Interest in Academics – On a decline?

By
Rahul Sharma
Nivvedan S
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 in enough to get a “decent” grade
- Ineffective/ Unapproachable TAs
- Large classes/ Lack of attention from the profs

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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