



CATKing SIBM

WAT PI Workbook

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How to use this workbook!

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This is a consolidation of **23 SIBM PUNE, WAT PI Experiences**. These are consolidated from various online sources.

SIBM WAT* PI happens in PUNE/Hyderabad / Mumbai.

This Booklet gives you the Candidate Profile also in most cases, for you to understand the Personal Interview and relate to it better.

After reading the entire Document you are required to check on your CATKing IIMWATPI Super 30 Dashboard :

1. Build Your Interview Skills (Videos from IIM and SP Jain Alumni)
2. Functional Dossiers: If you want to pursue an MBA in Marketing, choose that dossier first.
3. SOP / Application Forms (Check out Jagesh Golwala (IIMA), Raj Doshi (IIMA), Jay Gosalia (IIM B))
4. Sample AWT from the dashboard to understand the Structured Approach. WAT / AWT / AWA – All of these are same terms of Writing test assignment conducted across various IIMs.

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1) Interview Experience - 1

I got a boundary line percentile in SNAP for getting shortlisted for SIBM some 98. XXish.

My interview was scheduled on 14th Feb 2016 - Sunday, 7:45am (Yeah, a Sunday morning and a Valentine's Day).

The campus is beautiful to say the least and being located on a hill top adds to the surreality of it. We were asked to assemble in a hall and were made to sit according to our batch numbers. This was followed by an address from the Admission's Committee which has representatives from the students currently pursuing MBA from there. After this the director addressed the shortlisted students.

Then started the document verification process after which we were given snacks and an SIBM carry bag with a notepad and a pen. Our respective student representatives took us to the waiting room where we were made to sit along with the group. A brief introduction among the group members ensured that we were comfortable among ourselves and that, I believe, helps when you are participating in a Group Exercise.

We were taken to a classroom where the panel, who was supposed to judge our GE, WAT, was seated.

There were 3 WATs each of 5 minutes duration

WAT 1: List down your 5 major accomplishments - Easy.. by the time you are ready for MBA interviews you get to know yourself inside out and your achievements in life are on the tip of your tongue all the time.

WAT 2: This had more behavioral questions like describe yourself in three words. I remember one question which had a cliché complex statement with 'effervescence, entropy, universe'. I seemed to have read it somewhere but could not comprehend what the statement was trying to convey. We had to comment on that statement - In the last 10 seconds of the 5 mins for WAT I wrote - "Things could have been conveyed in a simpler way"

WAT 3: In this WAT a small animated video was shown and we had to give a title to the video and write 5 points that we inferred from it in 5 minutes. Everybody in my group interpreted the video in their own different ways and this is where you could give the panel a glimpse of your personality and your thought pattern.

In my video a small child was struggling to get something out from a tree by throwing small twigs at the tree but was not successful at his attempt. Seeing which a tall man comes, shakes the big tree which makes a whole lot of fruit fall from the tree. Brimming with pride and contentment, the man walks away smiling, thinking that he had helped the child get the fruit from the tree. After the man walks away, the child throws the fruit and goes back disappointed and just then a ball falls from the tree.

Title - Assumption should never be the substitute of communication

I wrote along the lines of importance of requirement understanding and communication. Average WAT

GROUP EXERCISE: My group had 8 members and we were divided in groups of 3 - Project Manager ,3 - New graduate from IIT, fresher at the company ,2 - Technical Manager at the company. The group exercise required us to evaluate an expense overrun in the company, steps that could be taken to improve, why the situation had arisen in the first place and what could be done to avoid such situations in the future.

The GE went quite well, no fish market situations, a number of points and perspectives were put forth. The panel appreciated the group after the exercise.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW AND EXTEMPORE:

I was the last person to be interviewed in my group of 8. The panel was hungry and bored. The panel had two middle aged people and we were told that both of them belonged to the IT sector (one was from Syntel).

Extempore:



This was the image that I had to speak 3 minutes on during the interview. I spoke along the lines of how celebrities are being given Godly status. Spoke a little about marketing, brand management, how people are becoming increasingly aware and how they must think twice about the product that they are investing their money in, to use their senses because if Dhoni is good at what he does, doesn't necessarily mean that the product that he is endorsing is also equally good. Celebrity endorsements might catch your eye for one moment but in the long run it is the quality of your product that will help your brand sustain and grow.

For now let's call Panelist 1 - P1 and Panelist 2: P2

P2: So what is the message you would like to give the buyers of today

Me: spoke along the lines of being sensible and not get carried away by celebrity endorsements.

P2: Describe yourself in three sentences

Me: (This was a little shocking) Gave some cliché... gives her 100 percent, honest, creative type answers

P1: Tell me about yourself

P1: Final year project

P2: Achievements at work

P1: Problems faced, how did you overcome them? What role did seniors play? What did you learn?

P1: You are such a technical person, Why do you want to do an MBA?

Me: Told them about my interest in Human Resource Management cited a few achievements and examples.

P2: (After almost taking a small nap) What is this interesting answer you have written in WAT - "Things could have been conveyed in a simpler way", Explain

Me: (Poker face - Oh Snap! I had written that answer because could not understand that line at all) Like a typical HR manager I said - Sir, the idea that the writer was trying to put forth was difficult to comprehend for anybody who reads it. Even from an HR manager's perspective, if this is how people in an organization talk to each other, there would never be any meaningful 'communication'(read transfer of ideas).

Verdict: First List Convert!!!!

2) Interview Experience - 2

Profile:

10th - 8.6 CGPA

12th - 67%

Graduation (BBA) (2018 grad) - 72.7%

Zero work experience.

SIBM Pune Interview Experience (Feb 15th, 2019, afternoon slot)

Reached the venue at 1. After verification, we were allotted our group numbers and seated accordingly. The director addressed us and then we were taken to another waiting area. Each group consisted of 7-8 candidates. We were then taken for the GEWAT process.

Group Exercise 1:

Basically, a game of Tetris. We were first given 5 minutes to solve our own puzzle and then the next 5-7 minutes it was up to us to either stick to our individual puzzle or try to solve together as a team. No one was able to solve the puzzle in the allotted time.

Written ability test:

We were shown a 40 second video (with no audio) and had to summarize the content in the video in 10 minutes in 100 words giving an apt title.

The video showed a man walking in a street with a briefcase for the first 36-37 seconds and in the last 2-3 seconds, he suddenly changes into fishnet stockings, puts on a wig and walks away.

Group Exercise 2 :

This was a case discussion.

The case was about a political party which had won the previous 5 elections held. But, the recent election results showed that they had won by a very slim margin. The party head decided to start a start up focusing on the younger generation/millennials. Unfortunately for him, even this didn't work. He had an employee force of about 20 people and was willing to add up to 30 more employees.

The question was as to what business strategy the party head should use.

The discussion was very smooth with every chipping in and giving their 2 cents. We were able to arrive at a solution and conclude on time.

Personal Interview:

I was given an extempore topic outside the interview room and was given 1 minute to think. I had to choose between 2 options and give justification for the same. The topic given to me was "born as a freedom fighter or born in a free country"

There were 2 panelists. Both alumni. 1 middle aged male and 1 older female.

I was asked to take a seat and was immediately asked about my CD. Told them.

I was then asked to talk on my extempore topic. (Spoke about being born in a free country and how I would have more opportunities to express myself and how I wouldn't need to be afraid of experimenting and taking chances).

Was asked why mba and why not pursue a job?

(Told that my college didn't offer a lot of marketing profiles and that pursuing an mba aligned with my goals and aspirations)

Was asked what I did since graduation?

(Told that I had given cat, snap and other entrance exams last year and realised that I needed to give complete attention towards aptitude tests and hence chose not to take up a job. Also told that I had 45%ile in snap last time compared to the 98.6%ile this time. Also tried to talk about the marketing analytics course that I'm currently taking. They didn't seem too interested.)

Was asked about my hobbies.

(Told how choosing bba gave me a lot of free time and how I was able to explore different things like starting a start up, learning guitar, doing an internship and so on.)

Was asked about my family background.

(Told that I live with my parents and grandmother. told that my father is a retired agm at a psb due to which he would get transferred regularly.)

Was asked where and all I have been.

(Told chennai, adoni, jabalpur, mangalore and settled in Bangalore)

Was asked to choose between Mangalore and Bangalore.

(Chose Bangalore for it's weather and city life)

Was asked what my name means to me and if it suits me.

(Told that lord Vishnu has 10 avatars and that in the same way, I have a lot of different interests and that am not blocked by just 1 train of thought)

Was asked 3 things that I'm unaware of.

(Told that if I'm unaware, how can I answer? They pried a bit more and wanted an answer. Told that I'm not aware of technical things and that am not aware of some events that are currently happening around the world. They didn't push any further)

Was finally asked to leave.

Gave my thanks and left.

There were 2 document verification after this. 1. Eligibility verification. (They check your snap admit card and marksheets)

Academic Verification. (They just check your mark sheets)

Overall, a very smooth process.

3) Interview Experience - 3

Let me start with a bit of background, last year I had a SNAP percentile of 99.83 but was not able to convert SIBM Pune because of my not so good performance in the GE-PI-WAT process.

Fast forward to this year:

SNAP 2019 - 99.93 %ile.

WAT: For this part we were given a total of 12 minutes to answer five GK questions and write a hundred-word long essay on BREXIT.

I was able to answer three questions correctly and the essay part also went well.

Group Exercise: In this exercise every member of the group was shown two images out of which we were supposed to select one and state the reason for selection of that particular image. After all the candidates selected their images, we as a group were asked to connect all the individual images and formulate a coherent story and present it in front of the panel. I was quite satisfied by my performance in this part of the process.

Personal Interview:

I was the last one to be interviewed in my panel.

Just before the interview, they gave me a hit (an extempore of sorts) in which a question was there and was to be answered after thinking for a minute. My question was "What if you were the CEO of Google?"

There were two panelists, both male.

Pan 1 - Asked me to answer the above question.

KD - I mentioned about the services that Google provides and how it can be expanded. I also mentioned the privacy concerns that we face.

Pan 2 - Introduce Yourself in five sentences.

KD - Gave the prepared answer.

Pan 1 - Tell me more about Dahod (my home town).

KD - Told.

Pan 2 - So you mentioned about the 2008 Financial Crisis, give me a summary of what exactly happened and why did the crisis take place at the first place.

KD - I was well prepared for this. I was able to answer this question well (even the panelist told me so).

Pan 1 - Have you heard about RBI? What is it?

KD - Told about the basic functions and objectives of RBI.

