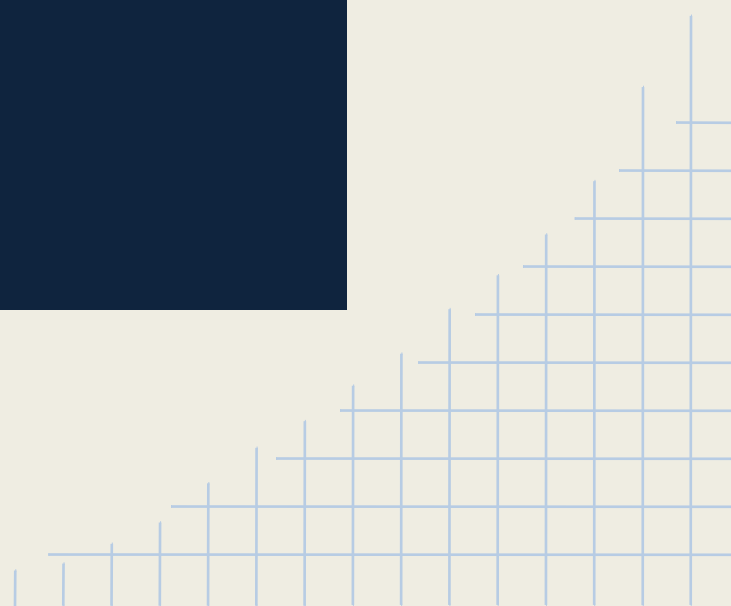


Interest in Academics – On a decline?

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Does interest in Academics whither away?

Most students want “good” jobs

- **Social Conditioning**

- Societal Expectations to get a “good” job
- Excessive media focus on high salaries
- Conformal Bias

Reinforces need to live up to expectations of being an IITian, i.e: **Jobs**

- **Market Forces**

- Supply & Demand
- Core sector : Relatively low paying jobs
- Need to differentiate to live up to the IIT Tag
- Demand for Non-engineering jobs increases
- Trend observed right from JEE prep to Final year Engg.

Impact of minimal interest

- **Continuous reinforcement leads to alienation from Academics**
 - Reinforcement also from “Seniors”
 - Falling grades an excuse for other activities
 - Loss of Passion
- **Diversion of Time to activities to achieve the ‘End’**
 - Leverage presence of activities that gets them the job
 - Interest in academics a very small part of it

Why don't we study at IITB?

50% of the students don't study at all unless and until there are imminent exams

Reasons for the majority:

- Professors haven't been successful in making them interested in Acads
- No conducive environment - Study infrastructure is extremely poor – No table/chairs, lack of privacy, etc..
- The content in most courses is too theoretical and they don't see any application in real life
- Too many distractions due to Facebook, movies, etc..
- Pressure to take up extra-curricular activities

Data based on a survey conducted by InsighT (Autumn 2012). Total number of respondents - 590

Why don't we study at IITB?

Surprisingly NOT the reasons for majority:

- Peer pressure – The 'maggu' label
- Discouraged due to the competition here after excelling in school
- The job I'm going to do won't require what I'm studying
- The JEE burnout

No clear majority opinion:

- "Diverse" background required by recruiters
- Marginal utility (in terms of grades) decreases sharply with study
- Studying the night before is enough to get a “decent” grade
- Ineffective/ Unapproachable TAs
- Large classes/ Lack of attention from the profs

Data based on a survey conducted by InsighT (Autumn 2012). Total number of respondents - 590

What are our expectations from faculty?

More Focus on Utility/Applications

- Utility of theoretical courses in Real world

Stimulate interest to pursue Academics as a career

- Bottleneck: Passion
- Solution: Stimulate Passion
- How? -> Increased engagement
- Market Academics as a lucrative career
- Articulate benefits of having good academic track record

Better Designed evaluation mechanisms