

## MY IIMA EXPERIENCE

*By Vandana Menon (3TP 2022), a narration on the simplicity of being a course participant at IIM Ahmedabad as you enter, being in one with the campus as you leave*



On an unassuming Saturday morning, my boss informs me that I have been chosen as one of the few members who would go for the 3TP Program at IIM Ahmedabad. It seemed like a dream come true to be at the crème de la crème of B-schools in India.

After all the hustle and the last-minute hand over of my tasks at the office, I landed in Ahmedabad on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>. While entering IIMA, I had mixed emotions. One, there was this excitement of being in one of the premier institutes for a course, but there was also a little apprehension about whether I will really be able to handle the pressure, hectic schedules, and elaborate curriculum.

The staff at IIMA were very welcoming and made me feel comfortable during the check-in procedure. That night felt so serene and calm on the campus and I had a walk around the new campus after dinner. Indeed, an out of the world experience!

The next day, my colleague and I met most of our batchmates at the breakfast table. Our program began at 10.20 am with the inauguration ceremony. Entering the classroom was a vivid experience. This was where some of the finest brains in the country were churned out. The faculty, Mr Saral Mukherjee, and Mr Joshy Jacob explained the entire program and made it very apparent that we would hardly have any time to sleep. Sounded quite draining. There is an induction process for all students through which we are guided to the existing

functioning, rules, and procedures. The first assignment was to introduce your class neighbour to the entire class by mentioning some of their personal traits.

And then the classes began.....

The modus operandi was very different. There were huge files which welcomed us into our rooms. Each day had around 4 case studies. We had to read the case studies the previous day and be prepared for a classroom discussion on our analysis and views. The case studies were well chosen and were very apt to most of our daily work in the offices. Also, it helped us learn different management practices.

The views expressed by the diverse cohort really added value to the discussion and gave a very different perspective on the subject. Finally, the professor would explain the topic and the theory behind it. It is extremely interesting to know that there is always a different view to the case study that the professors would bring to the table. Several topics relating to Finance, HR, Accounts, Costing, Operations, Marketing, Advertising, Economics, Law were chosen for the syllabus and each of the professors made it extremely interesting.

The real struggle begins after the classes end at 5.30 because you must plan your time to prepare assignments for the next day with presentations. IIMA teaches you to meet deadlines under pressure without compromising the quality of your performance. We realised that during induction, the professors were right in saying that sleep is immaterial. Infact, we slept only for 4-5 hours daily.

The daily interactions, group discussions, and presentations helped to improve my confidence towards public speaking. It also changed the way we read. 4 case studies were impossible to complete, and I had picked up the nuances of highlighting/remembering key points. Interactions during group discussions also helped to improvise teamwork. Classroom discussions and voluntary interactions with the professors really helped in shaping up an individual. The exposure, learning, experience, and company you get there are matchless.

Amidst all the curriculum and hectic schedules, the beauty of the campus was mind boggling. Life is never dull at IIMA. The vibrant campus fills you with new enthusiasm every day. We had made some good friends from our batch and we would ensure that no matter what time we sleep, we must go for a walk in the early mornings. The old campus is the 'Heritage Campus' which has the historic Louis Khan Plaza, the 24X7 library, the Harvard Steps, the Students Mess, the PGP classrooms, the eat outs, late night addas, gym, basketball court and much more.

Early morning walks were calm and serene with lots of parrots, peacocks, and squirrels in their natural habitat. These scenes were unmissable. Every morning was a new exploration of the old campus. It was filled with arches, galleries, old monuments, dormitories – all the red brick structures.

Though the first week of the course seemed long, the rest of the weeks flew by and very soon the day had arrived where we had to finally leave. It was tough and heavy to part with the campus, professors and teammates. We came as strangers and after four weeks we were leaving with lot of good experience, learning, and as better professionals and individuals. IIMA is an experience in itself.