Pan 2 - what are your hobbies?

KD - Told.

Pan 2 - Tell me more about your family.

KD - Told.

Pan 1 - Which Newspaper do you read? What was the last thing you read?

KD - Told that I read The Indian Express. And mentioned three to four topics ranging from Crude prices to Ram Mandir issue.

Pan 2 - What other calls do you have?

KD - Told.

Pan 1 - I think we're done. All the best!

KD - Thank you sir! (Smiled and left).

I was really satisfied with the entire process and my performance in it.

Verdict: First list Convert.

4) Interview Experience - 4

Date: - 9th February, 2019

PROFILE

10th/12th/UG CGPA: - 89.83 / 82.46 / 8.5

SNAP 2018: - 99.97%ile

UG: - BE Chemical engineering

Fresher.

GE

We were 7 in group. All right so GEs are meant to show the group coordination and understanding among the group members. So before the gepiwat process, having a casual chat with all the group members is really recommendable as 1) It let's you know about the group members and their background and (2) Removes the nervousness.

So the GE consisted of 2 processes. One of them was about solving puzzles individually for 5 minutes following which we were allowed to solve as a team for next 10 minutes. We were judged on the basis of the teamwork and whether or not we accomplished the task as a team. We were able to solve 1 puzzle as a team. overall it was good... (personally i think that only 1/2 puzzles were solvable and we had to accomplish that)

Second was a Case discussion based on the increasing attrition rate and decreasing productivity of a company and we being the HR department of that company, had to arrive at a solution. (Average performance in this one as we weren't able to come at a conclusion)

WAT (Individual task)

We were shown a mute video and had to interpret the video in 100 words. (I think I nailed this one)

PI

1 Male 1 Female

Both in 30s (probably alumns)

Male: - M

Female: - F

Me: - V

this time instead of giving negative words to make positive sentences, we were given ethical dilemma. 2 options were given out of which we were supposed to choose one in 1 min and justify in 2 mins in front of panelists.

Extempore: - Defending a guilty person OR prosecuting an innocent person.

we were supposed to enter the pi room and start speaking about the topic.

After greeting both the panelists.

V: - sir/ma'am I would defend a guilty person. I am assuming the situation of case in court and I'm a lawyer. So the reason for me choosing defence of guilty is that firstly it would prove to be challenging for me as I would be tested for my defensive skills. Winning the case by mending the actual facts and interpreting them in my favour would be a great test and an achievement for me as a lawyer. At the same time if I'm loosing the case, I still would be satisfied as the guilty person will be punished for his crime and the innocent will be safe. So either way if I win or loose, it's a win-win situation for me. So I would go with defending a guilty person. (And I thought that I was wasting time behind watching Suits while preparing for GDPI). Further added some more points but not recalling now at the moment.

M: - okay Vasu, so why SIBM?

V: - Talked about my extra curriculars ranging from sports to singing in my childhood and carrying them in college as well. Then told that even SIBM has the same culture as it is a student driven institute and which is necessary for an mba aspirant to have such an inducive culture for holistic development. Other thing is the specialization system which SIBM has which I think will give an indepth knowledge to the students and at the same time teaching general subjects of other domains necessary for general awareness for a manager.

F: - What makes you different from others? There are people with work experience. why should we select you?

V: - Sir I think my curiosity makes me different. As I told you, right from my childhood It was my curiosity due to which I was able develop different perspectives and manage many activities at the same time. M cutting in between.

M: - we want a quality.

V: - My decision-making ability sir.

M: - how?

V: - Gave example of me heading my college's annual technical festival in which we (small team of 25-30 people) managed a crowd of 15000 people with a really smooth execution of the entire 3-day fest. And further elaborated more on the situations which needed impulsive decision making.

F: - don't you think experienced people must do an mba rather than freshers?

V: - I agree with experienced people doing an mba but ma'am rather than doing an mba after having an experience, I would like to gain the knowledge of theoretical concepts and then would like to apply them into the business world. Also being a fresher, I find myself more into the learning period and would not like to disrupt my pursuit of knowledge.

F: - Okay so you were the part of the ROBOCON management team. What did you do?

V: - told about low financial support from college for robot making and then told them about the sponsorships which we brought.

F: - So assume that I am a high-end motor cycle manufacturer. how will you approach me?

V: - ma'am first of all we will decide whether it would be profitable for any of us to approach you or not because my college being a government college consists of 70% students from rural areas. F Cutting in between.

F: - ohh so you won't approach me?

V: - No ma'am I'm saying that we will approach you for my college's technical festival as we see a footfall of 15000 people. So for you rather than giving me a sponsorship for 1100 people, it would be better for you to give sponsorship for the fest.

F: - So you were captain of your college's badminton team. What would you do if your team mates are not agreeing to your plan?

V: - told them about my badminton experience of 12 years and told that being in such situations before, I would hear their arguments and then relate them to the previous experiences of mine. (did some further cross questioning but I gave the same answer)

M: - So you have calls from siib, scmhrd and sibm pune. which one would you choose?

V: - Sir sibm

M: - how can I believe you? you might be saying just for the sake of interview. (I mean who asks that? it's obvious that it has to be SIBM P, isn't it?)

V: - No sir firstly my interest lies in marketing and sibm pune is the best among the 3 of them. Moreover, sibm pune is the only college with a complete campus and infrastructure facilities which would account to a lot of on campus experiences necessary for overall development.

F: - So you got a scholarship that you have mentioned. What was it for?

V: - ma'am in our state board, top 5 students of the school were provided with a scholarship of Rs. 80000 per year for pursuing BSc. And I stood 1st in my school's english medium so I was offered this scholarship. But I chose engineering anyways.

M: - Okay that's it. Thank you.

The entire process took around 4 hours and was really executed well.

Verdict: - FIRST LIST CONVERT

5) Interview Experience - 5

Profile:

10th: 89.30,

12th: 89.00,

B.Tech : 8.28,

Work-Ex: 21 months

SNAP: 99.75

After screwing up my CAT, SIBM Interview become all the more important for me as I was hell-bent on joining an MBA College this year. I remember the time when I had received calls from a number of B-Schools and I had very limited previous year experiences to go by, so I decided that I'll share as many experiences as possible for the future aspirants.

Date: 8th February 2018

Venue: SIBM Lavale Campus

Slot: Morning (8:30AM)

We reached the beautiful campus at around 8:20 AM. We were divided into groups of 9-10 and guided to a large hall where we met our Group Coordinator (GC). He was extremely polite and helpful and remained with us till the last one of us were done with their interviews (which was me). The Director then addressed the aspirants and wished us luck. Then we were taken for our GD-WAT Round.

GD-WAT

We were taken to a room in which 2 faculty members were already seated. The GD was actually a kind of case discussion. Our case was that of a Toy Company which was suffering from losses owing to various reasons like competition from computer games, lack of working capital etc. We were asked to discuss the possible Marketing, Finance, Operations and HR related solutions to this problem. The GD went really well with each of us providing some key bottlenecks and unique solutions. We provided solutions like forging strategic partnerships, better inventory management and better positioning of the products apart from venturing into making technologically advanced toys too. We were also asked to write down our inferences and solutions individually on a sheet.

The WAT was basically an essay about Donald Trump of about 400-500 words and we had to summarise it in a small paragraph in about 100 words in 10 minutes and had to choose 5 important words from the essay. The Essay was easy to comprehend but the time was extremely less and we had to be very quick.

Interview

I was the last one to be interviewed in my panel and this being my first interview of the season, I was extremely nervous. Before the interview each one of us were given a negative word and we had to write 5 positive sentences regarding the same. The word given to me was 'Scandal'.

I was called into the interview room by a middle-aged person who was mostly an alumnus (P1). The second person present in the room was a little older(P2). I wished them and they asked me to have a seat.

P2: Hi Animesh, Sorry to keep you waiting.

Me: No Problem Sir (As if I had an option: p)

P1: Why an MBA?

Me: Told them about how MBA opens a lot of avenues. There are things that I think I lack which my boss (an MBA) is very comfortable at. Linked how an MBA would well align with my future aspirations.

P2: Why now? Why not later?

Me: Told him how I have gained some work ex and I feel that I can offer some good insights in a class discussion and I can learn from the amazing profs at SIBM. Told him I know I can learn these things on the job too but an MBA is a fast-paced course and I would like have a steep learning curve.

P2 seems pretty satisfied and told P1 that he's done. I was pleasantly surprised at this.

P1: How did you think the GD went? Some solutions from your end?

Me: Told him GD went extremely well according to me as everyone got a chance to speak and we reached to the conclusion amicably. Told him some solutions which I floated in the GD. Some counter questions regarding the same.

P1: What would you do if you don't get into a MBA college this time?

Me: Told him I'll continue with my job as I am not doing an MBA out of frustration due to my current job. I would keep learning and would give MBA another shot next year.

P2: What are your other calls?

Told

P1 and P2 wished me luck and that there were done.

I was kind of satisfied with the overall process and was fairly confident of converting the call. All the GCs and other staff at SIBM were extremely courteous. The process was very well managed. The campus is breathtaking and very clean.

FINAL VERDICT: Converted (1st List)

6) Interview Experience - 6

Date: 27/02/2021

Course: Mba in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E)

GEPIWAT was conducted online for the batch of 2021–23 considering pandemic. Student moderators were present to guide you throughout the process.

Panelists for personal interview say P1 and P2 (both females in early 40s)

Group Exercise (GE)

6 students

Duration: 20 minutes

Topic: Plastics are causing hazards to our environment; 5.6 million tonnes of waste is produced every year which is depleting marine life too. Give sustainable solutions to reduce the same. (Can't recall the exact paragraph)

Written Ability Test (WAT)/ Story Writing

Duration: 12 minutes

Topic: The country in which people rarely fall sick. Health is given priority only when sickness arrives.

Personal Interview (PI)

Duration: 20 minutes

After greeting the panelists, I was given the extempore case and was asked to speak on the topic for 3–5 minutes

Case: You own a textile firm in Hyderabad. You have to set up a similar Textile firm in Mumbai or Bangalore. What all criteria you will consider to make the business more profitable?

M: Answered the above in a structured way.

I was stopped after approximately 4 minutes by P1

P1: Considering your profile, your profile is more aligned to a general MBA programme and you have worked in the corporate for more than 2 years. So, why this?

P1: How Mba will help you to achieve your targets?

P1: What are your strengths?

P2: How I&E will help you 10 years down the line?

P2: What startup idea/plan you have to grow your Business?

