

Career Awareness and Career Coaching sessions at IIT Kanpur

The Career Awareness and Career Coaching sessions are being held at IIT Kanpur from October 3-5, 2013. These sessions are open to all students and conducted on campus by Piyush Dixit (who did his B.Tech in EE from IIT Kanpur 1976-81) and Prachi Dixit, both from Tanmaatra Consulting, Bangalore.

Background



In an Alumni Contact Program event on 7 September 2013 called "Tips from the Top", 5 alumni (Piyush Dixit was one of them) from the industry with MBA degrees from India and abroad were invited on campus to interact with students. Most questions from the students who attended this program (about 350 registered for the event) can be summarized as follows:

- Will I be able to get a job after I graduate?
- Does a poor CPI block opportunities for jobs/further studies? What is a good enough CPI?
- Is an MBA worth it (Value For Money)?
- What is the ideal time for doing an MBA?
- Is an MBA required for being a CEO?

In 1-on-1 sessions with the visiting alumni, most students appeared most anxious about their next achievement (a lucrative job or entrance to the next course of study). Some of them had very good grades, but were not very excited about what they were doing. Most of them seemed to be unclear about what would be an exciting career for them to pursue post-IIT.

The Challenge

IIT Kanpur is one of the premier institutes in India and entrance candidates have to go through intense competition to be able to qualify for entry to programs here. Those who make it are all very bright and hard working young people who have very high expectations of themselves. Some of these expectations come from their parents and relatives. Having cleared the entrance requirements, the students quickly shift gear to their next goal --- that of getting a high-profile and lucrative job upon graduation.

They want to evaluate everything they do on campus in terms of that goal, putting themselves under tremendous stress and competitive pressure.



While these students are very focused on achievement, very few devote time to discovering themselves. They want the best life can offer them, but do not try to what that really means. They are not able to think beyond what they keep hearing from the media, their families and friends and their peers on campus. Not knowing what they want for themselves, they feel compelled to respond to (often conflicting) expectations they pick up from their environment.

The team from Tanmantra are trying to work on:

- Presentations/workshops for students in the areas of Career Awareness and Career Planning and provide perspective and tools to help them introspect and come up with their own career direction based on their interests, abilities, values and personality.
- 1-on-1 sessions with students to provide Career Coaching and guidance based on their unique talents, interests and circumstances. The goal is to enable the students to discover and realize their potential.



Feedback:

Students will be requested to fill up the feedback form to evaluate the outcome of this project.