

Education

Dear Madam, I am a Class 10 student. I understand all the lessons in school and don't want to study at home. But my parents are worried about the board exams and force me to study regularly. But how much ever I try, I can't focus on studies in the house. My marks are above average and I am not after marks. I want to understand the concepts for which I listen attentively in the classroom. But since my parents have a different viewpoint, I am a bit confused. But I definitely don't want to waste my time reading school books. Goutham

Dear Goutham, You seem to be in an enviable position and there will be many people who would love to not only have your academic strengths, but also your attitude. Your parents are driven by their anxiety for your future, and you can't fault them for that. They are driven by what they see happening around them with other children and other parents. Maybe, it is time for you to sit down with your parents and communicate your thoughts and feelings around this topic. Sometimes, a lot is left unsaid and assumed – your intentions, their intentions, your feelings, their feelings. So sit down and talk (and that includes listening to the others too). Help build their confidence that you know what you are talking about. Give them an insight into your plans and what you would rather do with your time, and how that is better for you in the long run. All the best.

Dear Madam, Of late, I have seen a trend among high school students to get the answer for a question immediately. Instead of understanding the concept or the process, they are more eager or in a hurry to know the end result. If I give them some time to ponder over a question and reason out the facts, they become restless and don't respond positively. Even when I give clues, they don't think patiently. How can I, as a teacher, act to address the trend, which I feel is not good for students. A teacher

Dear teacher, Thank you for reaching out with this very critical question. As a teacher, your role is not to satisfy their needs, but rather to show them the path. It may be important for you to discuss the issue that you are raising in the class with them. Unfortunately, stu-

ASK YOUR COUNSELLOR

Maulika Sharma

Focus on what you can control



dents these days are growing up in an age of instant gratification thanks to the access to information that technology enables, and social media. In some ways, it is possible to say that the role of a teacher as a disseminator of information has significantly gone down (as all information is available online). That then underscores the point that the role of a teacher as a guide and mentor has significantly gone up. Given the changes in the social fabric of society, and family structures changing, teacher's often bridge the gaps for their students. Keeping that in mind, feel free to build your relationship with students and help them to see the value of the journey, not just the end result. Help them to view life as a marathon, not just a series of 100 metre sprints in quick succession. More power to teachers like you who stay the course. Your role is not to give the answers but to help them discover the answers and the path. Good luck!

Dear Madam, I used to love Geography earlier but after I reached high school, I have lost interest. The teacher doesn't teach the subject and instead of explaining the lessons, she talks about recent developments in the country and we get bored. When I discussed this with my mother, she said that the teacher might be doing this to keep us aware of the happenings across the globe. But that doesn't help us with the subject. Please guide me with this. Kshama

Dear Kshama, In this day of access to technology, everyone has instant access to information. You can always go online and get the answer to any 'subject-related' question you may have. As I mentioned in the earlier question, teachers should not just be disseminators of information. Teachers shape minds and hearts and lives. And to that end, what your teacher is doing is very help-

ful and relevant. It may not be focussed on the subject matter in the book, and may not be oriented towards exams and marks. But an education involves not just learning and knowing facts (which you can also do on your own, without the help of a teacher) but also forming opinions and gaining an understanding of the world. More power to your teacher. She is giving you something invaluable – the value of which you may realise only many years later. The facts of Geography you may forget later in life, but these things you may not. Meanwhile if you are finding gaps in the content of your subject, by all means spend time to dig for it online. The answers are all there. Learning to find them on your own, is also a part of gaining an education. Learning how to learn is important too. Good luck!

Dear Madam, I am a Class 9 student and I am interested in studying subjects or learning a new

activity only if there is some competition. My parents are not exactly fond of competitions and say that it is more important to learn thoroughly than winning a prize. The problem is I want to win prizes but don't want to practice hard for it. For me, participation is for fun and I manage to get some prize even without proper practice. Again my parents have a different opinion. They feel one has to work hard to participate in a completion and otherwise it is of no use. Please let me know who is right. Nesar

Dear Nesar, These are two different world views and I am going to ask you some introspective questions here. Why are the prizes important? What do they do to how you feel about yourself? Is it that you are wanting the prizes to feel better about yourself, or to show the world that you are really good, in other words to prove yourself to the world. You may win prizes, but you will not win prizes all the time. So if you go only to win the prize, what happens if you don't win the prize? How will that make you feel? Will you be able to deal with that effectively? The only thing you can control is the journey (which is the effort you put in). You cannot control the outcome or end-result (which is the prize). It is a good practice in life to focus on that aspects that you can control. That decreases the disappointment when something negative that is out of your control happens. It is a folly to think that prizes will always come for everything you do. In your attachment to the prize, are you then only doing things where you are sure to get the prize and not even stepping out of your comfort zone into new areas, learning new things, where the prize may not be guaranteed. I think your parents are giving you the right guidance. Focus on the journey. Life is a marathon to be completed successfully, enjoying the path, relishing the experience. It is not a series of 100 metre sprints waiting to be won or lost. Good luck!