P2: What are three traits of a successful Businessperson?

P1: Don't you think experience helps to become better in Business? Why don't you involve yourself in Business rather than going for an MBA?

Overall healthy conversation with no grilling :)

Result: Converted

7) Interview Experience - 7

GD: Case Discussion and Analysis on set-up and presentation of the sales/ earnings boost scenario for a Tea shop brand, akin to Cafe Coffee Day, based on Case study given (We were a team of six, who presented the same in 20 mins and had to conclude).

WAT: Summarisation with 5 keywords and an appropriate heading to be provided, based on the passage provided- on Robert Mugabe.

SNAP Percentile: 99.8

Panelists: Male Professor, jovial (P1) and a Lady Professor, stern but smiling (P2)

Institution: SIBM-P

Date and time: 2nd Feb, 16:00 hours

Background: B-Tech, NA&SB, Cochin University of Sc. & Technology

Work Ex: 33 Months

I entered the room, smiling and greeted them a good afternoon. They greeted me back. Prior to entry, I was given a paper-slip containing a negative word, and I had to speak something positive out of it.

P1: Hi Gautham, how are you? How did your previous rounds, go? A: Hi Sir, I'm fine. I think they went well. GE was good, and WAT finished in a jiffy.

P1: Oh, that's good to hear, you can keep the file on the table and yeah please handover the piece of paper. (Did that)

P2: Ok, Repulse, hmm, tougher than the previous one, huh. That's okay, you are going to say positive about it, anyway. So, let us hear from you.

A: I told them, repulse being distaste, answered 5 sentences about self-repulsion, and how it can lead to rejuvenation and recovery of thoughts, in a person like me. They nodded and said that I'm an optimistic person. They also pressed me and said, is there any more I would like to add, and I said that I was saturated & believed, I had conveyed what I thought of it.

P1: Gautham, you like Harry Potter. I'm sure you'd have read all 7 books; do you know who wrote it?

A: Yes Sir, I have read all eight of them, including the Cursed Child, which was published recently. Her name is J K Rowling.

P1: And what does J K Stand for?

A: Joanne- Kathelin, (He said excellent).

P1: You have 96% in your Class-X, tell me how does one get 96% even, if he works hard or is intelligent. That's high and I see, you are not from the grading system, you wrote before that.

A: Huh, sir. I just tried my best, and I believe it's also about who writes the exam and who corrects it later. (He laughed! Ok, that's modest and tactful).

P2: Why do you want to do MBA in India, with the kind of profile, you can try in UK or US, may be now or after a year?

A: That was a possibility, sir. This has got something to do with what struck me initially. (I explained about the experience that I had when I was pursuing graduation, where-in I worked in the Technical Consulting wing of the Dept. of Ship technology, and how the various activities like Client Liaison, and infancy of the Naval sector attracted me, how I was offered a good position in Middle East by ALE, through Campus recruitment, my work there and how the experience combined with India's potential,

will help me thrive, through an MBA in India, while abroad, I may not get the same learning experience of Indian industry).

P2: Hmm, but then why not MTech?

A: In MTech, the research component is high Ma'am. I will get restricted, while I've been able to do the same job, with a B Tech, where-in I have done industry research interaction, I believe it is time for me to explore more in the management structure, where I have to learn the working of a corporation, hence I favor MBA over MTech.

P1: You scored 8.8 in Graduation, that's high as well. Was it interesting?

A: I explained him that I stood second and secured the best project award, and he urged me to explain a brief one-liner on the theses, which I did, and he liked the sound of it. I told him, about the passion that I had in Ship Design and that led me to the performance.

P1: What would happen should ALE recruit you again? If you were member of the place-com can we expect seats from ALE for the summers?

A: I said that should ALE offer me an appropriate position of interest, post-MBA, I would have no qualms joining there, I also said that I'd actively interact to fetch seats from ALE for summer placements.

P1: Hmm, good Gautham! When did you last go to a Gynecologist?

A: (I was taken aback, and was unsure of what I heard)? I don't know, sir. I don't think so, maybe a long time ago.

P1: Ha-ha, really? You know who a gynecologist, is right?

A: yes sir, a doctor who tends to/ treats pregnant women.

P1: (laughs), exactly, but you said you have been to him? Really? You weren't even born!

A: Actually, yes sir, when I was three years old, when my younger brother was born. (they both laughed at the cheekiness!)

P1: Ok, jokes apart, who is an oncologist?

A: Someone who studies/ treats tumors.

P1: And a Pala theologian?

A: Someone, who studies fossils.

P1: If I were a cartographer, what would I be doing?

A: I would be sketching maps. (He was impressed)

P1: Do you know who Roger Federer beat recently?

A: yes sir, he beat Martin Cilic of Croatia.

P1: What event was it? What is the capital of Croatia?

A: the Australian Open. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb.

P1: What is the Golden Grand Slam?

A: Sir, it means winning all the four major grand slams: Australian, French, US, Wimbledon and the Olympics Gold all in the same calendar year.

P1: Has anyone achieved that?

A: yes sir, Steffi Graf of the US.

With that the interview was done. He said, he liked my confidence and cheekiness and that I had answered all GK questions right.

Verdict: Converted

8) Interview and WAT Experience - 8

Profile:

10th - 8.6 CGPA

12th - 67%

Graduation (BBA) (2018 grad) - 72.7%

Zero work experience.

SIBM Pune Interview Experience (Feb 15th, 2019, afternoon slot)

Reached the venue at 1. After verification, we were allotted our group numbers and seated accordingly.

The director addressed us and then we were taken to another waiting area. Each group consisted of 7-8 candidates. We were then taken for the GEWAT process.

Group Exercise 1:

Basically, a game of Tetris. We were first given 5 minutes to solve our own puzzle and then the next 5-7 minutes it was up to us to either stick to our individual puzzle or try to solve together as a team. No one was able to solve the puzzle in the allotted time.

Written ability test:

We were shown a 40 second video (with no audio) and had to summarise the content in the video in 10 minutes in 100 words giving an apt title.

The video showed a man walking in a street with a brief Interview and WAT Experience for the first 36-37 seconds and in the last 2-3 seconds, he suddenly changes into fishnet stockings, puts on a wig and walks away.

Group Exercise 2:

This was a Interview and WAT Experience discussion.

The Interview and WAT Experience was about a political party which had won the previous 5 elections held. But the recent election results showed that they had won by a very slim margin. The party head decided to start a startup focusing on the younger generation/millennials. Unfortunately for him, even this didn't work. He had an employee force of about 20 people and was willing to add up to 30 more employees.

The question was as to what business strategy the party head should use.

The discussion was very smooth with every chipping in and giving their 2 cents. We were able to arrive at a solution and conclude on time.

Personal Interview:

I was given an extempore topic outside the interview room and was given 1 minute to think. I had to choose between 2 options and give justification for the same. The topic given to me was "born as a freedom fighter or born in a free country"

There were 2 panelists. Both alumni. 1 middle aged male and 1 older female.

I was asked to take a seat and was immediately asked about my CD. Told them.

I was then asked to talk on my extempore topic. (Spoke about being born in a free country and how I would have more opportunities to express myself and how I wouldn't need to be afraid of experimenting and taking chances).

Was asked why mba and why not pursue a job?

(Told that my college didn't offer a lot of marketing profiles and that pursuing an mba aligned with my goals and aspirations)

Was asked what I did since graduation?

(Told that I had given cat, snap and other entrance exams last year and realised that I needed to give complete attention towards aptitude tests and hence chose not to take up a job. Also told that I had 45%ile in snap last time compared to the 98.6%ile this time. Also tried to talk about the marketing analytics course that I'm currently taking. They didn't seem too interested.)

Was asked about my hobbies.

(Told how choosing bba gave me a lot of free time and how I was able to explore different things like starting a startup, learning guitar, doing an internship and so on.)

Was asked about my family background.

(Told that I live with my parents and grandmother. told that my father is a retired agm at a psb due to which he would get transferred regularly.)

Was asked where and all I have been.

(Told chennai, adoni, jabalpur, mangalore and settled in Bangalore)

Was asked to choose between Mangalore and Bangalore.

(Chose Bangalore for its weather and city life)

Was asked what my name means to me and if it suits me.

(Told that lord Vishnu has 10 avatars and that in the same way, I have a lot of different interests and that am not blocked by just 1 train of thought)

Was asked 3 things that I'm unaware of.

(Told that if I'm unaware, how can I answer? They pried a bit more and wanted an answer. Told that I'm not aware of technical things and that am not aware of some events that are currently happening around the world. They didn't push any further)

Was finally asked to leave.

Gave my thanks and left.

There were 2 document verification after this. 1. Eligibility verification. (They check your snap admit card and marksheets)

Academic Verification. (They just check your mark sheets)

Overall, a very smooth process.

Will update whether I converted or not once the merit list is announced.

Verdict: Rejected

9) Interview and WAT Experience - 9

DATE: 14th feb 2016

TIME 7:45 am

(Yeah, a Sunday morning and a Valentines Day)

Profile

10th- 85%, 12th- 78%, UG-77%

SNAP Score- 98%

The campus is beautiful to say the least and being located on a hill top adds to the surrealism of it. We were asked to assemble in a hall and were made to sit according to our batch numbers. This was followed by an address from the Admission's Committee which has representatives from the students currently pursuing MBA from there. After this the director addressed the shortlisted students.

Then started the document verification process after which we were given snacks and an SIBM carry bag with a notepad and a pen. Our respective student representatives took us to the waiting room where we were made to sit along with the group. A brief introduction among the group members ensured that we were comfortable among ourselves and that, I believe, helps when you are participating in a Group Exercise.

We were then taken to a classroom where the panel, who was supposed to judge our GE, WAT, was seated.

There were 3 WATs each of 5 minutes duration

WAT 1: List down your 5 major accomplishments - Easy... by the time you are ready for MBA interviews you get to know yourself inside out and your achievements in life are on the tip of your tongue all the time.

WAT 2: This had more behavioral questions like describe yourself in three words. I remember one question which had a cliché complex statement with 'effervescence, entropy, universe' words. I seemed to have read it somewhere but could not comprehend what the statement was trying to convey. We had to comment on that statement - In the last 10 seconds of the 5 mins for WAT I wrote - Things could have been conveyed in a simpler way

WAT 3: In this WAT a small animated video was shown and we had to give a title to the video and write 5 points that we inferred from it in 5 minutes. Everybody in my group interpreted the video in their own different ways and this is where you could give the panel a glimpse of your personality and your thought pattern.

