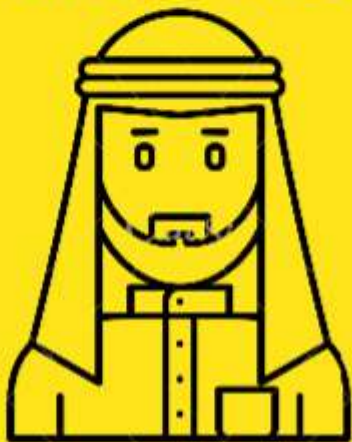


RISBII

*RAISED IN SAUDI
BORN IN INDIA*



MOHAMMED
FAWWAZUDDIN

RISBII

“RAISED IN SAUDI BORN IN INDIA”

BY MOHAMMED FAWWAZUDDIN

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Secondly, I would like to thank my role-model, Mr. K. N. Junaidi, a great Professor in my school, IISR, for training me and my friends and giving us the right advice at such a crucial moment in our lives. What I am today is just because of my professor.

MOHAMMED FAWWAZUDDIN

FOREWORD

RISBII, “Raised In Saudi Born In India” is a self written book which revolves around the life of an 18 year old boy brought up and raised according to Saudi standards. **RISBII** gives the taste of 18 years of his life spent in Saudi Arabia.

In the beginning, the author gives us a glimpse of how he spent his life in Saudi Arabia. While admitted in the top school of the city, the next few chapters gives us an inside glimpse of the school, with showcasing and remembering the good old memorable days.

While the book ends when he gets admitted in his dream college, development of PART-II is still in its early ages.

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01

SAUDI ARABIA : A PLACE CLOSE TO MY HEART

*"I am but one from
you; whatever troubles
you, troubles me; whatever
pleases you, pleases me."*

"King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud".



SAUDI ARABIA SURROUNDED BY ITS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

DESERTS & **CULTURE**

While living in Saudi Arabia, you can't miss going out to desert and setting a camp fire. Saudi Arabia is well known for its deserts. The journey between the states would be fun during the morning as you can find only sand on both sides of the roads. While in desert, riding a dune buggy or horse is really amazing. One such place in Riyadh is called **JANADRIYAH**, mostly filled with these. During weekends or

on special occasions, this place would be filled with the families and sand dust.



FOR REFERENCE

The culture in Saudi Arabia is amazing and fabulous. The Saudis treat all the other nationalities equally and the vice-versa. There was no kind of hatred in anyones heart. Even all the expats from different countries and nationalities live and enjoy here in peace and treat each others as Brothers and Sisters. This is what I like the most in Saudi Arabia.

The people living here feel proud about the care they receive from others. While I was living in Hara, which comprised of Pakistanis, Indians, Bangladeshis etc, everyone maintained peace and equality. While a kid, I used to play with other nationality kids as well. We didn't ask about the

countries we belonged to. We only asked if they knew the game. If they knew, they were welcomed. If not, then we would explain them the rules of the game.



I loved watching the traditional dance of Saudi Arabia “*Ardha*”, consisting of holding the swords and waving high up in the sky. During the National day, celebrated on September 23, we would find them celebrating on the roads, parks and malls. On these special occasion, the people were allowed to visit the historic places for free.



END OF DESERTS & CULTURE

IISR

After the transfer of my dad, while studying in IISD (*International Indian School Dammam*), I got the admission very easily in IISR (*International Indian School Riyadh*). From UKG(*Upper Kinder-Garden*) to class XII, I was going to spend 13 years of my life in this school.

The school has 3 playgrounds. One for Basketball, the

other for tennis and last but not the least; the football ground. The football ground was used for Sports event, morning assembly (*which came into existence from 2017 onwards*) and for exhibitions as well. During the lunch break, majority of the students would play Football, a handful of them played Cricket and Basketball. Also all the other grounds were used for football as well. If we had more players, we would opt Football ground or if we had less players the other grounds were chosen. During our P.ED (Physical Education), as the ground would be less crowded, we would opt the Football ground no matter whatever the size of team be.

During my childhood, I wasn't interested playing football or cricket. At times, we played some of the games like : "*ICE & WATER*", "*KINGS*", "*WALL CATCHER*" etc. My childhood was filled with these games. These games were mostly played inside the school building, particularly in the corridor. It was not in class IX that I started playing football. For most of the time, I used to become the Goalkeeper, as our class lacked one of them. So I developed the techniques the goalkeeper must have. In the later stage, I had the chance of playing in various positions.

The Canteen is still one of our favorite place to hangout. The canteen sold good food items. If you ask any of the IISRIANS about the food, they would probably remember the "*2 SR CHANA PARATHA*". This was the number one choice by all the students due to its high popularity and one of the best-selling dishes in the canteen. After the management

was changed in somewhere 2017-18, the canteen started selling less food items as compared to the previous one. Before, the canteen would sell almost anything the items found in supermarket. But after the change, there were less items. The quality went down (*probably due to the crisis*).

The Auditorium was used for special events. From celebrating Annual Days to writing exams, the auditorium is the best place in IISR after the canteen. I did got the chance to speak on the stage or sometimes leading a prayer, all of those which are never to be forgotten.



Every year we had the School Picnic, where we would be taken to amusement parks. From class VI to class XI, we went to the same amusement park named “**STAR-CITY**” on the Airport road. Our school would take us to this park only (*I guess it was cheap as compared to others*). It contained roller-coaster ride(*which was closed for years due to several*

accidents), dashing cars, Orbit, Columbus, monorail(which gave a tour of the park), 5D movie and boat ride. We were obsessed with these rides as we sat in the same rides for many many times. The only reason we went, even though we knew that it was the same park, was to create and be a part of those memories. While in class XII, the students were pressuring a lot to change the park or else no one would show up on the picnic. After a few meetings, they agreed to change the park for this time. We were happy and we enjoyed the last picnic with our class.

From Kindergarden to secondary section, my life was following the same old fashion. Get up early morning, get ready and have your breakfast, got to school and study while meeting and playing with friends during lunch break, coming back to home and having lunch, taking an hour nap and waking up only to find completing homeworks and preparing for test and exams.

Talking about academics, I was very much bright in my favorite subjects such as English, Telugu (*my third language*), Social Science. But if talked about Maths and Science I wasn't bright. Although Science was sometimes easy, Maths wasn't. I once liked Maths fully in my class X and sometimes in class XII.

While I don't remember much of my school days, but I knew that I did have some of the best teachers our school could provide, surrounded by great teachers and friends who would help at any given moment of time. In this book,

you will find the biggest impact I had in two of the sections which helped me in changing myself.

END OF THE IISR STORY

ROADS & LONG TRIPS

The one thing I and all others agree are the roads. The roads we had here were really really smooth, with no potholes. It is said that the roads are so smooth that anyone can enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while driving the car at the maximum speed inside the cities limits. The highways and the main roads were constantly upgraded. We used to jokingly say that the roads do have an expiry date and that is the reason they are upgrading them.



KING ABDULLAH ROAD OF RIYADH

Traveling and visiting the two Islamic sites, Makkah and Madinah, was very special for me. We traveled by our car. Traveling by car is one of the best choices and feelings you could experience. While driving out in the morning, you could find only three things as far as your eyes can see. The desert sand spread over the entire area and the cars, buses, trucks traveling on the very same road that passes between the desert with straight and wide roads and not to forget, the petrol pump's. Sometimes (*not frequently*) we used to stop at the petrol pumps not only for refueling our car, but also refueling ourselves with foods. Stopping the car in-front of the **BAQALA** (*referred to as supermarket*), I would hop out of the car and get the required things needed by everyone. For most of the time it was cakes, biscuits, juices and soft drinks.

“MAKKAH”

Traveling to Makkah is quite adventurous. It would take around 12 hours for us to reach there.



ONE OF THE SIGNBOARD ON THE WAY

While traveling, we would encounter the roads passing between the mountains. The roads were being able to laid down by using machines to cut pass through the mountains. Its a marvelous engineering feat. While traveling so, we had to encounter various steep slopes as well.



