

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF GUEST

My hearty congratulations to the graduating students for successfully completing their courses and my best wishes for many more successes in the next phase of their life's journey.

Dear students, your most enjoyable inning has just ended. Truly speaking, it is now the beginning. I can imagine the air of expectancy around each one of you when you were preparing to leave the Institute - eager to step into real life with hope and determination to be successful.

At personal level, each one of you would have your dreams, ambitions, fantasies, and anxieties regarding the future. Your new world is going to be different. Some dreams may come true and some may not. In life, there is always some good news and some bad news. There may be an odd exception as well.

Your life ahead in the real world is going to be more fun than it has been at the Institute. The fact is that real life tends to be ambiguous and unstructured, where changes keep taking place all the time. There are more and more uncertainties and yet the life has to go on.

Let me share with you some lessons I learned and unlearned from the real life experiences:

The first lesson may sound strange and, perhaps, not the most appropriate especially today when, for many of you, it is the end of your days as student.

However, since it is the most important learning experience from life, I would share the same. It is *to stay a student all your life*. In real life, there is no set curriculum, no credits or marks, no grading, no minimum or prescribed attendance etc. You choose and decide to *learn from life* – make learning a lifelong occupation –



means keep alive the same sense of impatience, be inquisitive, and ask questions as you have been as a student. Beware always of the gap between what you know and what you need to know and can know. Admire those who know better – at home in family, your parents and elders, and at work, your superiors. Observe, listen. In a confused and muddled world only the students survive and grow.

The second lesson is that in life nothing is more valuable than your values. What are values? These are cherished beliefs and the guiding principles which direct all your actions, and determine the means and the processes to adopt to realize your plans, targets, ambitions, and dreams.

Values are actually much more. They “determine the boundaries not only to act within but also to think within.” Bhavna, the thought behind is more important than Bhav, the expression or the action.

We discover or draw our values from various influences:

Education System: The early Vedic “Gurukul model” taught respect, trust, complete faith, discipline, and the complete surrender of ego to the guru – the knowledge, nature, and other living beings. The present system means marks theory, memory, doing well by hook or crook, or by any means necessary.

Home and neighborhood: Relationships, emotions, love, security, hurt, neglect, care. What feels good and what does not?

External Environment and Information: Global and National.

Your values are your ‘brand’. To enjoy trust and confidence, you need to have credibility for which you need to perform and behave consistently as per your values and beliefs.

The third lesson is the ability to change, which today is the only constant - anticipate, recognize, need,



ability, adapt, facilitate, and *enjoy*.

The fourth lesson is that your imagination is your most valuable asset – brings innovation and entrepreneurship. Your passion and risk taking ability will help the most in this respect.

The fifth lesson that I learnt is to cope with and learn from failures. Do not fear failure. From an early age, we are plagued with anxiety about performance and success. The truth is, one usually has to fail to succeed.

Anyone with a resume of accomplishments also has a resume of failures, humiliation and setbacks. Entrepreneur Steve Jobs and Astronaut Neil Armstrong have recorded their respective failures in life before they succeeded. J. K. Rowling the “Harry Potter” author eulogized her own valuable failures as, “failure gave me an inner security that I had never attained by passing examinations. Failure taught me things about myself that I could have learnt no other way.”

The last but not the least is the lesson I learnt is to remain a ‘realist’ but be an optimist .Optimism always forced me to look beyond to engage with the future. Not to brude or gloat over the past. Gave the power to think positive – a desire to be a part of the solution not only be a part of the problem.

Despite operating in a competitive environment you will have to make others successful and also face failure. Failure is an event and not a person to live and hound. Yesterday ended last night and so did the failure.

You must believe in yourself. You must believe that you will win. You must have the skills and confidence. Plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win.

Best Wishes. Thank You.