In my video a small child was struggling to get something out from a tree by throwing small twigs at the tree but was not successful at his attempt. Seeing which a tall man comes, shakes the big tree which makes a whole lot of fruit fall from the tree. Brimming with pride and contentment, the man walks away smiling, thinking that he had helped the child get the fruit from the tree. After the man walks away, the child throws the fruit and goes back disappointed and just then a ball falls from the tree.

Title - Assumption should never be the substitute of communication

I wrote along the lines of importance of requirement understanding and communication. Average WAT

GROUP EXERCISE: My group had 8 members and we were divided in groups of 3 - Project Manager ,3 - New graduate from IIT, fresher at the company ,2 - Technical h. The group exercise required us to evaluate an expense overrun in the company, steps that could be taken to improve, why the situation had arisen in the first place and what could be done to avoid such situations in the future. The GE went quite well, no fish market situations, a number of points and perspectives were put forth. The panel appreciated the group after the exercise.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW AND EXTEMPORE:

I was the last person to be interviewed in my group of 8. The panel was hungry and bored. The panel had two middle aged people and we were told that both of them belonged to the IT sector(one was from Syntel).

Extempore:

This was the image that I had to speak 3 minutes on during the interview. I spoke along the lines of how celebrities are being given Godly status. Spoke a little about marketing, brand management, how people are becoming increasingly aware and how they must think twice about the product that they are investing their money in, to use their senses because if Dhoni is good at what he does, doesn't necessarily mean that the product that he is endorsing is also equally good. Celebrity endorsements might catch your eye for one moment but in the long run it is the quality of your product that will help your brand sustain and grow.

For now, let's call Panelist 1 - P1 and Panelist 2: P2

P2: So what is the message you would like to give the buyers of today

Me: spoke along the lines of being sensible and not get carried away by celebrity endorsements.

P2: Describe yourself in three sentences

Me: (This was a little shocking) Gave some cliché... gives her 100 percent, honest, creative type answers

P1: Tell me about yourself

P1: Final year project

P2: Achievements at work

P1: Problems faced, how did you overcome them? What role did seniors play? What did you learn?

P1: You are such a technical person, Why do you want to do an MBA?

Me: Told them about my interest in Human Resource Management cited a few achievements and examples.

P2: (After almost taking a small nap) What is this interesting answer you have written in WAT - "Things could have been conveyed in a simpler way", Explain

Me: (Poker face - Oh Snap! I had written that answer because could not understand that line at all) Like a typical HR manager I said - Sir, the idea that the writer was trying to put forth was difficult to comprehend for anybody who reads it. Even from an HR manager's perspective, if this is how people in an organization talk to each other, there would never be any meaningful 'communication'(read transfer of ideas).

Verdict: First List Convert!!!!

Takeaways:

1. Even if you scored borderline marks in written exam, if you manage to do well in the other rounds, you can definitely make it to the final list.
2. SIBM's was one of the most creative processes for shortlisting and you need to be spontaneous to get through.
3. The Admission Committee of students from SIBM, assists you during the entire process and you get a chance to interact with the students of your prospective college directly even before you join the institute.

10) Interview and WAT Experience - 10

My interview experience

Profile - 10/12/grads 90.33/69/63

Snap - 99.0675

2 years of work ex in social media marketing

SIBM Pune 8th Feb, 2019. morning slot

This year; the director told us during the briefing that there will be a reject list too when the results will be declared.

Our group had 7 students.

GE 1 - We had to solve a puzzle. A total of 15 minutes were given where for the first 5 mins, we had to solve our own and then coordinate as a group and help each other in solving it. Our group could not solve a single puzzle but we coordinated well as a team.

WAT - We were shown a video of 1 mins and had to write about it of our own understanding in 100 words and a title as well. I literally had no idea what the video was trying to convey. There were a group of dogs in the classroom and there was a lady instructor who was trying to teach them. She was blindfolded afterwards and was walking with one of those dogs by holding it with a string. The dog could not stop where it was supposed to and kept walking resulting in the lady tripping over the hurdle. This happened several times till the dog was shown a wall consisting of several pictures of awards and trophies given to dogs. I could not make out whether it was the same dog who was shown it's past or it was shown it to motivate it by giving a promise of some reward. But after that the dog learnt to stop at the right place resulting in the lady being happy. But I felt relieved after my group members said that even they did not decipher the video during that moment and wrote whatever came to their mind.

Ge 3 - A Interview and WAT Experience study was given where a startup had been successful initially but had to now expand its operations to 8 cities from 1 and we had to give suggestions. 15 minutes was

allotted. I started by communicating to the group that let's first read it silently for 3-4 minutes and then start the discussion. I had just completed half of it when the group started discussing in the first minute itself but I had to work as a team so relied on the facts given by the group for the part I could not complete. We reached a consensus on a solution and explained it to the panel one by one in the last 3 minutes. Time was up when half of the group was left to explain theirs.

PI

Just outside the PI room, I was given chit with the following dilemma. If I were to bring back one between a fictional character and a national leader; which one would I choose and why. It was rather an easy choice for me. I entered the room and told them that I would choose a national leader. I would do so because that way I will have a chance to bring back a person who had done exemplary work for the people and we could all as a society be benefitted from him. Gave them the example of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and how he was instrumental in the Indian space work.

There were two panelists; male and a female. The male panelist asked all questions and the female one did not utter a word but was listening very carefully to all my answers.

M - From where have you come?

Me - Noida sir.

M - Can you tell me the full form of Noida?

Me - New Okhla Industrial Development Area sir.

M - Are you sure it's area or its authority?

Me - I can't really recall sir.

He then said to other panelist that at least he knows first four initials and many people living there don't know this also. That made me feel good but the next question was the last thing I would want to answer in an interview.

M - Why is there a decline in your academics. (I had 90.33% in 10, 69% in 12 and 63% in college)

I started giving my pre prepared answer when he cut me and asked why are you doing MBA after a 3-year gap?

Me - Gave my pre prepared answer.

M - Suppose that I'm a HR recruiter. Pitch for your company's services.

Me - I told him 3 reasons how social media marketing can be of help to his business.

M - Do you have any preference for a particular stream?

Me - Sir I would like to choose marketing because I have some prior experience in it.

M - What is your SNAP percentile?

Me - Told him.

M - What is your CAT percentile?

Me - Told him.

M - You must be having other good calls, why come so far and study here when you can get a better college near your city?

Me - I told him that right now I'm just focused on giving my best and this college is among my best calls.

He then asked about my family background and asked the other panelist whether she wanted to ask something. She said no it's fine and then he told me to leave.

Verdict - Awaited.

11) Interview and WAT Experience - 11

****Profile: ****

10th: 89.30,

12th: 89.00,

B.Tech : 8.28,

Work-Ex: 21 months

SNAP: 99.75

After screwing up my CAT, SIBM Interview become all the more important for me as I was hell-bent on joining an MBA College this year. I remember the time when I had received calls from a number of B-Schools and I had very limited previous year experiences to go by, so I decided that I'll share as many experiences as possible for the future aspirants.

Date: 8th February 2018

Venue: SIBM Lavale Campus

Slot: Morning (8:30AM)

We reached the beautiful campus at around 8:20 AM. We were divided into groups of 9-10 and guided to a large hall where we met our Group Coordinator (GC). He was extremely polite and helpful and remained with us till the last one of us were done with their interviews (which was me). The Director then addressed the aspirants and wished us luck. Then we were taken for our GD-WAT Round.

****GD-WAT****

We were taken to a room in which 2 faculty members were already seated. The GD was actually a kind of Interview and WAT Experience discussion. Our Interview and WAT Experience was that of a Toy Company which was suffering from losses owing to various reasons like competition from computer games, lack of working capital etc. We were asked to discuss the possible Marketing, Finance, Operations and HR related solutions to this problem. The GD went really well with each of us providing some key bottlenecks and unique solutions. We provided solutions like forging strategic partnerships, better inventory management and better positioning of the products apart from venturing into making technologically advanced toys too. We were also asked to write down our inferences and solutions individually on a sheet.

The WAT was basically an essay about Donald Trump of about 400-500 words and we had to summarise it in a small paragraph in about 100 words in 10 minutes and had to choose 5 important words from the essay. The Essay was easy to comprehend but the time was extremely less and we had to be very quick.

****Interview****

I was the last one to be interviewed in my panel and this being my first interview of the season, I was extremely nervous. Before the interview each one of us were given a negative word and we had to write 5 positive sentences regarding the same. The word given to me was 'Scandal'.

I was called into the interview room by a middle-aged person who was mostly an alumnus (P1). The second person present in the room was a little older(P2). I wished them and they asked me to have a seat.

P2: Hi Animesh, Sorry to keep you waiting.

Me: No Problem Sir (As if I had an option: p)

P1: Why an MBA?

Me: Told them about how MBA opens a lot of avenues. There are things that I think I lack which my boss (an MBA) is very comfortable at. Linked how an MBA would well align with my future aspirations.

P2: Why now? Why not later?

Me: Told him how I have gained some work ex and I feel that I can offer some good insights in a class discussion and I can learn from the amazing profs at SIBM. Told him I know I can learn these things on the job too but an MBA is a fast-paced course and I would like have a steep learning curve.

P2 seems pretty satisfied and told P1 that he's done. I was pleasantly surprised at this.

P1: How did you think the GD went? Some solutions from your end?

Me : Told him GD went extremely well according to me as everyone got a chance to speak and we reached to the conclusion amicably. Told him some solutions which I floated in the GD. Some counter questions regarding the same.

P1: What would you do if you don't get into a MBA college this time?

Me: Told him I'll continue with my job as I am not doing an MBA out of frustration due to my current job. I would keep learning and would give MBA another shot next year.

P2: What are your other calls?

Told

P1 and P2 wished me luck and that there were done.

I was kind of satisfied with the overall process and was fairly confident of converting the call. All the GCs and other staff at SIBM were extremely courteous. The process was very well managed. The campus is breathtaking and very clean.

****FINAL VERDICT: Converted (1st List) ****

12) Interview and WAT Experience 12

Date: - 9th February, 2019

PROFILE

10th/12th/UG CGPA: - 89.83 / 82.46 / 8.5

SNAP 2018: - 99.97%ile

UG: - BE Chemical engineering

Fresher.

GE

We were 7 in group. All right so GEs are meant to show the group coordination and understanding among the group members. So before the gepiwat process, having a casual chat with all the group members is really recommendable as 1) It let's you know about the group members and their background and (2) Removes the nervousness.