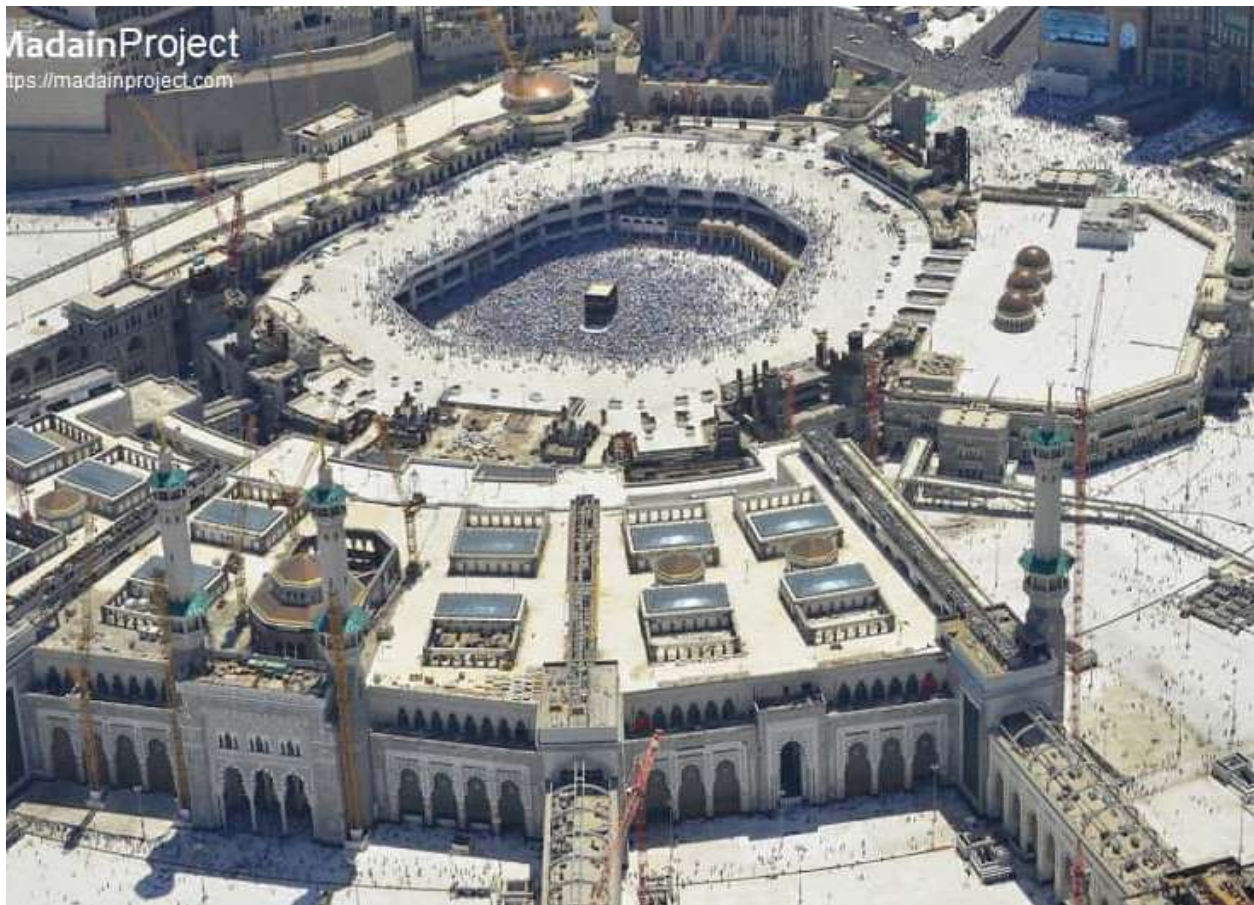
MAKKAH HIGHWAY

The roads were all the times clean with no potholes as usual. We can only see roads and desert as far our eyes can see. Although there were numerous towns in between, they were kept out of touch to the highway road. This was the case for most of our trips to other cities as well. This is the reason I like traveling for long trips by car rather than on bus. The total distance is around 1000 km. While stopping at the petrol pumps, I used to go for an inspection around the car, so to ensure that no debris has damaged our car, checking the tyre pressure. While refueling the car at the pump, I always rolled my window down and smelled the petrol. I loved it.

Traveling in the morning, we encountered a lot of camels on our way. Sometimes we would pull our car off the road when we found camels nearby the barriers. Travel in the night and we could see the sky filled with stars. I would try to figure atleast one or two constellations.

Just before reaching Makkah, we used to stay at the hotels

in the outskirts of Taif (*city near to Makkah*). As we would be tired during the journey, we took rest here for sometime. After a couple of hours, we would head straight out to Meeqath, where we would pray the prayer, making intention for performing the Umrah. After the prayer, we would head out to Makkah, just a 30 minutes drive. Here, we would have to pass through the mountains again.



MASJID AL HARAM also known as The Grand Mosque

While entering the city, I would get cold spine. I am always excited while entering the city. After reaching, we would book a hotel near the Grand Mosque and load our luggage in the room. We would the head to the mosque to perform the Umrah. While looking at the Kaaba (*the House of Allah*), my

eyes would be filled with tear. My heart would be beating faster in excitement. It would take a couple of hours to perform the pilgrimage. After the completion, we would relax ourselves in the courtyard of the Mosque. Relaxed a little and we would go to hotel.

While in the Mosque, as we would get thirsty, we would drink the Holy water, the ZAM-ZAM. It's available throughout the mosque for free. We can drink as much as we can and can fill our bottles with Zam-Zam to take with us.

The next day, we would go for the prayers and roam the city. After few days we would go back to Riyadh. On our way back, I would sleep for most of the time.

“MADINAH”

Traveling to Madinah is very relaxing and exciting. The total journey is around 700 KM. It took at-least 7 hours to reach. While traveling to Madinah, we would pass through the King-Fahd road, which houses most of the skyscrapers.



KING FAHD ROAD

While traveling to Madinah, we also encountered mountains, but were not quite dangerous as of Makkah, as there were sharp turns and prone to falling of rocks. The one thing it lacks is that there are not very much petrol pumps on the route. For at-least a 70 KM, we could find one. At this time, we always made the fuel tank full.

While Madinah isn't crowded as Makkah is, its still one of the most beautiful city with favorable climate. Going to the Grand Mosque early in the morning or just after the sunset has a great advantage. The Umbrella's (*placed in the courtyard to shade the pilgrims from the heat*) would open and close at this times. Early in the morning and we could see the opening of the umbrella's. It would at-least 5 minutes for an umbrella to open. While during this time, it would

serve the shade, with fans working 24/7 to make the courtyard cool. And just after the sunset, the umbrella's would go back to closed to position. I think its one of the best engineering marvel the city could ever have. I loved praying in the courtyard.



The one thing I like about Madinah is the food. Although the food was quite expensive, but we enjoyed it. I always showed up to the Pakistani restaurants where they would be selling my favorite **“Poori- Chana”** , **“Dal-Roti”** etc. I loved

the food as always. The taste we could find here was not available in other states.

We would always book a hotel which was near to the mosque and has a great view of the mosque. If we look around the mosque, we could find only hotels and restaurants. As always I would be meeting new faces from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia etc.

The Grand Mosque here is simple and beautiful, although there is an ongoing current expansion as of this writing.



MASJID AL NABAWI also known as The Prophets Mosque

“DAMMAM”

“What else do you need in your life when you have a house just minutes away from Khobar-Corniche, the route filled with expensive cafes to hangout with, and the Half-moon beach, just an hour drive, for swimming and boating and jet-skiing.”

These are some of the places I love whenever I visit Dammam. Even I also stayed in Dammam for quite few years. I was also a part of IISD (*D refers to Dammam*) for one and a half year. Then my father was transferred to Riyadh and the rest is the history.

As always we would always plan to go on long trips by car, for Dammam (*the Eastern-city*), its always the car. The journey would be of 500KM. The route to my school was same. While passing through the Gulf-Bridge, we could see the entire skyline of Riyadh. On the way, I could see my school. But traveling to Dammam was very amazing. In between the journey, we would encounter numerous Petrol pumps. One of my favorite is the **SASCO Palm**. It was the best of all. It would house some of the fast-food restaurants such as McDonald's, Burger King, Baskin-Robbins etc. While in the supermarket, they had variety of food items to enjoy with. I would bring as much as possible within the allotted money.



Whenever visiting Dammam, we used to stay at our relatives house. Their elder son **Ibrahim** of my age is my close friend. Although we don't talk much on phone, but when we meet face-to-face, we talk as if we are like brothers. While staying at their residence, Ibrahim and I used to always go out for the cafes, as he has the better knowledge of trending drinks and cafes. Whenever I visit Dammam, we used to hangout for at-least to three different cafes, along-with fast food restaurants such as McDonald's, Bawanland, KFC etc.

While in late night, we never used to sleep, as we would spend our time playing video games, sometimes talking on politics, businesses. We never discussed anything on our academic as we didn't want to spend time discussing on them.

While visiting to the malls, we opted for snooker as it was

the best thing to do rather than playing video games in the malls.

While visiting beach during our childhood, especially Half-Moon beach, we would change our outfits and jump in the open ocean. From evening to late night, we would be spending our time in the ocean by swimming, trying to float on water and exploring the ocean by diving inside. But as we grew up, we dropped our idea of swimming and would rather opt for dune-buggy as it was the best option for us and riding the horses as well. When we knew about driving, we would take out the cars and drive in the open field.

While our relatives resided in Khobar, the Khobar corniche was a 5 minutes drive. While our parents would sit down on the grass, relaxing and discussing on various topics and issue, we used to roam the Corniche by playing football and talking about our aims, ambitions etc. While doing these, we would eat chips and biscuits, while drinking either the juice or tea. We would stand or sit towards the edge of the the barrier, thinking about our lives in the future, the passion of doing great things while enjoying the cool breeze, with water splashing the rocks, overlooking the Bahrain Bridge. Sometimes, we would find fishes and crabs between the rocks.



TAKING A SELFIE WITH IBRAHIM

During summer vacations in our childhood, we happened to visit the Bahrain Bridge (*bridge that connects the two countries*). It was the first time that I was traveling on a bridge, surrounding by waters. While we didn't want to travel Bahrain, we wanted to relax on the island, built exclusive for the Border Control, having the two towers overlooking the bridge and the two countries. It is the great place to hangout, having sea from all the sides.



BAHRAIN BRIDGE AND ITS OBSERVATION TOWERS

While returning from beaches or malls with the family, we would always opt to have dinner in the best restaurants. Mostly we would opt for fast-food restaurants. While we enjoyed the broasted in bawanland, Ibrahim and I admit the

fact that its nothing as compared to Al- Baik.



BAWANLAND

While returning back to Riyadh, the families would stop at the tea-point in Khobar called as Subekha. This was the beginning point for hanging out for our families. Everyday, while going out, we would stop here to have tea. While drinking, they would make a plan to visit so and so places. While returning back, we would have the tea. After that we would say bye to each other and take our respective routes. While we would travel back, they would usually go to malls or ride around the city so to let their time passes quickly. On our way back, all of us would think back on what all we did. While doing so, we would along the entire the journey, while my parents would be active, talking on various agenda's.

“JEDDAH”

Jeddah, also known as the old Capital city, is the Western coast city. Unlike Dammam, it has beaches, corniches. Jeddah was reflected as the old city as it had old houses during my childhood. But now, the city is changing its face very rapidly. While we visited Dammam most of the time, Jeddah wasn't in that list. I visited Jeddah only a couple of times. While Jeddah houses the tallest water fountain in the world, it's very fun to watch it. One time, we were able to watch the fountain going into spring of action in just couple of minutes.