Maulika Sharma is an MBA graduate with specialisation in counselling. She works with parents and adolescents.

Send in your queries to Education, Deccan Herald 75, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001 or e-mail us at dheducation@deccanherald.co.in with 'Ask your counsellor' in the subject line.

FOR BETTER ACADEMIC SUCCESS

A new study finds that children whose parents provide them with learning materials and engage them in learning activities in infancy are likely to develop early cognitive skills that can cascade into later academic success.



BULLETIN BOARD



Neev Literature Festival

With a mission to create readers for life, the Neev Literature Festival has been carefully curated to introduce children between 5-18, to new authors, titles and genres, with workshops, panel discussions, and author talks. It will take place at Neev Academy Campus, Yemalur on September 15 and 16. For more details, visit www.neev-literaturefestival.org. For queries, call 8088934740 or 8088934741.

Environmental learning portal

WWF-India, in partnership with Cag Gemini, has launched One Planet Academy (OPA), the first environment education portal for students and teachers in India. The website encourages schools to adopt green practices, offers project and activity ideas for the teachers, along with online training courses, games, comics, interactive maps etc, for the students. For more information, visit www.bit.ly/2vnB21f.

Management programmes

Institute of Management Technology (IMT) has announced the opening of its admissions process for its two-year Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) and MBA programmes for its June 2018-19 batch. The last date to apply is November 24, 2017. For more details, visit www.imt.edu.

Engineering internship

Aerologiks, a drone and data analytics startup, is hiring interns for Controls Engineering (Autopilot Development on PX4) in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of Matlab, C Programming and C++ Programming can apply by September 24. Stipend is Rs. 10,000 per month. To apply, visit www.bit.ly/DH-167.

Business Development internship

Greendzine Technologies, a hardware technology company focused on developing affordable green technology solutions, is hiring interns for Business Development profile in Bengaluru. Students can apply by September 25. The stipend is Rs. 15,000 per month. To apply, visit www.bit.ly/DH-168.

Scholarships

Vidya Vikasa Trust invites applications for scholarships from visually impaired students who are economically backward and have passed SSLC, I and II PUC in March 2017 and are continuing their education in and around Bengaluru. Applications can be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope (9x4 size) affixed with Rs five postal stamp to Vidya Vikasa Trust (R), 'Shankaranarayana Nilaya', #225(B)

[20], 37th cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10. Applications can be collected from September 20.

Mock GATE test

Triumphant Institute of Management Education Pvt Ltd (TIME) is conducting 'FREE All-India Mock GATE' (AIMGATE) on September 17th, 2017 at over 36 test taking centres across the country. To register, visit www.bit.ly/2vSHcr9. For queries, email gate@time4education.com.

National Social Enterprise Idea Challenge

The Social Enterprise Cell of Azim Premji University invites ideas from students of colleges, universities and research institutions for the second National Social Enterprise Idea Challenge to be held on October 21, 2017, at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. Each team will have to register online and also submit a detailed application form about their proposed idea, social impact, feasibility, financial model, etc. The last date for registration is September 15, 2017. For queries, email social-enterprisecell@apu.edu.in or call 9538916587/9545873613.

Entrepreneurs course

The Management Programme for Entrepreneurs and Family Businesses (MPEFB), delivered by IIMB faculty at the NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), has a new avatar. While past editions of the programme were conducted entirely on the campus, the 11th edition of the MPEFB will leverage technology, specifically Massive Open Online Courses offered on IIMBx. For registration, visit www.bit.ly/2vwK15e. For more information, call 080-26993817.

International Student League

Vedantu is hosting the second edition of International Student League (ISL) in November 2017. Interested students can register either on www.vedantu.com/isl or call +91 9243343344.

Vidarthi Vigyan Manthan

Vidarthi Vigyan Manthan 2017 is a national programme, initiated by VIBHA in partnership with NCERT to identify school students who are interested in Science. The last date to apply is September 20, 2017. To register, visit www.vvm.org.in/home/registration.

Journalism fellowship

Chevening South Asia Journalism Fellowship 2018, funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is aimed at mid-career journalists from the South Asian region. It provides an opportunity to explore the range of approaches taken by the UK and the South Asian region,

and then use that knowledge to direct discussions that tackle the big issues challenging the field. The last date to apply is September 27, 2017.

PhD fellowship

The Department of Geosciences, University of Oslo, invites applications for a doctoral position (PhD) in mineral and rock physics from international students having Master's degree or equivalent in Geophysics. The objective of this project is to unravel the nanoscale dynamics of fluid-rock interactions and friction at mineral interfaces. The last date to apply is September 25, 2017. To know more, visit www.bit.ly/2wWIKFL.

Tallentex 2018

Allen invites application for Talent Encouragement Exam named Tallentex 2018, a specially designed initiative to encourage young talent with cash prizes, scholarships and mentoring by Allen Career Institute. The last date to apply is September 25, 2017. To know more, visit www.tallentex.com.