So the GE consisted of 2 processes. One of them was about solving puzzles individually for 5 minutes following which we were allowed to solve as a team for next 10 minutes. We were judged on the basis

of the teamwork and whether or not we accomplished the task as a team. We were able to solve 1 puzzle as a team. overall it was good.(personally i think that only 1/2 puzzles were solvable and we had to accomplish that)

Second was a Interview and WAT Experience discussion based on the increasing attrition rate and decreasing productivity of a company and we being the HR department of that company, had to arrive at a solution. (Average performance in this one as we weren't able to come at a conclusion)

WAT (Individual task)

We were shown a mute video and had to interpret the video in 100 words. (I think I nailed this one)

PI

1 Male 1 Female

Both in 30s (probably alumns)

Male: - M

Female: - F

Me: - V

this time instead of giving negative words to make positive sentences, we were given ethical dilemma. 2 options were given out of which we were supposed to choose one in 1 min and justify in 2 mins in front of panelists.

Extempore: - Defending a guilty person OR prosecuting an innocent person.

we were supposed to enter the pi room and start speaking about the topic.

After greeting both the panelists.

V: - sir/ma'am I would defend a guilty person. I am assuming the situation of Interview and WAT Experience in court and I'm a lawyer. So the reason for me choosing defence of guilty is that firstly it would prove to be challenging for me as I would be tested for my defensive skills. Winning the Interview and WAT Experience by mending the actual facts and interpreting them in my favour would be a great test and an achievement for me as a lawyer. At the same time if I'm loosing the Interview and WAT Experience, I still would be satisfied as the guilty person will be punished for his crime and the innocent will be safe. So either way if I win or loose, it's a win-win situation for me. So I would go with defending a guilty person... (And I thought that I was wasting time behind watching Suits while preparing for GDPI).

Further added some more points but not recalling now at the moment.

M: - okay Vasu, so why SIBM?

V: - Talked about my extra curriculars ranging from sports to singing in my childhood and carrying them in college as well. Then told that even SIBM has the same culture as it is a student driven institute and which is necessary for an mba aspirant to have such an inducive culture for holistic development. Other thing is the specialization system which SIBM has which I think will give an indepth knowledge to the students and at the same time teaching general subjects of other domains necessary for general awareness for a manager.

F: - What makes you different from others? There are people with work experience. why should we select you?

V: - Sir I think my curiosity makes me different. As I told you, right from my childhood It was my curiosity due to which I was able develop different perspectives and manage many activities at the same time. M cutting in between.

M: - we want a quality.

V: - My decision-making ability sir.

M: - how?

V: - Gave example of me heading my college's annual technical festival in which we (small team of 25-30 people) managed a crowd of 15000 people with a really smooth execution of the entire 3 day fest. And further elaborated more on the situations which needed impulsive decision making.

F: - don't you think experienced people must do an mba rather than freshers?

V: - I agree with experienced people doing an mba but ma'am rather than doing an mba after having an experience, I would like to gain the knowledge of theoretical concepts and then would like to apply them into the business world. Also being a fresher, I find myself more into the learning period and would not like to disrupt my pursuit of knowledge.

F: - Okay so you were the part of the ROBOCON management team. What did you do?

V: - told about low financial support from college for robot making and then told them about the sponsorships which we brought.

F: - So assume that I am a high end motor cycle manufacturer. how will you approach me?

V: - ma'am first of all we will decide whether it would be profitable for any of us to approach you or not because my college being a government college consists of 70% students from rural areas. F Cutting in between.

F: - ohh so you won't approach me?

V: - No ma'am I'm saying that we will approach you for my college's technical festival as we see a footfall of 15000 people. So for you rather than giving me a sponsorship for 1100 people, it would be better for you to give sponsorship for the fest.

F: - So you were captain of your college's badminton team. What would you do if your team mates are not agreeing to your plan?

V: - told them about my badminton experience of 12 years and told that being in such situations before, I would hear their arguments and then relate them to the previous experiences of mine. (did some further cross questioning but I gave the same answer)

M: - So you have calls from siib , scmhrd and sibm pune. which one would you choose?

V: - Sir sibm

M: - how can I believe you? you might be saying just for the sake of interview. (I mean who asks that? it's obvious that it has to be SIBM P, isn't it?)

V: - No sir firstly my interest lies in marketing and sibm pune is the best among the 3 of them. Moreover, sibm pune is the only college with a complete campus and infrastructure facilities which would account to a lot of on campus experiences necessary for overall development.

F: - So you got a scholarship that you have mentioned. What was it for?

V: - ma'am in our state board, top 5 students of the school were provided with a scholarship of Rs. 80000 per year for pursuing BSc. And I stood 1st in my school's english medium so I was offered this scholarship. But I chose engineering anyways.

M: - Okay that's it. Thank you.

The entire process took around 4 hours and was really executed well.

Verdict: - FIRST LIST CONVERT

So what I think is the panelists check you on your clarity of thought. The better the clarity, more the chances of converting.

Good luck

13) Interview and WAT Experience - 13

Institution: SIBM-P

Date and time: Months, 16:00 hours

Background: B-Tech, NA&SB, Cochin University of Sc. & Technology

SNAP Percentile: 99.8

Work Ex: 33 Months

GD: Interview and WAT Experience Discussion and Analysis on set-up and presentation of the sales/ earnings boost scenario for a Tea shop brand, akin to Cafe Coffee Day, based on Interview and WAT Experience study given (We were a team of six, who presented the same in 20 mins and had to conclude).

WAT: Summarisation with 5 keywords and an appropriate heading to be provided, based on the passage provided- on Robert Mugabe.

Panelists: Male Professor, jovial (P1) and a Lady Professor, stern but smiling (P2)

I entered the room, smiling and greeted them a good afternoon. They greeted me back. Prior to entry, I was given a paper-slip containing a negative word, and I had to speak something positive out of it.

P1: Hi Gautham, how are you? How did your previous rounds, go? A: Hi Sir, I'm fine. I think they went well. GE was good, and WAT finished in a jiffy.

P1: Oh, that's good to hear, you can keep the file on the table and yeah please handover the piece of paper. (Did that)

P2: Ok, Repulse, hmm, tougher than the previous one, huh. That's okay, you are going to say positive about it, anyway. So, let us hear from you.

A: I told them, repulse being distaste, answered 5 sentences about self-repulsion, and how it can lead to rejuvenation and recovery of thoughts, in a person like me. They nodded and said that I'm an optimistic person. They also pressed me and said, is there any more I would like to add, and I said that I was saturated & believed, I had conveyed what I thought of it.

P1: Gautham, you like Harry Potter. I'm sure you'd have read all 7 books, do you know who wrote it?

A: Yes Sir, I have read all eight of them, including the Cursed Child, which was published recently. Her name is J K Rowling.

P1: And what does J K Stand for?

A: Joanne- Kathelin, (He said excellent).

P1: You have 96% in your Class-X, tell me how does one get 96% even, if he works hard or is intelligent. That's high and I see, you are not from the grading system, you wrote before that.

A: Huh, sir. I just tried my best, and I believe it's also about who writes the exam and who corrects it later. (He laughed! Ok, that's modest and tactful).

P2: Why do you want to do MBA in India, with the kind of profile, you can try in UK or US, may be now or after a year?

A: That was a possibility, sir. This has got something to do with what struck me initially. (I explained about the experience that I had when I was pursuing graduation, where-in I worked in the Technical Consulting wing of the Dept. of Ship technology, and how the various activities like Client Liaison, and infancy of the Naval sector attracted me, how I was offered a good position in Middle East by ALE, through Campus recruitment, my work there and how the experience combined with India's potential, will help me thrive, through an MBA in India, while abroad, I may not get the same learning experience of Indian industry).

P2: Hmm, but then why not MTech?

A: In MTech, the research component is high Ma'am. I will get restricted, while I've been able to do the same job, with a B Tech, where-in I have done industry research interaction, I believe it is time for me to explore more in the management structure, where I have to learn the working of a corporation, hence I favor MBA over MTech.

P1. You scored 8.8 in Graduation, that's high as well. Was it interesting?

A: I explained him that I stood second and secured the best project award, and he urged me to explain a brief one-liner on the theses, which I did, and he liked the sound of it. I told him, about the passion that I had in Ship Design and that led me to the performance.

P1: What would happen should ALE recruit you again? If you were member of the place-com can we expect seats from ALE for the summers?

A: I said that should ALE offer me an appropriate position of interest, post-MBA, I would have no qualms joining there, I also said that I'd actively interact to fetch seats from ALE for summer placements.

P1: Hmm, good Gautham! When did you last go to a Gynecologist?

A: (I was taken aback, and was unsure of what I heard)? I don't know, sir. I don't think so, maybe a long time ago.

P1: Ha-ha, really? You know who a gynecologist, is right?

A: yes sir, a doctor who tends to/ treats pregnant women.

P1: (laughs), exactly, but you said you have been to him? Really? You weren't even born!

A: Actually, yes sir, when I was three years old, when my younger brother was born.

(they both laughed at the cheekiness!)

P1: Ok, jokes apart, who is an oncologist?

A: Someone who studies/ treats tumors.

P1: And a Palanthologist?

A: Someone, who studies fossils.

P1: If I were a cartographer, what would I be doing?

A: I would be sketching maps. (He was impressed)

P1: Do you know who Roger Federer beat recently?

A: yes sir, he beat Martin Cilic of Croatia.

P1: What event was it? What is the capital of Croatia?

A: the Australian Open. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb.

P1: What is the Golden Grand Slam?

A: Sir, it means winning all the four major grand slams: Australian, French, US, Wimbledon and the Olympics Gold all in the same calendar year.

P1: Has anyone achieved that?

A: yes sir, Steffi Graf of the US.

With that the interview was done. He said, he liked my confidence and cheekiness and that I had answered all GK questions right.