KING FAHD FOUNTAIN also known as Jeddah Fountain

While living in Jeddah, I was able to learn swimming as my father was a great instructor. Within a couple of days, I was

able to master the techniques of swimming and diving. While residing in Jeddah, during weekends, we would turn to an Indian restaurant which had the South-India menu.

We used to stay in my aunt's home, where I used to live with my cousins. Although we were child, we spent most of the time inside the house playing either video games or with toys.

Whenever we visited Jeddah one thing was sure. We would eat Al-Baik as many times as we would go out. The rush at the counters would be the same or even more. But we would manage it in any way.

END OF THE LONG TRIPS STORY

FOOD & RESTAURANTS

Oh boy!!. The food!!!!. The smell of the Shawarma to taste of the Mandi (*Arabic Dish*) , the 1SR (*Saudi Riyal*) Switz Cupcake to 2 SR Pepsi, nothing beats them if compared to other items. Living for 18 years, I was obsessed with them.

The restaurants in Saudi Arabia offered a lot of variety of

foods as it was a multi-nationality country. All the restaurants in Riyadh that I happened to visit were excellent in their quality and quantity. The restaurants which I used to visit provide great food quality and service with affordable prices.

Although there are many other Multi-National fast-food restaurants giving best food quality, but nothing compares to the local restaurants taste.

AL-BAIK :- Travelled to Jeddah or Makkah and had no Al- Baik during the stay?? How is that even possible??

This is how locals said to people whenever told about traveling to any of these states. Al- Baik is the “**BEST LOCAL FAST-FOOD CHAIN**” for all the people living in Saudi Arabia. There is no person in this country who has never heard about this restaurant. Due to its cheap price with great quality of food, it was the popular choice to eat among the residents. It was not so long when Al-Baik started opening their stores in the Riyadh and other states as well. When we came to know the news about Al-Baik being opened just an hour drive from our home, within that week, we headed straight for it.



THE FIRST AL-BAIK IN NEAR OUTSKIRTS OF RIYADH

That's how crazy we were. Not only we, but the whole community went crazy. That's how much popular it is. Although Saudi Arabia was flooded with KFC, McDonald's, everyone just forgot about them, just for AL-BAIK.

MAMA NOURA :- Ask anyone who were or living in Riyadh about this restaurant. You will hear two things from them. The Shawarma and the “**MUSHAKKAL**” juice (*Cocktail in English*). I loved the Cocktail juice as it was the one of the best they could offer. I would visit here every week for the juice. The juice was famously known by the

locals. It was the best place to hangout with friends, while jogging park just near to it. While there were another restaurants such as Shawermer offering great food and quality, but it was quite expensive. 5 SR Shawarma with a cup of juice and dinner was done for me.

ROMANSIAH :- Want to have an Arabic dish without having Shawarma and Broasted and want to have an affordable dinner with family and relatives, then just head straight to **ROMANSIAH**. It offered the best food we can ever have. From Mandi to Maghdud, from Kunafa to Om Ali, everything was just perfect.



THE LAST MEETUP WITH THE CLASS: STANDING OUTSIDE THE ROMANSIAH

Every week, I used to visit to a lot of restaurants, from Mama Noura to Al-Baik and Khaana -Khazaana to

Romansiah. The smell and the taste are never to be forgotten. Usually on Thursday, as the weekend night used to begin, we used to go to Romansiah. Having the setup as in Arabic style with Majlees with no tables and chairs, you can enjoy and sense the traditional style of eating here.



SHAWAYA HOUSE :- Before Romansiah was a popular choice among the residents, there was one restaurant which dominated this market among the locals. Shawaya House was very trending during its growth years. Inspired from Arabic dish mixed with regional flavours, it was offering the best choice the residents could ever get. They also believed in affordable price with great food

quality. The most popular dish was **Hamour** offering fried fish with your choice of rice. But within a year and so, the popularity was declining rapidly and the residents shifted to other restaurants.

LOCAL HYDERABADI RESTAURANTS :- While enjoying the Arabic dishes, it was important to try out regional restaurants and dishes as well. While there were variety of restaurants spread over the city, some of them I visited were “MUMTAZ”, “NIAGARA”, “SHALIMAR”, “KHAANA-KHAZANA”. All these restaurants have their own flavour and tastes. All of the restaurants has its own most selling dishes. But overall, all would offer best quality.

SNACKS AND BAKERIES :- For snacks and bakery items, there were two restaurants which were very popular among the locality. They were “**BABA SWEETS**” and “**RASHID SWEETS & BAKERIES**”. They provided variety of items at reasonable rates. From buying a birthday cake to serving biscuits & sweets to relatives, they were the popular choice among us.

END OF FOOD & RESTAURANTS

02

JOURNEY OF
MAKING FRIENDS

"A friend in need is a friend indeed"

Friends play an important role in everyone's lives. The journey of making friendships started way back. Each one of us has encountered someone very special and close to our heart. As we had no co-education system in our school since it was prohibited and not practiced, I still made a lot of friends in my school. Though I knew many of them from other classes as well, some of them are very special, playing crucial roles in my life.

>> **MIR MURTUZA ALI KHAN a.k.a** **Bade Log**

My closest and one of the best friend, Murtuza (*partner in crime*), is the inner mirror of mine. Starting our friendship from class IV, its still the longest friendship I am in contact. Till now, we have talks on phone on various topics, ranging from politics to entrepreneurship's, discussing about studies and businesses. While living in Saudi Arabia, I used to frequently showed up to his house every week, from where we used to sit on the stairs of his apartment and have the long conversations going for hours. Depending on our mood, we used to drink either the Pepsi or Juice or grab a bite of cake.

From class V to class XII, we studied in the same class, sitting beside and helping each other. As I had little interests in studies, I used to get lower marks as compared to him, but it didn't have any negative impact on our friendship.

Whenever there was a test, we used to sit side-by-side as usual. While I used to leave some topics (*not frequently*), he used to help me a lot during the test. Sometimes I used to help him. Just a day before test, we were used to have conversation on phone, planning out on how to perform well in test and so. Subject teachers knew about our friendship. Sometimes before conducting the test, they used to change our places as they knew we would copy. But mostly, we used

to plead, not to change the places, in a very funny manner and teacher used to accept it.

While I was on class VI, I used to visit to his home, where his mother used to take tuitions. While going so, our bond became even stronger.



During class XII Farewell



On our way to Field Trip

One of the best memory I have with him is in class XI, which we will never forget, is making noises and creating disturbance in Chemistry class by repeating “AAG LAGADIYE....” and “KYA BAAT HAI... KYA BAAT HAI...” and “ABAAAHHH....”. Even the Meraj sir, Chemistry Professor, knew who was doing it, but he used to ignore it. It was during this class that we used to have our lunch by placing the box on the floor and taking our turns by sharing our lunch and having a bite, while covering our mouth with a book. By doing so, our other friends started doing the same.

We share a lot similarities ranging from an Avgeek to

leadership qualities to having a lot knowledge about businesses. While we supportive during tough times, I consider our friendship as one of the strongest element on earth.

OUR FRIENDSHIP IS STILL CONTINUING ITS JOURNEY WHICH CANNOT BE EXPRESSED MORE INTO WORDS.

>> *SHAIK REHAN HUSSAIN*

My another best friend, referred as ***brother from another mother***, began our friendship in class V. From class V, we instantly became best friends. Although he left the school for higher studies after completing class X, the journey of spending time, both at school and at his home, is never to be forgotten.

While we became friends, so did our parents were. They used to live in Al-Muzahimiyah, a place 100 KM away from the capital city, Riyadh.



ON THE WAY TO VISIT MY FRIEND, REHAN

Visiting to their house was a memorable one . They had swimming pool and a large ground enough to play football, cricket and cycling etc. While traveling to Muzahimiyah, we had to travel in-between the mountains which was terrifying, yet adventurous. After reaching to their home we played video games a lot, not to forget our favorite **"FIFA"**. While our parents were busy in having conversations, we used to take the bicycles and roam around the campus. When we were able to drive the car, I used to take out my father's car for a ride, along-with his neighbors friends. The swimming pool was mostly restricted to use. But while it used to be open, we spent all the time inside the pool, relaxing and diving deep down.

While in school, we were considered as brothers, as we had a lot of things in similar. During Parent-Teacher Meeting, we used to meet our teachers at the same time, which made them think that we were brothers. During this, our favorite language (*TELUGU*) teacher used to praise a lot about us. Our father's used to have long conversations with him.



While they visited Riyadh, we usually met at Lulu Hypermarket, one of the best place to hangout as kids. It was this place where we had the freedom to roam anywhere. As we were tech-savvy, we headed out straight to Departmental

Store. Playing games on mobiles and on Consoles, that was the time waster while our parents used to shop down for the grocery items.

While Murtuza and Rehan are also the best friends we, Rehan, Murtuza and I, are attached closer and our bond is stronger as it was during our school life. May Almighty make all of our friendship bonds with everyone stronger.

>> *SAME-IDEA GANG*

This gang is probably one of the best gang I had ever known from my school days and one of the longest group still active as we are messaging around 150+ messages everyday on WhatsApp. This gang consists of the following:

- >Ahmed Raoof**
- >Murtuza**
- >Adnan Ali**
- >Abdul Nafe**
- >Zakariya**

The name “SAME-IDEA GANG” has a very inspiring story behind it. It started in class XI

Mr. Refai was our maths teacher in class XI. In our eyes, he was a perfect mathematician. He used to solve any number of problems when we faced difficulty. I used to go for tuitions in class XII so that I can become perfect in Maths. While

teaching in class, our sir had a very funny habit.



