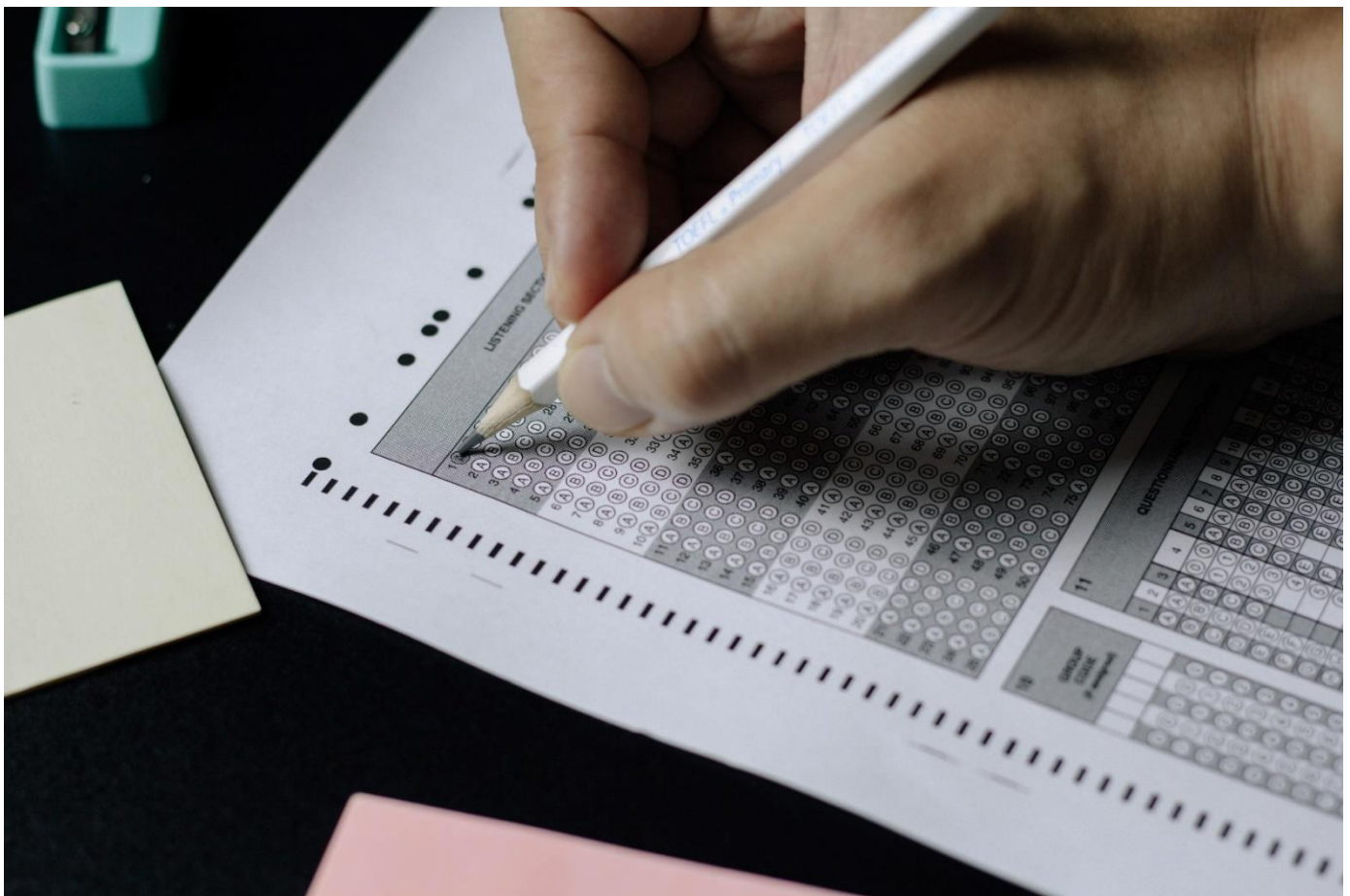
But somehow, I managed to pass 11th Grade school examinations on the account of suffering coaching studies.

Now, I had to decide what to do after my 11th whether to continue with the coaching or not?