Verdict: Converted

14) Interview and WAT Experience 14

Date: 3rd Feb, 2018

Slot: Afternoon Slot, 1:30PM

SNAP 2017: 98.94 percentile

I was shortlisted for GE-PI-WAT process by SIBM Pune. The entire process took around 4–5 hours and was one of the most smoothly conducted processes I attended in the interview season. The volunteers were really helpful throughout the process and this helped to ease the nerves of the candidates. SIBM Pune provides bus facility from Senapati Bapat road to SIBM Pune. However, I took a cab and reached the campus around 12:30PM. We were given id cards at the desks set up and made to sit in groups of 6–7 people, with each group having a Group Coordinator (GC). These would be the groups for the entire process. So, you can interact with your group members before the actual process starts and get comfortable with each other. We were then briefed by the admissions committee head and the director about the process and given the college kit. We were then taken to a separate hall and made to sit with our groups with the GC interacting with the full group. After this, we were called group wise for our GE-WAT process:

GE:

There was a Interview and WAT Experience given about a medical company which has issues in the field of marketing, finance, operations and HR. We were supposed to discuss the possible solutions to these problems and were also provided with sketch pens, chart papers to document our solution. The time given was 5+ 10 mins (5 mins to read and think, 10 mins to discuss). We had a group of 6 people and the discussion went extremely well with all the aspects being covered and everybody was accommodative of each other's views.

WAT:

Immediately after the Group exercise, we were given sheets for our written ability test. We had to summarise the article which was given to us in around 7–8 lines and write 5 keywords from the article. The time given for this whole exercise was 10 mins. As soon as the time was over, the sheets were taken by the panelists and we returned back to the hall with our GC's.

PI:

From the six candidates, the first candidate went for the interview and the last candidate went for the verification of documents. I was candidate number 4 in my group and had my interview first and verification later. Now, one of the unique things about the SIBM Pune process is that they also test your extempore. Just before I entered the interview room, I was given a negative word and told to tell 5 positive things about the word. I had 30 seconds to think before I entered the room and started with the extempore. The word given to me was 'insult'. The interview was one of the most chilled out interviews of the whole interview season for me. The panel comprised of an elderly female and a middle aged male. The old lady had an endearing smile which made me feel at home and helped me to ease my nerves sitting on the chair. The panel was very chilled out and wanted to know you as a person. I started with the 5 positive aspects of the word given to me and was asked to stop in the middle. The interview questions that followed were:

1. Tell me something about yourself
2. Why did you leave your job?
3. What did you learn at your job?
4. Why MBA?
5. Which specialization do you intend to take up?
6. What is the biggest challenge that you have faced in your life?
7. What is your family background?
8. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
9. I-2 current affair questions on the budget and NPA.

After the interview, I had my document verification which happened very smoothly and in an orderly manner.

You have an option of taking a campus tour too once you are done with the process.

All in all, it was a great experience at SIBM Pune for me.

Result: Converted First List.

15) Interview and WAT Experience 15

Everyone is talking about SIBM-Pune and there is enough and more information available about the same. Since no one has touched upon it, I think I will answer on behalf on someone at SIBM-Bengaluru. "I had my GD-PI-WAT process on 7th February 2017.

The next morning after getting ready I reached the college around 30 mins before time, thanks to my nervousness. We were divided in groups of 7 or 8. The GD Topic was demonstrated via video. The topic was related to science and spirituality.

After the GD, we had a personal interview. My personal interview was quite easy. A lot of personal discussions ensued, including a discussion about how my dad is a government sector employee and how I chose not to follow his path. The interview was driven towards more general topics later, such as the BMC elections in Mumbai. Then I was questioned on whether I will shift to Bengaluru from Mumbai. I was done with my interview around 4 pm and I was pretty confident that I would make the cut.

Other than the process itself, I was overwhelmed with the hospitality that the Admissions Committee of the institute displayed. They gave a full-fledged tour of the campus which made all of us want to get in even more...

Verdict: Rejected

16) Interview and WAT Experience 16

Date - 17/2/2019

Time Slot - 1 pm

Place - SIBM, Lavale Campus

GD-PI-WAT process of SIBM is one of the smoothest process I have ever experienced. I reached at location 1 hour before the reporting time. We were divided into groups and we had to sit accordingly. Initially we had bio-metric verification and registration followed by Director's address.

GE & WAT - After director's address we were sent into respective groups for GE and WAT. For WAT, they showed us mute video of a boy using VR box to explore forest for 1 min. We had to write on this topic in 100 words.

GE 1 - Solve puzzle beads individually for 5 min then try in group for another 7 min.

GE 2 - Interview and WAT Experience study discussion based on business problem

PI - It went for around 15 min

At the start of PI I had to choose one topic among two for extempore and present it at for 1 min.

Panel had 1 alumni of SIBM and 1 faculty. Most of the questions were related to work experience and around why mba? They were trying to grill at every question. It went some of stress interview type.

Verdict: Selected

17) Interview and WAT Experience 17

I was called up for the interview by one of the volunteers and he escorted me to the interview room where another volunteer was standing outside the room. Before entering the room a chit was handed over to me and it was a question, whose answer I had to deliver to the panel. The question reads " Would you change the past or see the future? "

Then I entered the room and wished both the panelists with a smile and I was greeted back. There were 2 people in the panel, Both P1(Panelist 1) and P2(Panelist 2) were from the finance background and were alumni of SIBM Pune, as told by one of the volunteers.

I handed over the chit to the P1

P1 - So what is your answer?

Me - Sir if I will choose to see the future.

P1 - Why?

Me - Sir, we either win or learn and I have learnt so many things from my past. So if I change them, I might not be the same person that I am today and my past has a significant contribution to my present. so I would like to see the future

P1 - Okay (With a smile)

Now I am a bit relaxed!!

P2- So Tell me something about yourself?

Me- I prepared a good intro, which I delivered.

P1- So tell me what is the use of Choke in the tube light? (As I am an Electrical Engineer)

Me - I explained how the ionization occurs with high voltage and how that high voltage is generated by the choke. (P1 seemed satisfied)

P2- So you have a huge following on Quora! Tell me who has the most followers?

Me - (Damn!! How could I miss that) Sir it's an Indian but I am not able to recall the name

P1 - So what is this Power4you.co.in?

Me- I gave an intro to the project

P1- So Mr CEO Right!! (With a smile, he said as he had a laptop in front of him, so he searched and saw my profile over there and said those words)

P2 - So you want to work with Tesla! Who is the CEO of Tesla?

Me - Elon Musk

P1- Where did he do his MBA?

Me -Sir, I just remember that he did a PhD in Physics from Stanford and maybe he did his MBA from Queens!

P1 - Are you sure he did an MBA?

Me - I am not sure!! (Shit!! How could I forget that)

P2- How much is Tesla worth?

Me - Sir, It has a market capitalisation of around 48 Billion dollars.

P2- What is Market capitalisation? Is it the total value of the cars sold and all, right?

Me - Yes sir, total cars sold (I just agreed to a wrong answer as Market Cap is the total value of the share)

P2 - Okay

They both looked at each other and the P1 said to leave!!

Verdict: Selected

18) Interview and WAT Experience 18

SNAP 2017 Percentile: 98.2134

Slot: February 10th, 2018, Morning

Profile: Engineer (weak acads), work-ex of 19 months in a travel startup (Sales and Marketing domain)

For GDPI preparation, visit courses.catking.in | 8999118999 | www.catking.in

The campus of SIBM Pune will be the first and the foremost thing you will notice when you come for the GEPI-WAT process. With the amazing weather and a hilltop location, this would be the first thing that would pull you towards the college.

When I reached the campus, registration was the first thing to be checked off the list. During registration, you are assigned a group number and all the material required for the day (the ID, a notepad and pen, refreshments etc.). The groups are usually of 7–8 in size, and you are assigned a group coordinator, to help you with the proceedings of the day, and calm your nerves, just in Interview and WAT Experience. The group coordinators are students of the college itself and would ensure that you are comfortable during the whole process. You would be shown videos and a director's address takes place, helping you know more about the college.

The first process in the day was the Group Exercise. We were given a Interview and WAT Experience to discuss and based on our discussion, we had to come up with a solution, dividing our suggestions into Marketing, Human Resource, Finance, and Operations. We were provided with a chart paper and had to jot down the points. The total time allocated was 20 minutes (in which we had to document the suggestions in the last 5 minutes). In the WAT, I was given an article from the Washington Post on a Mass Shooting in the USA, and had to summarise it within 100 words, while providing 5 hashtags. The time allocated to this was 10 minutes.

Next up was the personal interaction. Before the interview, we were given a negative word, and we had to come up with 5 positive statements on the same. There was 1 minute allocated to thinking and coming up with the points, and the activity preceded the personal interaction. In my PI, I was asked a mix of questions from my hobbies (What is the most recent book you have read? Who was the author? Do you believe in the author's views? What is your favorite character in the book? Why that one? What learning have you implemented in your life from the character?), the subject matter (Marketing - Tell us what is Rural and Urban Marketing? Which is more difficult, and why? Cross Questioning on my answer on this) and work experience (What did you do at your company? What were your learnings?). The interview lasted for about 20 minutes. After this, there was a document verification process that took place.

Between these processes, we were to report back to a hall where every aspirant sat. The waiting time between all the processes was very minimal, and hence you would not develop any stress over the previous process, while the college also ends up finishing the process quickly. All in all, SIBM Pune had one of the smoothest admissions processes, right from the start till the end. The process usually takes about 4–4.5 hours in total (I reached at 8 AM, and left the college at about 12–12:30 PM).

Verdict: Converted (after waitlist)

19) Interview and WAT Experience 19

Profile:

10th: 89.71%

12th: 85.20%

B.Tech: 9.55 CGPA

Work ex: 30 months (Defence PSU shipyard)

SNAP 2018: 98.71 percentile

Venue: SIBM Pune

Each group had eight candidates. We got along well because four of us were in the same group on the previous day at SCMHRD.

There were four processes: 2 Group Exercises, WAT, Personal Interview

GE-WAT were conducted back-to-back. Panelists remained the same.

Group Exercise 1: A puzzle was given to each candidate. We were to try solving it individually in the first 5 minutes. Post that the group could decide if we wanted to continue individually or as a group. We had 10 minutes to solve it as a group, post the initial 5 minutes. The target was to solve the maximum number of puzzles. There was a grid of holes and patterned beads were to be set on them to complete the grid.

Only 1 candidate solved his puzzle. After the first bell, 4 of us decided to try as a group. The remaining 4 chose to solve their puzzles individually. We could solve only 1 puzzle overall.

WAT: A 1-minute mute video was streamed. We had to write about it in 100 words and give a title. I wrote about the situation, theme, the thought process of the character in the video, and what the video left me thinking.

Group Exercise (Interview and WAT Experience study): A 1-page business Interview and WAT Experience was given. First five minutes for reading and collecting ideas. 8 minutes to discuss. Last 2 minutes to conclude.

