# Our Dream

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It started out with a little idea. An idea that, what if we could download the entire course material with just one click, what if we can download it directly on our phone, what if we do not have to login every time we want to download it, what if it is automatically grouped and organised for us and we don't have to manually arrange it ourselves...

An idea that slowly transformed into a revolutionary mobile app, VIT Slate. Something which was never done before in the history of VIT.

You might have heard of it before, might be you wouldn't have. But after reading this you'll know that the story of it's creation is full of impossible challenges and our zeal of winning over them.

When I (Kunal) first told this idea to my roommate, his reaction was: "Abe pagal-wagal ho gaye ho kya!" *("Have you become crazy!")*. He laughed.

But I was determined to make it happen. I started thinking about how to go about it, what are the things I will have to learn. I started learning Eclipse IDE platform, and JAVA coding. But since, I was from ECE background, it soon became clear to me that to handle such gigantic level of project, I will need a team. And so, through my friend's contacts, I met Aayush.

When I first pitched idea to him, he was quiet. Then after thinking for sometime he said "This sounds really cool, I can try, but I have absolutely no clue about how it can be done. I know just JAVA basics but I would like to work on this idea with you". He joined the team, I felt elated.

We started working, reading about various tools we could use to create Slate (still not named at that time). I was looking into the design part and Aayush into the coding part of the project. We met almost everyday to discuss our progress.

Gradually, paths started opening up and ways started appearing. Slate's work was slowly moving forward. But then suddenly one day, a huge problem arose. To browse the course material of a student we

would need his student login password. And VIT would never provide us access to it's database. What to do now? We were in a fix… Everything came to a halt.

We thought of storing the User's credentials in a third party server, but it would have impacted the security of the data and we didn't want to compromise with the security of the User's sensitive data. There were other questions as well. How would VIT react to this? Will they allow us to store Student's registration number and password or will they raise an objection? We were nervous. We debated on this for days. We felt maybe we should leave this. But in the last, we dared and ultimately decided to proceed. We have to take certain risks in order to do the impossible.

After a month's arduous analysis we came out with an amazing solution to this problem. Instead of storing it in a third party server and making life complicated why not store it in the device itself, with a strong encryption. It would not only keep the User's data secure with just him, but will also improve the speed of login process. It might seem as an obvious solution in retrospect, but at that time it wasn't so obvious.

We kept working patiently over the months, overcoming challenges at every step, perfecting things, adding new people to our team according to the requirement. I and Aayush were parallely working on distinct aspects of Slate. While I was preparing screen designs, app icon, market--ing things, Aayush was working on the backend of the app…

One year passed and we were nearing the end of Slate. We were in fourth year now. Placements were going on. Things were going on fine. And then suddenly one day during GraVITas, we got the shock of our life…

Through our friend, we got the information that someone else has developed a similar app, and it's design and UI is same as ours!  We had to do something, fast, else our one year's hardwork would have gone waste.

According to our estimation still two month's worth of work was remaining. We decided to complete it within a week. A goal that seemed impossible. But we were determined.

We started working our ass off. Aayush managed to get a night slip during GraVITas, as he was in the finance team. In morning we attended placements, in evening our classes and then the whole night worked on Slate. I got a mattress from my friend. In the night, Aayush came to my room, we worked the whole night and in the morning we slept for 2-3 hours and went for placements. Finally after a week of strenuous work, on 2nd October,  we achieved the impossible…

VIT Slate was launched on Google Playstore. And the response was overwhelming! People loved it! And that feeling of happiness which you get when your work benefits people and when they appreciate it, cannot be described in words… It's very fulfilling. There still were some minor bugs, but we kept removing them with time.

So, what did we gain after this? Money? We haven't put any Ads into Slate. Satisfaction? Popularity? The answer is, No... Then why did we do all this? Worked like crazy for an year for nothing...?

Swami Vivekananda has said: *" If you have come into this world, leave a mark behind. Otherwise what is the difference between you, trees, stones and rocks. They also come into existence decay and die "*. Profound.

No matter where we are, we must do something that is of value to the people around us, that becomes a useful part of their lives. Slate was our sincere attempt to do the same. A problem which we were all facing, why not make something that offers a meaningful solution. To make something that we ourselves would want to use. Let's take up the challenge, push ourselves and enjoy the journey as it happens, without worrying much about success or failure, and the rewards will come in abundance in most unexpected ways. When people are starving for jobs, I and Aayush are fortunate enough to be working in our respective dream companies, all because of Slate.

Our dream... is to make Slate one point destination on mobile for every 'Student Login'. That's why we named it as SLATE (Student Login At Telephonic Equipment).  We want Slate to reach every student and provide them a super-easy way to access frequently used Student Login facilities and facilities that will make their life easier in VIT. Our dream is to make Slate a need of every student in VIT.

We have left VIT but our dream is still alive. If you are reading this and believe in our dream and want to touch countless hearts in VIT, then working on the future of Slate and taking it forward will provide you with such an opportunity. And it is our strong conviction, that those who will work on Slate to make it bigger and better in whatsoever way will always be benefitted. Their efforts will never be forgotten.

It is a rare chance to work on something which has been done first time in history and to be able to make it better. Whatever work you'll do for Slate will never go waste and will definitely have a positive impact on your life as well as the on the lives of people around you. People who will genuinely work for Slate will surely be rewarded.

Even if one person, gets inspired, and works dedicatedly and patiently for Slate, he will win. And it will be a win for all of us. You are not alone, our support is always with you. When you'll start, no matter how slow things may seem to move in the beginning, just be persistent, you'll do it. And remember, *"The people who were crazy enough to think they can change the world, were the ones who did "*

Wishing you all green lights,

-Kunal Dhodapkar
-Aayush karwatkar