But as no one from my batch left coaching and the flag of IIT was still up in my mind so I decided to continue my coaching of IIT, and I consider it my 4th "Go with the flow" decision. And now the pain got even worse due to travelling in summers, early morning school lectures, peer pressure to do something better in life along with the horrible coaching classes. All of it made my life miserable.

I had a deep inner realization that I wasted my father's hard-earned amount of around 2 lakh rupees. I still feel the pain and maybe that is the reason why from that point of time I stopped going with the flow and decided to make my own decision based on my intelligence and intellect.

"THINK, DECIDE & DO" is what I call it.



I appeared for various Engineering entrance exams, to name a few IIT, AIEEE, BITSAT, RPET, VIT Vellore, etc. Well, Today I thank the government for replacing IIT, AIEEE & State University entrance examination to a single examination. Thanks, Mr. Kappil Sibbal for understanding the pain of all the students and reducing the complexity of these examinations.

I could not clear the IIT entrance, but to tell a very hard truth – If I had been from an ST category, I would have cleared the IIT entrance.

I got 71,000th Rank in AIEEE. So, I could not get into any NIT, but again telling a hard truth – If I had been from an SC/ST category I would have got into some NIT.

I got 236 Marks in BITSAT. Last year's (2011) cutoff was 211 but that year the cutoff raised to 241 and I missed BITS by 5 marks.

I got 6,000th Rank in RPET. So, I could not get into any reputed Government Engineering College but telling a hard truth – If I had been from an OBC/SC/ST category I would have got into any reputed Government Engineering College.

I learned a bitter truth about life then **“LIFE IS UNFAIR”** but later I realized that this was an incomplete quotation. The complete quotation is that **“LIFE IS UNFAIR, BUT IT IS UNFAIR TO ALL”** and I guess that was the fair part about life. All of us share some unfair misfortune at some point in our lives but irrespective of understanding that it happens with everyone we start cursing our life. This was a lesson that I learned when I could not get into BITS. My dreams were shattered but yeah now I had a lifelong lesson with me.



New Start



I wanted to join a college outside my city, Jaipur and thus I filled the RPET Counselling form of colleges outside of Jaipur. My choices were MBM Jodhpur, RTU Kota, JIET Jodhpur, and ECB Bikaner in the exact order & branch choices were CSE & ECE. After the result of 1st counselling, I got Computer Science & Engineering Branch at JIET, Jodhpur.

I was extremely happy with this opportunity, equally frustrated to be present in my hometown and desperately wanted to leave. I was excited to make new friends, for a new life, new opportunities, and new responsibilities. Maybe it was an escapism from reality, but I feel that it was the best decision of my life. Even the greats of Lord Ram and Pandavas had to leave their home and luxuries to become worthy men in life. I was just a mediocre kid, so I had to leave home, and this was my thought at that moment.

With this thought, I went to the college for registration along with my father. Being from a metro city, I had very high expectations from college. Imagining the college life that we see in movies, my

expectations were on Cloud Nine. But the moment I stepped into the college bus(बस); all my expectations vanished as I saw people travelling in that counseling bus arranged by the college. I saw people conversing in the local language which was like an alien thing for me at that moment. They were wearing old-fashioned clothes. They were pronouncing JIET as JEET and with all this, my mind blew up. I fell from cloud nine straight on the land and my heart was filled with pain.

I told my father that let us leave the bus and go back to Jaipur and I was heavily reluctant to join the college even before going to the college now. It was indeed a very childish act done by me at that moment.

My father insisted to at least go and see the college since we were quite close. I said, “OK! we can give it a try, but I am telling you that I am not joining this college”. He said let us go first & then decide. I did not say a word and was quietly waiting for the bus to start to take off to college. When the bus started, I keenly observed the route and development in that area. It was fine. Finally, we reached the college after 30 minutes.



We went to the counseling hall and did the formalities such as form filling, document photo state, etc. but I was very reluctant to join there. I asked one of the present students about the college and what is the process to join? He told me that the college is fine and it is a twin of Poornima College (another popular engineering college situated in Jaipur) and being from Jaipur I would definitely prefer going to