HANDING OUT THE GIFT TO REFAI SIR

While solving a particular question from the book, he used to deliberately leave the next question which had the same concept and same way of solving the question just like the previous one. While moving for the next question, he used to say “SAME-IDEA” and skipped the consecutive question. This became a huge popular within our class. Whenever solving

any problem or asking doubts, we often repeat “SAME-IDEA”.

By keeping this in our mind, while we formed the group named the group as “***SAME-IDEA GANG***” where we helped and solved each other problems.



THE SAME-IDEA GANG

03

A CLASS OF ENJOYMENT

*“Bunking classes is a great
way to learn new
experiences”*

After scoring 92% in IX th grade, I made it easily to Xth grade. My class was X-L. (*probably, one of the best class in the entire section at that time*). On the very first day, we had the normal Introduction class where our new faculty members would introduce us for 5-10 minutes and then it

was our turn to introduce ourselves to the class. The first day went very well. We had no lectures on that day. Only a brief introduction to the syllabus and to the **“BOARD EXAMS”** .

On the very first week, we had nothing to do. But I did prepared a time-table where I can give a head-start in completing the syllabus, which as usual, didn't worked as planned. Hundred's of time-tables were created from scratch in the entire year, only to follow a couple of them, for few days.

>> ITS ELECTION TIME

After getting to know the teachers very well, it was time for the election of Class Representatives (*CR/MONITOR for short*) . The criteria was simple as follows:

“Anyone with $\geq 80\%$ in previous exam was eligible.”

That was the only requirement to stand in the election.

I was very excited to stand in the election because it would be my 4th time winning the election and becoming my class monitor. I showed my Report card to my class teacher, he gave the green signal and noted down my name.

Few days before the election, the teacher asked those who want to stand for election, please raise your hands, only to find out that there was only one person competing against me. I was shocked to see that there was no one else, other than him. After registering again our names, one thing was clear, be it the First or Second, you are anyways going to be the next Monitor along with my competitor, MIRZA.

On the day of election, the classes were handed out the chits to write down the names of the candidates they would like to see as their class representative. Our class teacher wrote down the names on the White-Board. A couple of minutes later, he signaled us to write the respective names. After 5 minutes, the results were out. MIRZA became the CR-1 and I became the CR-2. We congratulated each other. I was happy for him as he became the CR-1. But by jokingly he says, you should become the both. We both laughed at it.

After a few days, the ceremony was held where we were handed out the Badges by our Principal and Chairman. As soon as I reached on to the stage, my stage fear began to speed up. I had the stage fear since a long time. While greeting with the Chairman, I was quite nervous. I wasn't able to control my fear. But thankfully, the chairman gave a big smile, which shed away my fear.



SHAKING HANDS WITH THE CHAIRMAN



THE BADGE PLACED ON MY BLAZER



PIC WITH ALL THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER SECTIONS

The ceremony ended with the National Anthem of Saudi Arabia, followed by India. After coming out from the Auditorium, my classmates started congratulating us. Our subject teachers also congratulated us for winning the election. They said that they wanted to see the best of us while performing our duty. We nodded in the agreement. From the very next day, we took charge and started performing our duties.

>> PERFORMING MY DUTIES AS A LEADER

After being elected as the CR, I quickly started taking my responsibilities. I was having fun in doing them. I became the pearl of of my subject teachers. I was closely attached to all the teachers. As a leader, everyone in the class quickly noticed about my power. The power means that I used to postpone some of the tests or talk to our respective Supervisor, Mr. Salim Sir, asking for the permission to go out for the P.ED.

Whenever we had a substitution period, my friends would suggest me to go and ask for the Sports Hour. I would head out after a couple of minutes and so. While arriving to his office, he would recognize me. While in the office, another sir would be doing some work related to school activities. Even he would recognize and so was I. After greeting both of them, I would ask sir about the permission for Sports hour or P.ED . Sometimes he would allow us but sometimes he wouldn't. If he allowed us, I would quickly go to the class and show them a gesture to come outside. If not granted the permission, some of the dominating figures from our class would come with me and ask for second time. Mostly he would agree and let us play. But sometimes, due to very busy schedule, he would politely refuse us and explain the reason behind it. By understanding, we would head back to our class and explain them about the incident.

While in the class, we used to play cricket or football or kabaddi inside the classes by pushing the tables on one side, without creating disturbance. By doing this, we would pass our free time and no teacher would come to our class.

While I had close relation with the teachers, I would sometimes ask about the free hour and permission for playing outside. This was applicable only if our respective portion was nearing the completion or has been completed fully. Sometimes the teacher would agree and would held me as a responsibility to bring them back to class 5 minutes before the period ends.

>> ACADEMICS

Talking about academics, I really enjoyed the curriculum of class X. It was easy and simple. During our class X we had the internal marking system where all of our marks from various tests, projects, assignments and unit tests would have a huge impact on our Final term exams ***i.e Board exam.***

During the whole year in class X I was less bothered in giving attention to my studies. During most of the days, I would sit doing nothing but watching TV shows orp playing video games. Just a week before the unit test (*FA exam consisting of 20 marks*), we would and study from our notebooks, without bothering to open the textbooks. For all the subjects this is what schedule we followed. But for English exam, we used to open our book just a day before or studying in the morning, having few hours left for the exam. It sounds weird but English was the only language where we prepared a day before or so and would score the highest marks among all the subjects.

As of projects and assignments, we would score mostly (10/10) or (9/10). By doing so, we would get A+ in almost all the subjects.

>> BOARD EXAMS

As it was going to be our first board exam, we were quite nervous about it. I was scared as there was a lot of hype about it. Usually, board exams in class X would be easy as we solved the previous year papers, but still there was a fear left inside our hearts which snatched away our sleep.

Preparing for board exam started a month ago. As usual I first started preparing for the most easiest subjects (*English and Hindi*) and would complete in just 3-4 days. Then I started preparing for Social science which took around a week or so to go through each and every chapter. For Maths and Science, I would prepare side-by-side which would continue for the remaining month. During this month, I would solve the majority of the previous years and sample papers. In doing so, I would gain the confidence of facing the Board exam.

Our Board exams were conducted inside the auditorium, which was the best option we could ever have. As the auditorium was large, it was easy for anyone to cheat in the exam. While seated we would look around to find our friends. I was lucky enough to find two friends sitting beside

and behind me. We would make deal and shake our hands. As it was the first time, we had to go through the rules and regulations, briefed for around 10 minutes. After handing out the answer sheet, we would be instructed to fill the blanks. A couple of minutes passed and the question paper would be handed out.

For the first 15 minutes, while going through the paper, I would mark the questions which I had doubt or didn't knew the answer. During that time, we would answer most of the short questions by asking out. After 15 minutes, we could start the paper. During the first hour, I would write down all the answers which I knew and left blank spaces for the unanswered. After an hour, as per our deal, we would start asking for the answers. Finding the blind spot and we would answer some of the question by helping out each other. Precision and timing was necessary for us. By doing this, we could solve the paper fully. We were happy by helping each other out.



CLASS X-L

04

A CLASS OF
EXPOSURE

*“Exposure is more
important than education.”*

After getting promoted to class 12-B, we all were very excited to meet again with our friends because no one from was failed from our class. All of us were dancing and celebrating to the fact that we all made it till here.

The first day was started with the same old-tradition

“Introduction”. We were sitting in-front of our faculty as if we all were meeting for the first time. But what made that day the most memorable was the Chemistry Class whose faculty was “Mr. K.N.Junaidi Sir” (*one of the best faculty in my entire life ever*). I still consider him as my role-model. A sir who taught us what life is and how you all are gonna face in the future.

On the very first day of my class, my Chemistry Sir became my role-model. What he said to all of us inspired us to become the next great personality. He said and I quote :

“My dear kids, you all are like the rocks (*the rocks are referred as having pride and ego*). I cannot change you in a moment. But I will be dropping water on all of you(*water refers to life lessons*). This water will break all of your rockiness and you will experience a new turnover in your life.” These words went straight to my heart. I understood his words and thought that I got someone who has same thinking as of mine. From that day itself, I started experiencing new things and changes in my life.

At that point, our motive in life was: “Study and get good grades. Get a good job and be well settled”. But my chemistry sir completely changed our motive in our lives.

The reason I named this chapter as “A CLASS OF EXPOSURE “ was because of the exposure we experienced during our academic year. From Board Examinations to Entrance Level Examinations, each of them played an

important role in our lives.

>> BUILDING THE RIGHT MINDSET

Today the competition level has reached to its peak. Many of us still believe that having a good job is good enough. We think that by competing with others, we might be able to win this so called “competition” in any field. This is what a normal person from its perspective. But what people forget is that every one in this universe is UNIQUE,. Our uniqueness is what differentiates us. This is how me and my friends were brought up to this terminology. But all thanks to my ROLE-MODEL who gave and showed us the path that we never thought or heard of.

From the beginning of my academic session to the end, I never bunked or missed my Chemistry class or Laboratory. It was this class or (*you can say*) this hour that taught us the life lessons. From the very beginning of his life to his struggles, every word that came from him had a very deep message. He conveyed his feelings through his own life experiences. For the first 20 minutes of his classes he taught us the subject prescribed to us and then jumped to give us the lecture on life lessons. All of us would deliberately wait for this twenty-minutes from the six hours of our classes, just sit and listen to the lessons.

For the very first week, he clearly stated that his mission is

not to teach us all about the book, not to teach us how to mug up, not to teach us how to excel in the grades, rather, he stated that he is here to teach us about the life, to teach us how not to fall in trap of this world and to teach us how to be better person. But first, he wanted us to change our perception in which we were brought up by. We all were about to experience a new change in our lives. A journey that was going to teach us and welcome new changes.

>> COPING UP WITH THE FAILURE

My first failure in class 12 came when I stood for the post of school captain. I was very excited at first when I came to know that I am eligible for this post. Without a second thinking in my mind, I submitted my name to my headmistress. Along with me there was another candidates named Zihan and Shifan. Now we were eagerly waiting for the D-day. The candidates had to sit in an interview where the board members decide based on his qualifications, experience in co-curricular activities etc. I personally gathered all the relevant documents which could give me the chance to win the election.