It was a Interview and WAT Experience based on an Italian restaurant set up by an Indian (Ritu). Customer analysis was given. Reviewers' ratings on multiple platforms were mentioned. The business was going well until the government served the owner a relocation notice as the previous landowner had acquired the land illegally. The logistics of relocation was not a problem for Ritu. The main issue was the inadequacy of the compensation provided by the government compared to the price paid by Ritu for the land. So she had to invest her savings in the new location. Also, she had to maintain the restaurant's brand equity and brand image. We had to come up with a business strategy.

The group did well as a whole. A fellow candidate began with solutions. I spoke about the need to list stakeholders first. Everyone made valid entries and we discussed legal, financial and business (branding, advertising, supply chain, employee management) aspects of decision making required to devise a strategy. The group concluded well. Everyone listed a couple of points and one of us took note of them for consolidation.

Personal Interview: Before entering the PI room I was given a chit with two topics written on it. I had 1 min to choose and had to speak on it after entering.

Panelists: P1-Male, Industry veteran, Mid 40s. P2- Male, Sales head of a major FMCG company, Early 50s.

I enter the room, greet the panel and settle down.

My topic was: Given a chance, which one would you choose: Spotlight or Backstage?

I choose backstage, justify my choice, having been an enabler in the various teams and initiatives I have been a part of. I cite examples from 2 experiences. The panellists nod, their faces devoid of expression.

P1: You have done a B.Tech in... what, marine engineering?

Me: No sir, I studied naval architecture and ocean engineering.

P2: How is it different from marine engineering?

Me: (Explains)

P1: What led you to choose naval architecture?

Me: I was fascinated by Titanic as a child. I have watched the movie over 200 times by now. Over the years I also read books and reports related to the accident and wished to learn how ships are designed and built. Pursuing naval architecture allowed me to do exactly that. In fact, in my college years, I got in touch with Mr Parks Stephenson, who was the Principal Researcher of the Titanic wreck. My interview with him was the first time a Titanic forensic expert interacted with Indian students in this field. It would have been impossible to learn what I learnt from him had I not pursued this course. (By now, I am well aware of the trap. I try to let them set it well so I can explain my decision to pursue an MBA)

P2: How did you get a 9.55 in engineering? I mean, people get these scores in mathematics, but engineering?

Me: Sir it was my interest in the subjects that enabled me to perform well.

P1: Yes, you've even done a lot of studies on ship accidents, and published blogs on these. This is such a niche and interesting field. Then why do you want to pursue a general course like MBA?

Me: I explain that I studied design as a part of the curriculum. Working on defence production gave me the opportunity to gain experience in production and workforce management. I talk about how an MBA (preferably in Operations) would enable to leverage my experience and take up broader responsibilities. (No reaction from the panel)

P2: Explain your work.

Me: I talk about my roles and responsibilities as a production manager in the P75 Scorpene submarine project.

P1: What are your deliverables?

Me: I mention what was expected of me, and how I delivered them.

P2: Have you been awarded at work?

Me: I received the director's award for excellent performance, last month. The official circular is out, but I am yet to receive the certificate.

P1: What did you do differently from others to receive this award?

Me: I talk about a problem I faced due to a gap in actual production and reflected progress on the PLM software. I explain how I identified the communication gaps and restructured the communication pipeline from the shop floor to the office. I also mention reading the Kanban system in Spotify and deriving parts of their implementation to simplify the communication process.

(Pokerfaced. No reaction from the panel)

P2: You also managed shopfloor supervisors. They are surely more experienced than you. Didn't you face any resistance ever?

Me: Sir the culture of the company respects procedures and hierarchy. At the same time, opinions of the shop-floor personnel are always considered in the decision-making processes at the shop-floor. So I never faced any resistance as such, in fact, we have learnt from each other's expertise and experience. However, disagreements do occur at times, and I have been able to balance authority and empathy to get the best out of my team. (P2: Pokerfaced; P1 smiles)

P1: Okay, thank you.

Me: It was nice interacting with you.

Verdict: First list convert.

20) Interview and WAT Experience 20

I secured 98.94 percentile in SNAP 2017 and was shortlisted for GE-PI-WAT process by SIBM Pune. The entire process took around 4–5 hours and was one of the most smoothly conducted processes I attended in the interview season. The volunteers were really helpful throughout the process and this helped to ease the nerves of the candidates.

My experience:

Date: 3rd Feb, 2018

Slot: Afternoon Slot, 1:30PM

SIBM Pune provides bus facility from Senapati Bapat road to SIBM Pune. However, I took a cab and reached the campus around 12:30PM. We were given id cards at the desks set up and made to sit in groups of 6–7 people, with each group having a Group Coordinator (GC). These would be the groups for the entire process. So, you can interact with your group members before the actual process starts and get comfortable with each other. We were then briefed by the admissions committee head and the director about the process and given the college kit. We were then taken to a separate hall and made to sit with our groups with the GC interacting with the full group. After this, we were called group wise for our GE-WAT process:

GE:

There was a Interview and WAT Experience given about a medical company which has issues in the field of marketing, finance, operations and HR. We were supposed to discuss the possible solutions to these problems and were also provided with sketch pens, chart papers to document our solution. The time given was 5+ 10 mins (5 mins to read and think, 10 mins to discuss). We had a group of 6 people and the discussion went extremely well with all the aspects being covered and everybody was accommodative of each other's views.

WAT:

Immediately after the Group exercise, we were given sheets for our written ability test. We had to summarise the article which was given to us in around 7–8 lines and write 5 keywords from the article. The time given for this whole exercise was 10 mins. As soon as the time was over, the sheets were taken by the panelists and we returned back to the hall with our GC's.

PI:

From the six candidates, the first candidate went for the interview and the last candidate went for the verification of documents. I was candidate number 4 in my group and had my interview first and verification later. Now, one of the unique things about the SIBM Pune process is that they also test your extempore. Just before I entered the interview room, I was given a negative word and told to tell 5 positive things about the word. I had 30 seconds to think before I entered the room and started with the extempore. The word given to me was 'insult'. The interview was one of the most chilled out interviews

of the whole interview season for me. The panel comprised of an elderly female and a middle aged male. The old lady had an endearing smile which made me feel at home and helped me to ease my nerves sitting on the chair. The panel was very chilled out and wanted to know you as a person. I started with the 5 positive aspects of the word given to me and was asked to stop in the middle. The interview questions that followed were:

Tell me something about yourself

Why did you leave your job?

What did you learn at your job?

Why MBA?

Which specialization do you intend to take up?

What is the biggest challenge that you have faced in your life?

What is your family background?

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

1-2 current affair questions on the budget and NPA.

After the interview, I had my document verification which happened very smoothly and in an orderly manner.

You have an option of taking a campus tour too once you are done with the process.

All in all, it was a great experience at SIBM Pune for me.

Result: Converted First List.

21) Interview and WAT Experience - 21

Admission sought for Batch of 2018–20...

GD: Interview and WAT Experience Discussion and Analysis on set-up and presentation of the sales/ earnings boost scenario for a Tea shop brand, akin to Cafe Coffee Day, based on Interview and WAT Experience study given (We were a team of six, who presented the same in 20 mins and had to conclude).

WAT: Summarisation with 5 keywords and an appropriate heading to be provided, based on the passage provided- on Robert Mugabe.

SNAP Percentile: 99.8

Panelists: Male Professor, jovial (P1) and a Lady Professor, stern but smiling (P2)

Institution: SIBM-P

Date and time: 2nd Feb, 16:00 hours

Background: B-Tech, NA&SB, Cochin University of Sc. & Technology

Work Ex: 33 Months

I entered the room, smiling and greeted them a good afternoon. They greeted me back. Prior to entry, I was given a paper-slip containing a negative word, and I had to speak something positive out of it.

P1. Hi Gautham, how are you? How did your previous rounds, go? A: Hi Sir, I'm fine. I think they went well. GE was good, and WAT finished in a jiffy.

P1: Oh, that's good to hear, you can keep the file on the table and yeah please handover the piece of paper. (Did that)

P2: Ok, Repulse, hmm, tougher than the previous one, huh. That's okay, you are going to say positive about it, anyway. So, let us hear from you.

A: I told them, repulse being distaste, answered 5 sentences about self-repulsion, and how it can lead to rejuvenation and recovery of thoughts, in a person like me. They nodded and said that I'm an optimistic person. They also pressed me and said, is there any more I would like to add, and I said that I was saturated & believed, I had conveyed what I thought of it.

P1: Gautham, you like Harry Potter. I'm sure you'd have read all 7 books, do you know who wrote it?

A: Yes Sir, I have read all eight of them, including the Cursed Child, which was published recently. Her name is J K Rowling.

P1: And what does J K Stand for?

A: Joanne- Kathelin, (He said excellent).

P1: You have 96% in your Class-X, tell me how does one get 96% even, if he works hard or is intelligent. That's high and I see, you are not from the grading system, you wrote before that.

A: Huh, sir. I just tried my best, and I believe it's also about who writes the exam and who corrects it later. (He laughed! Ok, that's modest and tactful).

P2: Why do you want to do MBA in India, with the kind of profile, you can try in UK or US, may be now or after a year?

A: That was a possibility, sir. This has got something to do with what struck me initially. (I explained about the experience that I had when I was pursuing graduation, where-in I worked in the Technical Consulting wing of the Dept. of Ship technology, and how the various activities like Client Liaison, and infancy of the Naval sector attracted me, how I was offered a good position in Middle East by ALE, through Campus recruitment, my work there and how the experience combined with India's potential, will help me thrive, through an MBA in India, while abroad, I may not get the same learning experience of Indian industry).

P2: Hmm, but then why not MTech?

A: In MTech, the research component is high Ma'am. I will get restricted, while I've been able to do the same job, with a B Tech, where-in I have done industry research interaction, I believe it is time for me to explore more in the management structure, where I have to learn the working of a corporation, hence I favor MBA over MTech.

P1. You scored 8.8 in Graduation, that's high as well. Was it interesting?

A: I explained him that I stood second and secured the best project award, and he urged me to explain a brief one-liner on the theses, which I did, and he liked the sound of it. I told him, about the passion that I had in Ship Design and that led me to the performance.

P1: What would happen should ALE recruit you again? If you were member of the place-com can we expect seats from ALE for the summers?

A: I said that should ALE offer me an appropriate position of interest, post-MBA, I would have no qualms joining there, I also said that I'd actively interact to fetch seats from ALE for summer placements.

P1: Hmm, good Gautham! When did you last go to a Gynecologist?

A: (I was taken aback, and was unsure of what I heard)? I don't know, sir. I don't think so, maybe a long time ago.

