

- 1) Please tell us something about your experience at Times of India and The Statesman.

I was lucky to be a part of media industry, because in media I had advantage of interacting with a cross section of people from various walks of life, industry, government, academia, experts, youth and the kind of exposure which I got in media industry, I don't think that I could have gained in any other industry or sector. The media experience helps me in academics in terms of my understanding of the industry and society better, better understanding of people and business.

Good Communication, analytical skills, accountability, result orientation and deadlines are a few attributes inculcated during the tenure.

- 2) After working within leading news publications – Times of India and The Statesman, what made you choose the academic teaching sector?

I remember the time when I was at cross roads with an immense pressure to become a civil servant. I was trying harder and harder, getting stuck midway through and then taking radical decision of leaving that aspiration aside and getting into the corporate world with a firm determination that 'let me build my career here' which ultimately proved me right. I had a choice of joining M Phil at JNU Delhi then as I had not only cleared the entrance exam but stood first in the all india merit list and the dept was keen on my joining. I want to give a message here. Instead of looking back, it is always better to look at other alternative for which you are confident that you can do.

By 2002, after spending ten years in corporate, and looking my career ahead and larger perspective of family as well as my interest there was always an academic orientation. At the same time, the other reason was that may be another ten years in corporate world although I had a positive career graph but my family was demanding more time from me. I thought that getting into academics would not only satisfy my inner urge but also I would have a better work life balance.

- 3) Are there any upcoming publications in the pipeline that you would like to talk about?

My Research has been focused on International Business and Management education. Last 2-3 years, frankly one has been researching while doing the job, the job of building institutions. Whatever one learnt at IMT Ghaziabad and GIFT under great leaders and with one's own ideas one has been trying to carve out

good institutions. Transformation and turnaround has been the key word, of course, with a difference that it helps society and the students and industry, the key stakeholders and thus providing longevity to the institute. One would wait for the right time to publish these experiences and moments of success and failures and truths of hard life of a practicing managers. How difficult it may be navigate an organizations with full of knowledge repositories

- 4) What would be your advice to students who seek to specialize and create a career in International Business?

In general I must say that younger generation have large potential and they are exposed to large opportunities. My message would be that they must appreciate these opportunities, identify their interests and potential and honestly work on them. Believe in themselves that they can do it, avoid short-cuts which have unfortunately become a prevalent practice today, Don't think small. Think big, dream big, have bigger objectives before you. With all these things, I am sure they will be able to achieve their goals. The success mantra is that in given circumstances one has to find a way out and where one can excel.

There is no specific domain where you are only carved out for International Business. You evolve within the organization and companies reward you with responsibilities of handling businesses internationally the more initiatives you may have shown, the more accountable and trustworthy you prove to be, the more open mindset you carry and the necessary knowledge and skill to handle international markets also help.

- 5) What has been your teaching philosophy so far?

I think, first and foremost, a teacher has to create a perspective, certain value which transform the audience that you are catering to that itself is a contribution towards a social change or a social movement. So I think you need to be honest that you are not there for lecture for 90 minutes but you need to understand and be prepared that in that 90 minutes what kind of changes you have been able to inculcate in the minds of your students. One must ensure as a teacher specially in a B school set up whatever is delivered in the class the learning

should translate into a relevant skill useful for the industry or any other section of the society. This would enhance a tremendous amount of credibility of the students, the teacher and the institute.

My advice to teachers would be that they add value to the students, make significant changes in them, identify their capabilities and priorities and help them give their full dedication to work.

6) Is there any particular experience, event, programme that you have attended and would like to share with us?

I have been at various places abroad. When I was in an Austrian, there I came across with a class that had around 50 students originating from at least 26 countries and what I found was that the cultural sensitivity was something which was foremost. Say for example, you must be very careful while you are talking to them. We, here in India, when do some activity in group, we do not mind if someone completes his/her assignment. We feel that he/she is having a better understanding of the particular concept. Then we request him/her to explain and help others complete the assignment. Looking at the value system, there was one situation when I asked a particular girl why she did not come forward and share her views. The reaction came, "Sir this is something which is demeaning for them, and they would feel bad". It was very difficult for me to convince her that we were having a collective learning and, as such, we must learn the art of saying right things even if it is awkward, and communicating it in as little words as possible. The more you talk in such a group; it is possible that you would make more errors with respect to diverse cultures. At the same time, they were highly demanding. At the end of each class, the lecture should be such that it convinces them that they have got certain new understanding and some value addition in that, otherwise they would be very firm and audacious in saying that "Sorry Sir, we are not learning and we would not like to attend the class".

7) What do you do in your spare time?

I spend my leisure time on a few things which I would enjoy myself, which makes me happy. It could be just lying down, watching TV,

reading, traveling, but this is the time when I do not work. I don't have a very active social life, but, yes that doesn't mean I confine to myself. Wherever I consider that social life is required and is meaningful, I certainly welcome and I come forward in associating myself. As far my family is concerned, within family we also don't have too much of distance. After work hours, whatever time I have I reserve it reasonably for my family and I think spending happy moments together in those hours keeps us happy. I don't have any problem in my family life work balance.

8) How has your teaching experience with Jaipuria Jaipur been so far?

Teaching in Jaipuria has been quite challenging and interesting too. Challenging as you have a diversified pool of students and dealing with them while you want to stick to your own core philosophy of teaching calls for a special handling of situations and students. Interesting because a lot is being experimented and that brings in learning and fun.