One fine day, we were called by our Principal to sit for the interview. My classmates gave me their wishes and wished me with good luck. Co-incidentally the professor in my class at that time was Mr. Junaidi. He even gave his wishes to me. While I was about to leave the classroom, he made a gesture to come back and listen to his words. He said ,”If you win,

then you will be experiencing new changes which is gonna distract you. If you lose, that means you have saved yourself from distraction.”. While leaving the classroom, I did not give much attention to his words as I was constantly preparing myself for the interview. It was the first time I was going to sit in an interview. I had mixed emotions at every moment.

All other candidates were also present, contesting for different positions. I was giving much of the attention to myself. Everyone of us at that time were doing rehearsals and practicing new questions which they would likely ask. I carried a file with me which consists of

- 15 certificates received from school.
- Report cards from class 8.
- Online exam certificate.
- A NSTSE certificate.

With these, I was pretty sure that I had more chances to win the election. I was just constantly praying to Allah to make me become the school captain. As we were standing outside the room, we saw the board members entering the room and wishing us best of luck for the interview. After a couple of minutes, the interview began and the candidates started entering the room. Outside the room, we were waiting for the candidates who completed their interview. As they exited the room, we just jumped on them with tons of questions in our mind. We asked:

- How was your interview?
- What questions did they ask you?
- Are they asking any subject related questions?

And the list never ended..

After an hour later, it was my turn to go inside the room. I was personally feeling happy. As I entered the room I see around 10 members glancing at me. I was feeling a little nervous while entering the room as they were checking for each and every sign, finding the qualities of a true leader. I was made to handover my file to the principal as he was checking for my achievements. After two minutes he says :

“Well, GOOD MORNING Fawwaz . How are you ?”
said the principal

“Fine Sir”, I said .

And then the interview began. I was asked to introduce myself. I was glad to be asked such a question. With keeping in my mind all the procedures, I began introducing myself. For quite a few minutes I was going very well. I could see the faces of the board members, checking the facial expressions, body language and tone, At this time I made a very good impression on them. As everything was going well, suddenly a force stopped me took aback from the interview. This incident changed my life and my motive.

As I was about to make a better impression on them,

Suddenly, my lips stopped moving and my mind went blank. I was not able to understand what happened. From the start of the interview, I was sure that I had no fear of speaking. As my mind went blank, suddenly from nowhere, I started remembering the words of my Prof. Junaidi which he shared just a few hours back. His words were constantly revolving in my mind. I started giving more preference to his words rather than the interview. I was just focusing on his words. Neither my lips nor my mind was focusing on the interview.

The board members started getting anxious. They were perplexed as to why I stopped myself from responding. It was around 2-3 minutes that I forbade myself from speaking. The board members thought that I had developed a bit panic inside and that made me not to speak. After putting back my focus on the interview, I just went blank. The speech that I prepared and rehearsed, was now gone. Now I was sitting completely clueless. My interview, at that point of time, was stopped and was told to leave the room. I was deeply sadden by the fact that my interview got over in less than 5 minutes. As soon as I came out from the room, the candidates were shocked to find that my interview was completed. They started asking about the interview. I said that it went really well and wished them good luck. As I was heading towards my classroom, I started thinking as to why I was thinking about my professor words. Nevertheless, I went back to my classroom, waiting for the results and having a hope in my mind that I could win.

Just before the school was about to be dismissed, the

Principal went on to the mic and announced the names of the elected representatives. Nevertheless, I lost the election. I was sad throughout my way back to home. I was blaming myself as to why I gave preference to the words of my sir. That night looked like a year.

Somethings happen for a good cause. And that good cause showed up very swiftly. Being the school captain for me meant as a luxury. But that turned out to be wrong. The elected captain took in charge of his roles the moment results were announced. Being a school captain, you had very huge responsibility. Called during the time of lectures, spending more time in doing duties rather than with friends and to be present everyday, no matter what you were going through. After seeing all this, my inner soul was thanking my sir for giving that advice just a few moments before the interview. That sudden pause during the interview had saved me from getting paused for the duties.

But then the lost candidates were called by our headmistress and were told that we were given the positions of House-Captains. We all were very excited. We couldn't believe to the fact that we did become the captains(*I mean house-captains*). After a couple of moments of briefing, we were told to select out houses. We had four houses at that time :

- Blue House Captain
- Green House Captain
- Red House Captain.

● Yellow House Captain

I choosed the Green-House and became the Green House Captain. As the saying goes....."Something is better than nothing" we still became the captains and had to do less or no work, but still enjoy the luxuries and spend time with your friends. At last, I was happy and so my classmates.



BADGE BEARING NAME

>> LAB PRACTICALS

The practicals were quite easy as compared to previous class. We enjoyed practicals by performing as our teacher would say us to do so and then figuring out new techniques.

In **PHYSICS** practical, we used to start the experiment as soon as our teacher would complete the brief session. While in this lab, we did gain a lot of experience ranging from connecting the apparatus to the battery to performing the lenses experiment, each experiment has its own uniqueness. As our gang("**SAME-IDEA GANG**") had good relations with

the teacher, sometimes she would show up towards our table and help in doing the experiment.

To prepare for Lab Practicals- Internals, all of us would open YouTube just before a day and watch the videos in order to remember the experiment. For physics, we were solely based on YouTube for revision as we didn't used to perform the experiment during the repetition. For viva, we prepared from our notebooks which carried definitions and formulas(*quite enough*)

During the lab practical-Internals I was very much delighted to get the easy experiments. Completing quickly, I went to other friends desk, helping them in their experiments when teacher was busy in conducting Viva.

Before the Externals, I continuously watched YouTube videos on experiments. While still I had doubt on my memory, I took a blank paper and wrote down all the important figures and values on it as small as possible. I also carried the smallest calculator I could find from the stationary. During the Externals, as an external, we had a teacher from another famous school of Riyadh. He was quite a good looking man. While the external teacher was busy as he was taking viva from the students, I, having the paper and the calculator, was waiting for the perfect opportunity. As I was able to spot this, I quickly opened up the paper and copied down the values on the paper. I didn't perform the experiment. But as a requirement, I was trying to adjust the apparatus, showing that I am also doing the experiment.

After finding another blind spot, I quickly took out my calculator from the Box and started calculating the values. From nowhere, my teacher came from behind and surprised me. I was shocked to find her. She had caught me using calculator. But she was grateful enough for telling this to external. She made a gesture to keep it inside my pocket and use it after some time.

Couple of minutes later and I was called for Viva. My viva went very well and completed in just 5 minutes. After returning to my place, I took out the calculator again, this time cautiously, and calculated the values. Anyways after my experiment was done, I started chit chatting with my classmates who also completed their experiment. After the practical was done by all, we were told to leave the lab as we had to prepare for other Labs as well.

The **CHEMISTRY** practical was considered the best time-waster for us. Not only our experiments were done in an hour or so, we used to play with the chemicals (*which were not harmful for our health*). While doing so, we experienced new things. Things like mixing chemicals, mixing salts and burning etc. After completing our experiments, we used to sit with our Chemistry Professor, sharing valuable lessons on life. We patiently used to listen to his words. While doing so, we felt free to ask questions related to it.

For Chemistry practical, we didn't have to google for videos as the experiments were simple and concise. We used

to prepare just a day before, same for physics. For viva, we did the same as for Physics.

During our practicals, the lab assistant became a good friend of ours. He used to help us a lot in performing the experiments. During our internal and external exams, as a close friend of us, he used to tell us everything about the compound and the formula handed to us. While getting to know about this, we simply carried out the experiment leniently, writing down all the procedures from the papers we carried. We carried papers with us which had all the relevant information. Some of us made mini-xeroxes, while others hid the paper in the pockets, wallets, socks or beneath the shirt.

The **COMPUTER SCIENCE** practical was a very informative and tedious. Everyday, while doing so, we figured out new ways of coding. We used to sit straight for 2 periods (*40 minutes per class*), doing coding and figuring out the best possible ways. During the session, we would help out others who were stuck while programming. Preparing for internal and external would take a lot of discipline and focus. It was not a one day work, rather a week time work. In my home, I used to sit in-front of the desktop for 2-3 hours, doing the programming.



COMPUTER LAB

>> FAREWELL



STANDING WITH OUR RESPECTIVE SUBJECT TEACHERS

Well the day was near. The Farewell was happening. We were excited for this. Prior a week before, we were instructed to pay 30 SR for food. We were also told that electronics were officially prohibited. But we, the rule changer, brought the electronic devices. While some were busy planning how to spend time inside the auditorium, others were busy planning to rent a car and istirahat.

Well on the Farewell day, everyone looked handsome. Perfectly combed and colored hair with best suits were some of the noticeable features in most of them.

While some of us from our class and other classes, brought gifts for our teachers as a sweet gesture. After handing out the gifts to our subject teachers, it was time to move to the Auditorium where the events were held.



WITH THE MAN HIMSELF, MR. K.N JUNAIDI

We quickly went and took the front row seats to have a better view of the performances. Before the event was going to start, I was called out to present the Welcome card to the honored guests. It was a great opportunity for me. I called some of my other friends to do the same.



WAITING FOR HANDING OUT THE CARDS

After handing out the cards, the event started with the Formal session where the higher officials would speak on the future and the careers. After the formal session, it was time for Mr. Farewell. A panel consisting of 3 judges would judge us upon the styling and the looks. Well I had no interest in it, but I did. This session lasted for hours as the whole class XII section had to be judged.

During this time, they kept performances in between the session consisting of dancing, singing, beat-boxing etc.

