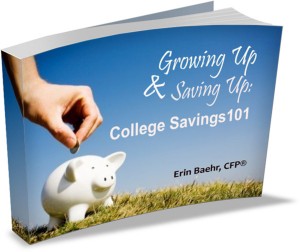
**FROM SCHOOL CHILDREN TO COLLEGE STUDENTS**

-Payal Mangla, BVCOE



***School to college! Just when I got to know I am in BVP, I started thinking more than ever before. Will it be fun? Will it be anything like my school? Independence, freedom or more responsibility? Will it be exciting or nerve pricking? And then ultimately, whatever it will be, will I be able to handle it? Will I be able to manage things according to my new life?***

So, I experienced a lot of changes. The first very essential thing which I felt was, back in school, succeeding only involved taking advantage of the tools around me but here, I had to first extract my own opportunities and resources and then I was supposed to decide myself how, and in which direction should I use them. This was not at all a problem; I just had to make myself very clear with what I wanted, rouse my thoughts and also to know myself as an individual. And yes of course, as I had pictured, college started with a lot of fun, a different kind of fun. Like before, taking a walk with my family and eating ice cream with them was fun, but now, bunking lectures with a group of almost ten friends, walking to ‘Gianis’, wasting almost an hour just to decide and then eating ice cream, that’s fun. I have grown up with a lot of security and fulfillment around me, completely under the shadow of my parents’ guidance and support. I have been pampered a lot; I have been kept away from each and every kind of problem. Things haven’t changed now, but they are a lot different, I know this is true not just for me but each and every person of my age. I am experiencing liberty. There is nothing called instructions now, there are suggestions. So, training to develop as an adult has started from each and every direction, my environment, my elders and me, all are contributing. I am now trying to administer myself, to direct things, to cope up with time and manage it. There is no need to be precise; there is no need to be perfect, because right now, I am learning.

Here in college, I meet many people who are completely different from me and from each other. I get to learn even from them, I learn to have a look at the road not taken, which was never even given a single thought. And yes, studies, assignments, labs, machines and attendance, these still remain the major part.

Now here, if I stop and look back, I realize the chaos all around. This happened because managing things now has become more difficult. When I committed a mistake before, elders were the ones who were blamed, and I could easily move on. But now, though I feel free to decide for myself, but it’s me who has to face the consequences if something gets messed up during the process of my learning. So in order to stay afloat, organization is the key. Balancing fun with seriousness, travelling with attending lectures, talking to friends with listening to what our professors teach, this is all that’s needed. Learning to fight distractions is also a part of college because they are all around us. So, this is how it works for me, analyzing myself and the acts I perform and then deciding what to do and what not to do depending on what I want.

Here’s a little example. Just when the college began, I came to know about this professional organization, IEEE, and I instantly decided to join it. I was of course not getting any money from my parents for this, so I had to do a little saving from my pocket money! Now this was not at all a burden, in fact it was fun for me, a kind of challenge which wanted to teach me money management. I learnt to control my desires; I learnt to manage things accordingly, getting something you want after the importance of even 10 rupees. In the similar way, I just try to balance my academics and my interests too; I think, we have just this little responsibility, to balance our interests with our studies, and this much cannot scare us!

(Icon)

