

MY PREVIOUS YEAR'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE

I still remember the first day of my college sitting with all the unknown faces and looking at what others are doing; this is where the amazing journey of the first year started. I decided to make a lot of friends. So, I managed to make 3 friends who later had a huge impact on my lifestyle. We 4 friends explored the campus curiously in all possible ways and we spent some peaceful time in the garden. Along with this, there was a lot more fun. I remember my friends cracking countless jokes or taking weird snaps and we four are the ones who will be laughing most of the time in class. It is said that "you are the product of your environment", one of my friends has a habit of reading books and she gave me three books that helped me manage my stress and to have some relaxation after the busy schedule of classes and labs.

I was in the chemistry cycle and of course had a Computer Aided Engineering Graphics lab, chemistry lab, and C programming lab. Of these three, I found the C programming lab the most interesting. And I didn't take computer Aided Engineering Graphics lab seriously and struggled later. Once when we were in the c programming lab, our madam divided into groups of 5 students each. At this point, we were unaware of what was happening. Later that day we received a mail telling us we have to do a project in the first year under the guidance of our mentor. I was in one group and my three friends were in different groups. We first met our mentor and I was happy to get two new friends. Sir told us to come up with an idea so that we can work on it later. But nothing was hitting my mind at that time. However, one of our group members came up with the idea of creating a website that would help candidates to find scholarships applicable to them by entering the required details. The very next day sir told us to prepare a google sheet and collect scholarships according to income, caste, religion, annual income, age limit, etc. Here the journey of the group project started. We collected as many scholarships as possible and I developed part of front end of our website.

After this, days seemed to pass faster than ever. And this is where Omicron came into the picture; unfortunately, we had to depart because of an online class. Understanding Computer Aided Engineering Graphics was difficult. I was taking many screenshots of the board and still was unable to understand; undoubtedly, my friends helped me. Also drawing those on grid sheets with accurate measurements always put me on the lazy side. These online classes continued for a month and rebuilding friendships was real trouble. Within no time the timetable for Mid Semester Examination appeared and we were really afraid of this. Because the only thing we did during those online classes was enjoyment. However, we managed to score well in the Mid Semester Examinations. In between these, we had many funny moments and great memories. Team Taaleem (cultural club) gave a glimpse of Incridea (The college's annual fest) with a stunning dance performance, and we were excited about this program.

We started to realize that professors were rushing to cover the portion and another Mid Semester Examination was about to come. I used to watch YouTube shorts to feel relaxed but would later regret it. To manage the stress and feel more relaxed, I started to play the harmonium. I started replacing YouTube with harmonium. It felt like a pleasant and soothing moment for me to play the harmonium in the room with no one else than my cat. It felt like I would feel productive after playing the harmonium, which is better than wasting my time on social media. Whenever my day felt boring or dull and whenever I felt like I could hardly keep my eyes open, I found harmonium as the best solution than anything else. I played the harmonium during bhajans to my granny's bhajans and later to my bhajans. Firstly, playing the

harmonium to my bhajans seemed to be harder than anything else as my singing and harmonium were not in sync, but later along with the practice, it went smoothly. Harmonium thought me to keep the peace, be calm and be harmonious. And my cat is my best friend, it too would help me get out of this stress and anxiety.

We were at the edge of the end of the first semester. Yes, the semester-end timetable had come and we were hoping it to be postponed. We had a holiday a week before the examinations and sooner the first exam was about to happen. Unexpectedly, we got an email saying that the exam has been postponed due to a delayed appointment of University Seat Numbers. From here we had a month of holidays which I mostly spent with my elder sister as she too had holidays. On these holidays I and my sister along with a neighbour girl used to go to the temple on Saturdays to have a peaceful time at the temple and sing bhajan. I was observing my sister playing the harmonium and started to sing those bhajans with the harmonium at home after coming from the temple. As always, exams came and went. My friends gave me a solution or a way whenever I was in trouble and this list continues. We danced together after semester-end exams. And here the wait was over. The date of Incridea was announced and the fest was splendid. The dance, the competitions, the bike race, and everything was unexplainable and amazing.