After the 3 rounds, the Mr. Farewell was finally selected and the winner was from our class, my dear friend Al-Ashi, whom we called him as ***“EMOTIONAL LETTER”***. End of the performances and selection of Mr. Farewell, the event came

to an end and we were sent back to our classes where the food was going to be distributed.

As the KFC Broasted was handed out, I found out that instead of providing with 4 pieces, they gave only 2 of them. I was shocked to find this. I inquired about this with my friends and found out that they got the same 2 pieces. I was angry on this. Also to add, they handed out the smallest can of coke per person. This made us very angry. As to take the revenge, instead of taking one can, I grabbed two of them and went out of the class as quickly as possible. I was happy that at least what I did was correct in my view.

While returning to home, I had my meal and was satisfied.

>> BOARD EXAMS

After appearing for our first board exam in class X, scoring 9.6 CGPA, the time was coming near to appear for another board exam. This time it was for class XII.

From the early stages, our teachers used to remind us about the board exam. While appearing for internal exams, they wanted us to have the preparation of board exam. My actual preparation for board exam started just 3 months from the scheduled dates. Although, I was able to manage English, Computer Science and Chemistry, I just had to concentrate and devote more time towards Physics and Maths. And as usual, I started preparing the time-tables. For

the first few days, I was able to follow each and every minute of it. But then, due to lack of interest, the idea of preparing according to the time-table would drop. This went on for couple of weeks and months until finally, I was able to complete the syllabus just prior to our Pre-Board exams.

My preparation was simple. Study the notes and solve the previous years question papers. With using this strategy, majority of the students would pass the examination with flying colors. And so did I, until the results were declared.

After been able to clear Pre-Board's with passing marks (*they used to make paper and checking of our answers really though so to get us the taste of board exam*), there was just short amount of time to revise the syllabus. At this stage, its better to revise and go through the previous or already known topics. Learning new at this point would result in jeopardizing and messing with the brain.



SCENE BEFORE STARTING OF EXAM

Few weeks pass by and it was time for Board Exams. My first exam was on English, which was really really easy. The paper was lengthy, but I was able to complete it on time. Then came the Physics.

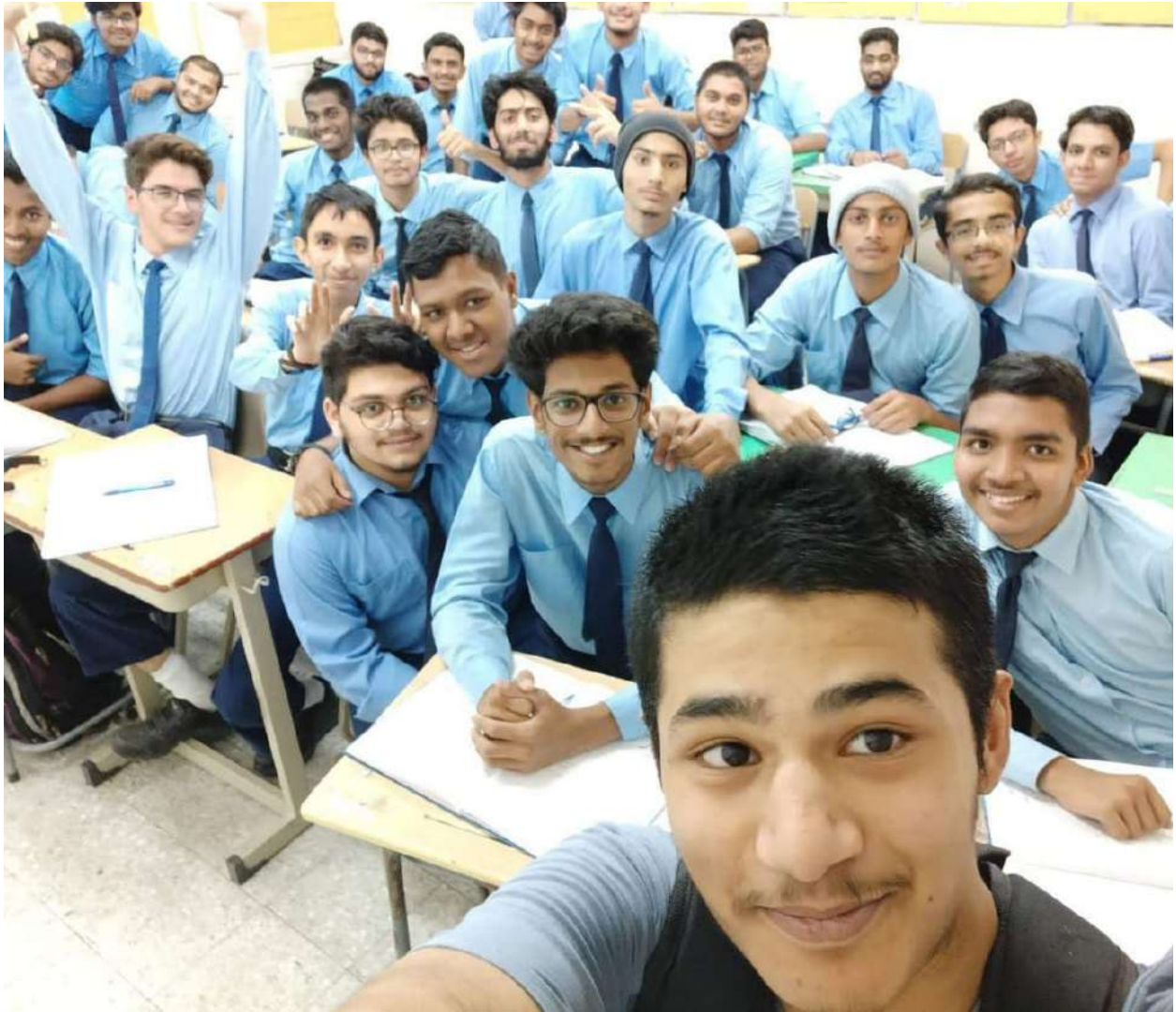
I still remember the day before the exam. From the morning, I was practicing the derivations and solving various numericals. I was quite nervous. Before sleeping, I went through some final revision of important topics. The next day, I woke up early in the morning. The exam was scheduled to start from 8:00 am, I woke up at 3:00 am just so that I can go for final revision. After some ups and downs, it was time to reach the school. While being seated in the class, I looked around and was happy to find my teachers. During exam, we

were allowed to copy, but without making any noise. We were very happy about this. Silently and calmly, all of us were able to copy.

As we celebrated the Physics exam, then came the Maths exam which was totally opposite from Physics. Not because of the difficulty of the paper was high, but due to the faculty assigned to our class. These faculty members didn't even allow us to look anywhere in the class, in general. They wanted us to hook our face on the paper. Any gesture and our paper was taken back. We had no opportunity to even sneak peek anyone's paper. That day is still one of the tragic days we could remember.

Then came the Chemistry exam, for which we didn't even have to ask anybody, as it was one of the easy subjects, except the organic chemistry.

The last exam was on Computer Science. This is considered as one of the top scoring subjects. With just basic knowledge of the concepts, anyone could easily score above 70 marks. Well for our class, we had the nice faculty this time. But this time, we were also told to copy or ask from our friends without creating disturbance. I was having doubts regarding the Outputs. I asked at-least 3 of my friends, checking their answers, verifying and writing them down on the paper. I was able to complete the paper just 1 hour, prior to the 3 hour limit.



CLASS XII-B

05

BIDDING FAREWELL
TO THE SCHOOL

“Today, we entered the school as an IISRIAN but exited the school as an EX-IISRIAN.”

Now, the time was near to bid farewell to our school.

Not only it was a school for us, but a place just like home. A place to meet and hangout with our friends, a place where teachers were just like our parents.

April 02nd, 2019 was probably the day where all of our friends met for the last time. We had our last board exam on this day. The exam was on Computer Science subject and it went very well. After the completion of our exam, we started shouting in the exam halls and started dancing and celebrating as the exams were over. All of our classmates gathered at one place and started discussing about the paper and its difficulty, which turned out to be very easy. My friends and I were able to complete the exam an hour before the 3 hour time limit. Instead of discussing the answers, we were discussing as to what we were doing after the completion of paper. Some said they were checking the paper again and again, some said they revised the paper for 5 times. Some of them were staring and glancing at the walls and the ceilings and some were planning for outing and all in the evening.

Now it was time to celebrate. But before celebration, we had to meet our respective subject teacher Mrs. Vijaya ma'am. We all started running towards her in a state of excitement. She was overwhelmed and felt proud that her students were able to answer almost all the answers correctly. This session went on for 10 minutes. After discussing and analyzing the paper, she wished us best luck for our future. In return, we all thanked her.

After meeting our teacher, me and my gang started roaming around the campus. While walking down through the corridors, everyone started getting goose-bumps. Each one of us started touching those very walls, that once were a part of our game. We went to each and every section, remembering and finding the very classrooms we made our friends and were taught by our teachers. While going through Kinder-garden section, we saw those small tables and chairs, we became emotional. Those little kids started calling us “**BHAIYA**” which means brother. We laughed at them and they laughed back at us. While going through the classes, we started looking at the walls. The walls, which once were just pale white in color in the beginning were now filled with beautiful and colorful charts. Each chart had its own uniqueness and displaying the hard-work of them.



"THE SAME-IDEA GANG"

While doing this so, we encountered some of our old teachers. Some of them were able to remember us while we were able to remember all of them. Meeting and talking with them brought back all our memories. They were happy to see us and wished us good luck.

But the most lovable and the best teachers we could ever get were from our class 10th and class 12th. We spent around 5-10 minutes with each of them. Teachers invited us to meet with our juniors and told us to have a look of the classes we were taught. Our teachers introduced us to our juniors and told the very good old memories we had with them. While meeting with my class 12th teachers, I spent most of my time with my chemistry Professor. We personally

thanked our teachers for guiding us and teaching in the difficult situations. Only we had the idea how our teachers were struggling to teach us at that time.