INSPIRE fellowship

The Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Science & Technology aims to strengthen the R&D foundation by offering the INSPIRE fellowship to pursue Doctoral Research in Basic/Applied Sciences after completing either Master's degree in Science/Applied Science/Engineering or Bachelors degree in Medicine. The last date to apply is September 30. For more details, visit www.bit.ly/2vKC5gO.

Photography competition

UN-Habitat has introduced UN-Habitat Youth Photography Competition 2017 – #Weareclimatechange to give an opportunity to young photographers. This competition is based on the concept representing solutions to climate change in their communities. The last date to apply is September 30, 2017. For more details, visit www.bit.ly/2vi05Hc.

Charles Wallace India fellowship

SOAS South Asia Institute has introduced Charles Wallace India Fellowship for one Indian to conduct research outside India. The three-month placement at SOAS, University of London should be taken predominantly during March-June. The last date to apply is September 15, 2017. For more details, visit www.bit.ly/2wF50lg.

Painting contest

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India invites applications from students from Class 4 to 9 for the BEE – Painting Competition 2017. The last date to apply is September 30. For more details, visit www.bit.ly/2fluThQ.

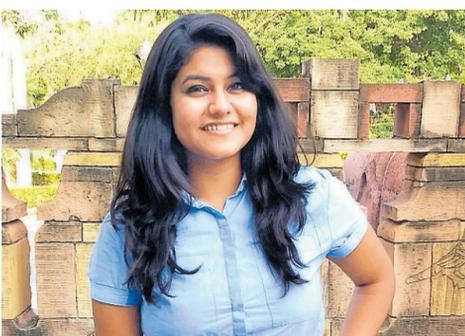
Her path to success

PRACTICAL EXPOSURE Ayushi Grover explains how internships have complemented her studies and enabled her to work towards her career goals

I got into an engineering college that I hadn't set my eyes on and wasn't too happy about it. I wanted to get out of college happy but didn't know how. After the first year, I came to know about internships and how they were the medium to gain practical knowledge.

I was interested in the field of writing and marketing, so I prepared my profile keeping those interests in mind and started applying. Soon, I was hired at an ecommerce company for a two-month internship. I had to compete with other students and make a name for the tech brand in my circles, and I won the first prize all over India in their contest. My journey had just begun. Next, I interned with a social media company. I worked on building a new product from scratch. From coining names to promoting it on social media, I monitored everything and put my heart into it.

Gaining knowledge Then, I took a break to concentrate on my studies. I learnt the basics of coding in college which helped in developing my analytical skills. During this brief hiatus, I got a call from a digital marketing solutions company for a content writing



CONFIDENT Ayushi Grover

role. They were working on a mobile application for new mothers and pregnant women. My work involved writing articles to help those women deal with the new addition to their family. I got a handsome stipend and really liked the work I was doing.

I was later selected by a company for the profile of Data Interpretation and Infographic creation. During the selection process, I was asked various questions based on current affairs and statistics as most of my work involved around news items and data analysis. This was my first full-time internship, and I used to work on

the daily news items to create content for specific age groups. By the time this internship ended, I could see a lot of change in myself. From being a dissatisfied fresher, I had become the person who had done most internships in my class.

In my next semester, I was selected for the Android Development profile by an IT development company. I was asked to share the links of the applications that I had worked on and further questions were asked regarding the problems I faced while building them and how I overcame them. Some technical questions were also asked to check my coding abil-

ities and analytical skills.

When I was finally hired for the full-time internship, I created various applications that catered to different markets and clients. I also learnt what working with a team actually meant! Later, I got to know about the technical internships at Airport Authority of India (AAI). The selection was on the basis of resume and thanks to a number of previous internships and projects, I was shortlisted and after a technical interview, I was hired! I got a chance to work with some of the finest engineers at AAI's Safdarjung Centre while making an Android application for their inventory.

Hand in hand

As the placement season was going to begin, I was all set to grab both tech and non-tech jobs. I got a job offer and people thought it was my first experience with interviews, but they did not know that all those internship interviews and work experience had prepared me well. Thus, my placement interview went smooth and mostly focused on the internships that I had done.

Post that, I went on to intern with four other organisations. Most of these internships were

virtual and I rarely had to visit the office. Many of them also overlapped so that I could make the most of my time. In short, I never sat idle.

Most people believe that studies in college and internships can't go side by side. However, 12 internships and three years later I've created my own path to success. I believed that I could do whatever I wanted, so I did. I ensured that I maintained the required attendance criteria and made sure I attended all the labs.

If we actually stop wasting all the interstitial time between one major thing and the other, we will have time to do everything. I never neglected my studies because internships are meant to complement them, not undermine. In the end, everything boils down to management and putting that extra effort to get what we really dream of.

Many factors have helped me reach where I am today. I've seen my own share of failures, but I've always learnt from them. I've understood that you hold the key to your success. Whatever I do, wherever I go, I'll never stop learning.

(The author is pursuing her BTEch from Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Engineering, Delhi)