P1: Ha-ha, really? You know who a gynecologist, is right?

A: yes sir, a doctor who tends to/ treats pregnant women.

P1: (laughs), exactly, but you said you have been to him? Really? You weren't even born!

A: Actually, yes sir, when I was three years old, when my younger brother was born.

(they both laughed at the cheekiness!)

P1: Ok, jokes apart, who is an oncologist?

A: Someone who studies/ treats tumors.

P1: And a Pala theologian?

A: Someone, who studies fossils.

P1: If I were a cartographer, what would I be doing?

A: I would be sketching maps. (He was impressed)

P1: Do you know who Roger Federer beat recently?

A: yes sir, he beat Martin Cilic of Croatia.

P1: What event was it? What is the capital of Croatia?

A: the Australian Open. The capital of Croatia is Zagreb.

P1: What is the Golden Grand Slam?

A: Sir, it means winning all the four major grand slams: Australian, French, US, Wimbledon and the Olympics Gold all in the same calendar year.

P1: Has anyone achieved that?

A: yes sir, Steffi Graf of the US.

With that the interview was done. He said, he liked my confidence and cheekiness and that I had answered all GK questions right.

Verdict: Converted

22) Interview and WAT Experience 22

Profile:

10th - 8.6 CGPA

12th - 67%

Graduation (BBA) (2018 grad) - 72.7%

Zero work experience.

SIBM Pune Interview Experience (Feb 15th, 2019, afternoon slot)

Reached the venue at 1. After verification, we were allotted our group numbers and seated accordingly.

The director addressed us and then we were taken to another waiting area. Each group consisted of 7-8 candidates. We were then taken for the GEWAT process.

Group Exercise 1:

Basically, a game of Tetris. We were first given 5 minutes to solve our own puzzle and then the next 5-7 minutes it was up to us to either stick to our individual puzzle or try to solve together as a team. No one was able to solve the puzzle in the allotted time.

Written ability test:

We were shown a 40 second video (with no audio) and had to summarise the content in the video in 10 minutes in 100 words giving an apt title.

The video showed a man walking in a street with a brief Interview and WAT Experience for the first 36-37 seconds and in the last 2-3 seconds, he suddenly changes into fishnet stockings, puts on a wig and walks away.

Group Exercise 2:

This was a Interview and WAT Experience discussion.

The Interview and WAT Experience was about a political party which had won the previous 5 elections held. But, the recent election results showed that they had won by a very slim margin. The party head decided to start a startup focusing on the younger generation/millennials. Unfortunately for him, even this didn't work. He had an employee force of about 20 people and was willing to add up to 30 more employees.

The question was as to what business strategy the party head should use.

The discussion was very smooth with every chipping in and giving their 2 cents. We were able to arrive at a solution and conclude on time.

Personal Interview:

I was given an extempore topic outside the interview room and was given 1 minute to think. I had to choose between 2 options and give justification for the same. The topic given to me was "born as a freedom fighter or born in a free country"

There were 2 panelists. Both alumni. 1 middle aged male and 1 older female.

I was asked to take a seat and was immediately asked about my CD. Told them.

I was then asked to talk on my extempore topic. (Spoke about being born in a free country and how I would have more opportunities to express myself and how I wouldn't need to be afraid of experimenting and taking chances).

Was asked why mba and why not pursue a job?

(Told that my college didn't offer a lot of marketing profiles and that pursuing an mba aligned with my goals and aspirations)

Was asked what I did since graduation?

(Told that I had given cat, snap and other entrance exams last year and realised that I needed to give complete attention towards aptitude tests and hence chose not to take up a job. Also told that I had 45%ile in snap last time compared to the 98.6%ile this time. Also tried to talk about the marketing analytics course that I'm currently taking. They didn't seem too interested.)

Was asked about my hobbies.

(Told how choosing bba gave me a lot of free time and how I was able to explore different things like starting a startup, learning guitar, doing an internship and so on.)

Was asked about my family background.

(Told that I live with my parents and grandmother. told that my father is a retired agm at a psb due to which he would get transferred regularly.)

Was asked where and all I have been.

(Told chennai, adoni, jabalpur, mangalore and settled in Bangalore)

Was asked to choose between Mangalore and Bangalore.

(Chose Bangalore for it's weather and city life)

Was asked what my name means to me and if it suits me.

(Told that lord Vishnu has 10 avatars and that in the same way, I have a lot of different interests and that am not blocked by just 1 train of thought)

Was asked 3 things that I'm unaware of.

(Told that if I'm unaware, how can I answer? They pried a bit more and wanted an answer. Told that I'm not aware of technical things and that am not aware of some events that are currently happening around the world. They didn't push any further)

Was finally asked to leave.

Gave my thanks and left.

There were 2 document verification after this. 1. Eligibility verification. (They check your snap admit card and marksheets)

Academic Verification. (They just check your mark sheets)

Overall a very smooth process.

Verdict: Rejected

23) Interview and WAT Experience 23

My interview was scheduled on Jan 29th 2010 at 1 PM. In the call letter we were asked to reach the SIBM old campus at Senapati Bapat Road, Pune by 11.30 AM as there was a bus leaving for the new one at Lavale from there. The bus journey was quite comfortable, the bus had good speakers and some nice songs were playing at a high volume. It was fun. During the journey I saw a lot candidates reading the newspapers and mugging up different kinds of figures. I, on the other hand, was enjoying the beautiful countryside outside my window.

It was a 45 min drive till the new campus which was located on top of a hill. The view was just outstanding. I can't even begin to imagine what that place must be like during the months of August-October when Pune is at its best. Anyway, as soon as the bus reached, there was someone waiting for us and guided us to a auditorium. We sat there for about 15 mins after which the registration process started. During the process, they just checked the our marksheets and certificates, and gave us a name tag. Then each individual was sent to an Assembly Hall where he/she was made to sit according to his group. Each group had a coordinator (GC) assigned to it. Ours was a guy by the name Sanjeev Balachandran. He was of a lot of help as he cleared almost all our doubts and gave us invaluable insight into the whole process.

Anyway, my group had 12 people out of which one was absent, so in all we were 11. There were 3 stages, Group Discussion (GD), Group Task (GT) & Personal Interview (PI). There wasn't any particular order for them. Before all this, though, they showed us a presentation about SIBM. It was quite interesting.

Group Discussion

After that we were taken for the GD. Just before we entered, our GC told us that the guy in the panel was a retired Army Colonel and looked for confidence and strong communication skills in a candidate. And of course, he didn't like any guy cutting a girl while she was talking. With this in mind, we went

inside and sat according to our numbers. He announced that there would be negative marks for a fish market. He then proceeded to introduce the second person in the panel asked a few questions to the group (like how was our day, what did we have for food etc).

The topic for the GD was 'A bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make a turn'. Time for thinking was 5 mins and for the GD was 10 mins.

Overall, I think it went fine. Everybody except two people in the group spoke. They were then asked about what they felt about the topic and later 2 people were asked to summarise. (The panel said that there won't be any extra points for this.)

I started late in the GD, was I think the 4th speaker, but then explained the topic in detail. Gave an example of Sir Albert Einstein, who failed 300

times before inventing the bulb. And after each attempt, he would say, that, "I have not failed, I have just discovered another way that does not work."

Also gave the example of Japan as to how they were bombed by the US and today they are the second largest economy in the world. I think spoke for about 4-5 times in all.

Then our GC took us for snacks. They were quite tasty and were really needed by everyone in the group. We had a nice chat with our GC about the whole culture and life at SIBM.

Group Task

The last thing in the day was the GT. In that, we were first asked to give a psychometric test, had 30 questions to be answered in 3 mins. Then we proceeded for the task. We had to stand (all 11 of us) on 2 bricks for 15 secs consecutively. We had 3 mins to strategize and execute the whole thing. We tried hard but only 8 could stand. As soon the 9th person came, our Burj Dubai became the Leaning Tower of Pisa and we collapsed. There wasn't time left for another attempt. Then we were asked specific questions about the task and about our performance. Ours was one of the lucky groups. The whole process was done by 5.30 PM. We exchanged our mail ids and then took the bus back to Pune city.

Our group started with the PIs first. I was the second one to go.

Personal Interview

There were 3 people in the panel,

L1: Young lady to my left

P1: Old (but cool and jovial) professor right in front of me

P2: Medium-aged professor to my right

Me: (Knock at the door) May I come in?

L1, P1: Yes yes please

Me: Good Afternoon

All 3: Afternoon. Please sit down.

(I sit down on the chair)

L1: What is this surname 'Sem'? Are you Sushmita Sen's cousin?

Me: No, madam it's not Sen, its Sem, with a M. I am a Punjabi Brahmin.

P1: Where do you belong to? Whats the history of your surname?

Me: (Gave a gist of the story)

P1: Hmm, tell me why does an engineer like you who is currently working for HSBC need to do an MBA? Ok forget that, first tell me why did you join HSBC?

Me: (I answer)

Some discussion about HSBC continues. They ask me about the CEO of HSBC GLT (GLT is arm of HSBC I work for) Questions about the cross-country trip question from the annexure follow, and some discussion goes on.

L1: Now, tell me about a life-changing experience of yours that is not an achievement.

Me: Can it be an underachievement?

L1: No

(Actually, I was stumped by this question, but then told them about an incident. Later on, when I came out, a lot of better answers came to my mind. :P)

P2: (Finally spoke) What are your hobbies?

Me: Answer (also included watching Hollywood movies)

L1: Why not Bollywood movies?

Me: I explained about how the Hollywood movies had more of a storyline and logic and less of masala.

L1: (Still not convinced) Which genre do you prefer in Hollywood?

P2: (Simultaneously asked) Tell me your top 5 Hollywood movies.

Me: Answered both.

All 3 look at each other.

L1: Am done.

P1: Ok, you can leave.

Me: Thank you.

Verdict: Converted

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CATKing IIM WAT PI Schedule 2021-22

DAY	TOPIC	TIME
Monday	Marketing Mondays	10 to 11 pm
Tuesday	Current Affair Industry Insights (GD/WAT)	10 to 11 pm
Wednesday	How to Crack Interviews	10 to 11 pm
Thursday	How to Crack Case Study/SOP	10 to 11 pm
Friday	Finance Fridays	10 to 11 pm
Saturday	Personal Interview Must Do Questions	10 to 11 pm
Sunday	Concept Builders: GD/WAT	10 to 11 pm

Note: This schedule will be followed every week till March. Some variations may be there as per the B-School interview schedule Students will be informed about it in due course.

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