Soon after this, we entered our second sem. This is my physics cycle and I liked all the subjects. Along with studies, our project was also getting better. Here we had three labs; namely, Elements of skill development (ESDP), basic electrical, and physics lab. The ESDP was a new experience where we were taught more about physical work. We were thought to develop a cylinder, a frustum of a cone with metal sheets, fitting, and carpentry. This would continue for two and a half hours and especially I, used to be tired to a high level.

We had a SOTP (Scholars Orientation and Training Programme) camp at WKC Mangalore, which allowed everyone to go to the stage and speak. I found new friends and these three days were a boost of motivation, inspiration, and also guidance. This is where I learned to tackle stage fear to a certain level. The 3 days spent there were worth the time. I am grateful to the whole team VKSSF scholarship who are helping us financially as well as in soft skill development.

We had a skill lab where we will be introduced to different clubs or labs, like biofuel, robotics, waste management, aeroclub, and many more. Once when I and my friends were attending a waste management skill lab, the professor gave us a task to survey how waste is managed in our college. As we were searching for a unique place where we can find a source of cardboard waste, we found a room lit up with LED lights that looked something like an exhibition. We saw 3D-printed robots, VR, and other electronic gadgets through the glass. We got interested to see what that is and why the cabin has been decorated and lit up. We started by asking the coordinator how they would manage any waste. He told they hardly collect or generate any e-waste and the spoiled electronic gadgets will be shown to beginners to learn about electronic parts. And he also mentioned that the cabin is a CIIPDC maker's space where they teach interested students to build extra skills like 3D printing, memory magic, public speaking, Adobe Photoshop, and many more courses. The coordinator showed us a 3D-printed robot by a first-year student. Especially I got interested and wanted to join, whereas my friends didn't. So, of course, there was a time when I had to support myself alone. However, my friends helped me in so many other aspects, they cleared my doubts that would take me a lot of time to pound and that's when I understood that I had loyal, committed, and supportive friends. I proceeded

with registration and talked to seniors as well as some students in the first year too. The coordinator shared 2-3 YouTube videos to watch and comment on. Where CEO of CIIPDC explained the importance of learning extra skills to become extraordinary, and that taking the help of mentors is always better than trying to do it by ourselves. He also said the first year is the best to start. This gave me a boost of inspiration and motivation. They held an online meeting with the CEO and introduced me to the course. They asked me to sign up and start with the lessons, where he introduced briefly all the courses that they provide as well as the importance of those courses in this era of technology. Till then I was thinking that the course is for free but later they informed me that the fee is two thousand rupees per month and I didn't feel like joining it anymore. Of course, if I am interested, I can learn them online. Apart from these things, we have also registered for the finite loop club. In these scenarios, I discovered social interaction and building networks.

The Mid-semester Examination-I was already done by this time and the timetable for Mid Semester Examination II had come. I thought of getting my mind off these things and focusing on exams. After this exam, lab internals were done.

Once we had a skill lab on robotics and automation and app development where our seniors showed how to control lamps by mobile phone. Even though, I wasn't able to understand its working procedure, enjoyed it. Similarly, we had a skill lab on HAM radio communication and an introduction to most of these skill labs will be given by our seniors. After the introduction part, he allowed us to sing in the Radio-Nitte podcasting cabin and he edited that and we were happy to listen to that soothing song at the end.

Along with these things, 50% of our project was completed. We took the help of one of our seniors named Bhargavi Nayak, who is the president of the finite loop club – the coding club of our college. She corrected us wherever we have done mistakes and gave suggestions for improvements. She also mentioned some websites from where we can learn and implement. It was nice meeting her. Later, I came to know she is also one of the WKC scholars.

These projects taught us team working and leadership qualities. We acquired basic knowledge regarding HTML and CSS. The knowledge attained can be used for future projects; henceforth, it is valuable for the long term. Also learned to prepare a report and present the presentation according to the standards; which would help us in the corporate field. For this project, I had taken some online courses too. By now the syllabus was completed and we took photos with our teachers after the last class. Now the semester-end exams are done and we are in the second year.

Finally, engineering life has allowed me to learn a lot; not only about subject topics but also about life beyond books. We, friends, build the most amazing experiences and memories. These are the things that I learned in college. Whatever we do has to have a consequence that may be good or bad. I think learning is a mixture of good and bad things, we should practice the good ones and try to reduce/avoid bad things. At present, it is obvious that I have not reached my top yet and there is a lot of room for further development.