This session lasted around 30-35 minutes. After meeting with our teachers, it was time to say goodbye to the school. Still we had to come one day back to collect our results, but still we thought it as this day was last of being an IISRIAN. But before saying goodbye, we had a task to do. The task was to play football in the ground and to sneak inside the auditorium.

The auditorium was closed, but there was a way to enter it. After entering the auditorium, we started re-collecting our memories. Those Annual Day programs, the ceremony events, language day programs etc. Standing onto the stage, we remembered the time when we were called onto the stage to hand our badges and the duties as a class and school representative. After coming out from the auditorium, we headed straight to the ground.

The ground also carried some special memories. It was due to the fact that we had morning assembly held everyday. The morning assembly had its pros and cons. For me, the pros was to waste my time in showing up late for the assembly and the cons was to exercise the same old and boring steps. We started playing football. The time when we started our football career in school, the first goal in our lives , were coming to the end. All of us had the chance to score our last goals in this school. I remember the very first goal I

scored in the school was in my class 9th, which was nothing but just a slight kick, which in turn became my first goal.

After playing football, it was the time for us to leave for our homes. Before exiting the school from the main gate, all of our friends gathered at the main gate, looking back to the beautiful campus, capturing each and every back to the beautiful campus, capturing each and every moment of those minutes. After looking at the building, as a gesture, I raised my right arm in the air and started waving at it.

All of us got emotional at that time, including me who was hiding my tears from everyone. After waving, all of us started coming out from the gate, never looking back again. I had a feeling of shivering, sending cold chill to my spine while I was stepping out from the school. No one looked back, but we still knew that we have to come back one day. After coming out of the school, we started hugging each other, wishing good luck and reminding to be in touch. We all started laughing when we encountered the following phrase:

“Today, we entered the school as an IISRIAN but exited the school as an EX-IISRIAN”

And then me and my gang went to the park, nearby to our school, to play football. We knew that whatever the situation may be, we still have to play football, no matter what the circumstance be. After spending an hour there, my father picked me and my friend Murtuza to drop us to our homes. Driving back through the same route, my father use to ask me about the paper. But on that day he didn't. He knew that I was thinking about the memories I had spent in my school. There was a complete silence inside the car.

I started re-collecting the memories I spent in my first school van, where we use to have a small party ever week. Drinking cold drinks and eating chips was our regular menu. While crossing the Gulf bridge, I started looking at the skyline of Riyadh, a dramatic change in just 5 years. From 2 skyscrapers to 20, and more in line underway. All of these started making me feel emotional. I was going to my school from the same bridge for almost 13 years. And still I couldn't believe that my schooling has been completed and I had to move on for a completely new future. I had to control my emotions and hold back my tears.

While waiting for the green signal, I knew that one day I have to go back through this route, the same route which leads to two destinations: the school and the airport. The straight route took me to my school and a slight change in the route leads to the airport. At that time, I had no idea which route I will be taking. But I knew that whatever the route be, whatever the decision be, it will have a huge impact in my life.

06

BUILDING MYSELF : BREAKING STEREOTYPES

*"Imagination is one of the
most powerful Vision the
humanity has."*

When I was a young child, I was a very conservative

and silent person. I was very shy when meeting or facing new people. I had zero interaction with new persons coming in my life. I didn't make friends in an instant. It took me months before formally beginning the relationship. My parents tried a lot in helping me to cope up, but everytime it was in vain. Whenever there used to be any game shows in the malls or parks, my parents insisted me to go the stage and play with them. But I had this fear which wasn't leaving me.

During my schooling, I didn't used to participate in any of the shows or competition. I simply brought up excuses, so to save myself.

In this chapter, you will find out how I was able to conquer my fear and motivating myself during tough times.

PART - 1

When I was in class X, my English teacher, Mrs Farah, saw the talent and the potential in me. She was able to recognize this instantly, which I failed to. When I was elected as the Class Representative, she made me as her good friend. She used to send me to her office to bring some files (*she was*

the School Counselor), or convey her message to teachers, officials etc. She also appointed me as the Anchor for the morning assembly. Most of the time my job was to anchor the assembly, but sometimes, it was to give a pledge or prayer. At first, I was very nervous, because my voice was going to be heard by hundreds of students, along with Principal and highly respected officials. For the first couple of weeks, I was feeling distressed. I was shivering while speaking on the Mic. But after a few weeks, slowly and gradually, the fear was eradicating. After a month and so, I was enjoying it a lot. I was having a lot of fun while anchoring. My friends used to support me whenever I used to feel distressed by cracking some jokes. This was the beginning of **“Eradicating my public-speaking fear”**.



Couple of months later, and mastering the anchoring, I was set to give speeches. One fine day, my English teacher called me to her office and told me to deliver a speech in-front of Principal and Vice-Principal during the regular assembly. When I heard this, I was very excited but nervous. The exciting part was that the teacher has assigned this work to me. The nervous part was that how will I be able to prepare

and deliver the speech the very next day. Speaking and giving a speech may look similar, but they have a lot of differences in them. I nodded yes and left the office. On my way back to my class, I was only thinking about how will I be able to prepare in just one day.

After reaching to home and having my lunch, without wasting a second, I started looking for videos on ***“How to present a speech”***. After watching a couple of videos, I gathered some motivation and then headed straight to find articles related to the speech. I was going through a lot of information on Internet, going through articles and preparing the speech. After few trials and errors, the speech was prepared. Now it was time to prepare myself to give the speech. I was rehearsing a lot for it, trying different tones. It was the first time I was giving a speech in-front of the officials. It was the tough night for me, but I was able to manage it. Next day, I got up very early, rehearsing for the final time.

As I arrived their, I went straight to the empty room, near to the assembly setup. I gave myself some time to calm down. Half an hour later, it was time to give the speech. After the completion of the speech, the whole school was filled with applauses. I was feeling very proud of myself. At that point, I thought that it is the time for myself to give the best in the future.

During the lunch break hour, I was called by the counselor for some work. While returning back to my class, I happened

to meet Vice-Principal on my way. She was able to recognize me instantly and told me that my speech, the content and the way I presented it, was amazing. I felt very happy by this remark. It made me think that I should constantly learn more and develop myself. At that point, I committed myself to learn and adapt new things. This was just the beginning.

PART - 2

While I was in class XI, I had some fear remaining inside me. It hadn't gone till now. But still, I was confident enough to give a speech. As I was motivated to work on removing my fear completely, I had no idea where to start and how to start. But as I didn't practice while admitted in class XI, the fear overtook again.

One day, while surfing the Internet, I came to know that Samsung was going to showcase their event live on YouTube to unveil their phone. I had no prior idea about the event. They were going to unveil their new Samsung Galaxy S8|S8+. When I came to know about this just prior a week, I marked the event on my calender. This was the first time that I was

going to see how do the event pulls off. My only focus was to check out the brand new phone. But little did I know that this 2-Hour event is going to have a huge impact on my life.

After completing all of my work and chores, I locked myself in my room and began watching the live streaming event. I was very excited while watching it. As the phone was unveiled by DJ KOH, the very next thing they did was to explain and showcase its features. As I was watching the event, I focused myself fully to the presenter.



While watching the presenter, a thought pops up in my mind, which in-turn, was the game-changing moment in my life. The thought was:

“ The presenter is able to speak in-front of thousands and millions of people calmly and fluently. He is having no stage fear. He is moving quite smoothly, showcasing each and every detail clearly and precisely. If he is able to do this, then why not me. ”

Those were the very words that clicked in my mind. As the event came to an end, I went into a deep thought in how to develop the skills, the same the presenter has. I made myself clear that my goal is to become a public speaker, just like the presenter. I sat down near the PC and started doing research on the Internet. I was trying to look for any online courses, but couldn't find anything upto the mark. Finding no clue, I was sitting on the couch, thinking how to achieve the goal. The days went by and slowly was the goal drifting away.

A few weeks later, as I was sitting on the couch, drawing one of the tallest building in the world, surpassing Burj Khalifa (*it was an imagination*). As my drawing was completed, I looked at it, doing some minor changes. When it looked fine, a thought popped up in my mind. The thought was:

“If I were to be the contractor of this building, I would have been doing an event just like they did (referring to the Samsung's event)”

The minute this thought came in my mind, I thought why not do it here(*at my home*). I challenged myself that whatever it maybe, I have to work on to achieve my goal. The

very next moment, I began for searching the most comfortable place in my home. After a few minutes of thinking and analyzing, I finally found out the best room : The Bedroom.

After sometime, I began assembling and turning the bedroom into a hall by **imagining** in such a way that the Almirah, where I pasted my drawings, was used as a screen for the audience or the white board for the board members, where they would be able to see the project that I was going to be unveil. After positioning the drawing, I would turn myself in the opposite direction, standing infront of the wall, my back towards the drawing. The wall, which was white in color, was going to fill my life with colors. I imagined the wall as the place where audience was waiting anxiously for the product to be unveiled or the place where I imagined facing the board members in a board meeting. At first, I stucked only to the audience. After a few months, I added board members in the list. Anyways, the Alimirah was the screen and the wall facing opposite was the audience or board members.

“Imagination is one of the most powerful Vision the humanity has.”

From the very next moment, I started the presentation, I was finding difficulty in giving it. At first, I wasn't very fluent in giving the presentation. I had no control over my body language. Also, there was lack of enthusiasm in me. But still I kept on going, in spite of finding difficulty. Slowly and gradually, bit by bit, I was able to control myself and started experiencing new things. This went on for a very long time, more than a year to be precise. Everyday, I used to come up with new ideas, drawing out them and presenting them by the same way I did for the first presentation. At first, I was wrapping up the presentation in 5-10 minutes as I was finding difficulty in explaining. I was quite sad that I wasn't doing it for more than 30 minutes. After a few months or so, the time length increased. I was able to control my body language and was able to speak fluently. I was nearing the completion of becoming the public speaker.

At this point, it was clear that now I am ready to face the world. When I reached to class XII, I was very much capable of speaking. But then one thing used to tease me a lot. Theoretically, I did my best, but practically, I had no experience. So then, I set myself out for, searching for a moment to show my skills and capabilities by participating in the events and competitions. While in class XII, I had the chance to go onto the stage a couple of times to give the speech. While giving the last speech on the stage, one thing was clear. I have achieved what I wanted to. It took nearly a year or so to eradicate my fear. But that was worth it. While evaluating myself, I found that I have passed this challenge

with flying colors.

PART - 3

While I was in my class XII, I came across numerous entrance exams. These entrance exams were going to decide our future. The students across the world would start an early preparation, so to get the head-start to win the competition. If I talk about myself, I am a kind of guy who thinks that the competition destroys both ourselves and our surroundings. I saw various reports where students would prepare for years in order to gain seat in some of the well-reputed colleges, only to find out that they committed suicide by not getting enough score or else going for a long coaching, risking both their lives and career. I feel very upset when I come across these report. My parents wanted me to give such exams. But I said that I will not do it. My parents insisted a lot to me, but I refused it.

My motive was to get into a college without preparing and appearing for these exams. I wanted to use a simple method. I wanted to set an example for anyone who wished the same.

I used to get annoyed quite a lot of times when some of our relatives used to explain their child's story on how he made into one of the top universities or someone from their family. By listening to these, my parents used to force me follow them and learn from them. But I refused them, saying that I cannot prepare in such short amount of time, and I am not fit for it. I wasn't ready even for a minute as it takes a lot time and practice and discipline, in order to excel; which I didn't had. I said it very very clear that I will not prepare for these exams, as it required to go through a lot of books and guides and reference materials and so. But after a couple of thoughts and talks, I said I will write these exams but only on one condition that I will not refer to any guides, materials or study online. I will apply whatever knowledge I have gathered in my XI and XII class. They were happy about my decision and told me that ***"something is better than nothing."*** After the completion of my Board exams, I sat myself down and studied and revised only from the books that I had(*XI and XII class books*). I gave the JEE (*Joint Entrance Examination*). After reaching home, I told my parents that it did went well, but don't expect a good score from the exam. It was the biggest risk I took at that time for not preparing, considering the fact these exams decided our future. But from inside, I knew something was waiting for me.

As I wrote my JEE, couple of days later, I headed straight to India, where I was going to write another entrance exam. This time it was TS-EAMCET. I bluffed alot in-front of my relatives that I was prepared, but I wasn't. Couple of weeks

later after the exam, the entrance exam results were announced. I did get good rank from both of the exams better than what I was expecting. I was happy. My parents were happy, and so my relatives were.

But a disaster shook me completely off the ground.

Result announcement of Board exam was due shortly. We were stressed out as the date was approaching. All of us had hopes that we would pass the exam. But the question was “***WITH HOW MUCH PERCENTAGE?*** “

In May 2019 , one day I was relaxing in my home, watching videos and playing games. Sometime later, we received a message regarding the declaration of results. At first, we thought it was fake as it was very common during these times. Later, it was confirmed that indeed results were declared. All of my friends began messaging in the group. While looking at those messages, I started panicking. I quickly went to the official website and filled in the required details.

Alas! I scored 76.60% (*which was very below than my expectation*). After looking at my results, I started to cry. I called my parents as they were living in Saudi Arabia. I was crying a lot on the phone, only repeating the words “***I GOT LESS MARKS”....“ I CANNOT MAKE INTO ANY OF THE COLLEGES”***... As I was crying, my relatives heard my voices. They quickly came in and tried to console me. I went down to their house and I started to cry even louder, when I went

and saw my grandmother. Everyone were in shocked to see me in that state. Everyone tried to make me calm. Couple of minutes after, I tried to take control of myself, by getting back to my senses. I got calls from everyone, asking about the results. At that point, I felt that I lost the game. I had no way, only to turn back and start from beginning. I could see nothing but just blackness in my mind. I was hopeless.

After getting out of the trauma, I tried to go back to the state I was in before the announcement of results. I called my friends and talked with them, so that time passes out quickly. That day felt just like a month. It felt that time has just stopped. While going to bed, I could only see nothing but shattered dreams. The dreams I planned out were tarnished. Just moments before sleeping, my mind was just revolving around one thing : ***“YOU ARE A LOSER”***.

Days passed by and I was thinking constantly about my marks. One fine day I committed to myself that no matter what the situation maybe, no matter how hard it maybe, I will try my level best to get admitted into one of the best college in the state. I thought that maybe this is a test from the Almighty and that Almighty wants me to get admitted into the college with these marks. I wanted to pass in this test, no matter how much struggle I have to face.

07

THE COLLEGE OF MY DREAM

*"Start believing in your
dreams. They are the only
way to achieve success."*



After checking out my board results, I was pretty sure that I may not be able to make myself in any of the best colleges in Hyderabad. Even though I could have enrolled myself in any of the colleges in Saudi Arabia , but they were quite expensive. I used to call my friends everyday, inquiring whether they made any progress regarding the admission of colleges. My parents and aunts and uncles also used to gather information regarding the colleges in which I may be able to make in. But still I was not happy that I may barely get into the best colleges. I used to blame myself for getting such bad results.

Even though I wanted to do something different, but there was not much enthusiasm in doing it. My father and I used to go to colleges everyday, inquiring about admissions, ready to pay any amount of fees for the seat. But turns out, the seats were already filled. Everyday used to feel a hectic day.

Browsing and searching for colleges, filling out admission forms and waiting for the results, my life had no clarity in which college I should go for.

At one point in my life, I was ready to opt any branch the college was offering to me, but then dropped the idea. I was devastated. I was barely getting enough sleep. My father was thinking for sending me for long coaching so that I can improve my results , being able write some of the tough and competitive entrance exams. But I wasn't very much interested in doing it so. At this point I was completely helpless and hopeless. The only one thing that I could do is calling out Almighty everyday for doing a miracle.

But then, things got changed. A miracle completely changed my life.

I clearly remember the day (14/7/2019). It was the final of the Cricket World Cup between New Zealand and England and also the final stop of my college hunt. Me and my cousins were watching the final in my aunt's house. The match was very tense. The teams were doing exceptionally well. It was the last over of the match. Everyone in the house literally left all their daily chores and were watching the match. It was a very tense moment.

As the last over was about to start, my dad called me and told me to come immediately as fast as possible. At first I refused to come, told him that I will come after the match was over, but he denied. Alas, I had to go, missing the final

moments of the match. As I went to my house, my dad immediately handed me his laptop and told me to fill the form of the particular college. It turns out it was one of my dream college “CBIT”. It was the last day to fill the form. At first I felt of not filling it as the chances of getting myself in the college was “very very low” or “not even possible”. After a few thoughts and a cup of tea, I filled the form and paid the application fee. At this moment I was still thinking of not making in this college due to competition. At last, the form was filled. But the match was over. I missed the very last moments of the match.

Fast forward to two days and after having my dinner, I was about to doze off; forgetting the fact that it was the declaration of the list who were able to make in the college. My mobile data was over, waiting for 12AM to get it refreshed. As the data was refreshed, I was checking out the messages. Turns out, my friend shared a pic of the results. Till that time I still didn’t remember about the result declaration. As I clicked the picture, it had the names of the candidates.

My heart started beating faster. I was having difficulty in scrolling down due to the sudden freeze of my hand. I said made myself not to panic. As I scrolled down, it turns out, my name was mentioned in the list, alongside with my bench-mates. At first, I was having doubt. I was thinking that maybe someone else of the same name has made it. But to cross check, they had the also mentioned the application number, I quickly went to Gallery to check my application number:

checking each and every digit.

As soon as I found that they matched, I was thrown back. My legs started shaking. I was very much happy and I was jumping like three year old kid when they are given surprises. I was not able to speak for literally 2-3 minutes. My parents were perplexed, finding me jumping and not being able to say anything. They became very anxious. Even they had no idea about it.



10	CBIT19- 328	MIR MURTUZA ALI KHAN	MIR HUSSAIN ALI KHAN	77 DC
11	CBIT19- 1278	MOHAMMED FAWWAZUDDIN	MOHAMMED AFIUDIN	76.6C

As I said that I have made it, they soon started celebrating. Even they were not able to believe that I made it. They also went for a cross check. They had tears in their eyes as they found out that I made it into the college. I was literally jumping and running down the stairs to my aunt's house, screaming, jumping (I had no idea what I was doing).

I started beating the door as they were sleeping. Everyone inside the house were panicked. What they knew was that someone was screaming outside and banging the door. As I told them about my admission, they too started celebrating. Everyone started congratulating me. It was the best feeling ever I had. I had no words to express about my feeling at that

time. Within moments I started getting the calls from my friends, relatives etc as they came to know about this. It was late-night, but still they did. We all were celebrating the whole night. It was one of the best moments in my life. The struggle I had, was now paid off. The tension was now gone.

Looking back at my result, I started feeling proud it. The result I was trying to hide from everyone has now become my pride. I was way more than happy for getting admission on these marks. I wanted to get onto the stage and say to everyone that with these marks, I was able to join the college.

In my family I set out an example that without preparing for the Entrance Exams, without entering the competition, I was able to get myself placed in one of the top colleges of the state. Now the fear of not being able to make in any of the college was gone. Now I was able to sleep peacefully. As I went to the bed, I started remembering about my school days . The days filled with happiness, sorrow, surprises etc. Now I had a new chapter of my life about to begin.

A life full of surprises was waiting for me. And from inside,I was thanking everyone who was part of my beautiful journey, who helped me to achieve what I dreamed.



OMAR (*left*) RAOOF (*right*).THE FIRST PIC IN THE COLLEGE