Hi Sai,

Thanks for sharing the article about transactional and transformational relationships. It was really insightful. But also, it made me reflect on the friendship that you, me and Alish have developed. Even though our friendships originated in 3C2 different combinations (:P), I believe the reason we clicked together is because we are birds from the same flock when it comes down to our aspirations, our approach, and our old-school values. We all share an idealist mindset with a realist’s approach – something that makes me really proud. And our interactions have always been information exchange oriented, and since we’re from diverse fields, it has always left us more enriched.

Moving on, I’d like to share 2 lines of thoughts I’m exploring these days. As you know, once the results come out, there are a lot of WhatsApp groups formed for early networking. These have given me a window to look into my would-be classmates. Based on these interactions, these are the 2 thoughts I’d like to share:

**Euphoria**: Most of the people on the group are already looking to plan trips to Malana, meet up in pubs, take “time off” from work to relax. Now, I know, everyone in the group is not the same. There are some other highly motivated people too who don’t fit into the same cast. But I’m not talking about them here.

My point is this: What’s there to celebrate and be so much euphoric about! I get being happy – it is supposedly a tough entrance to crack. But isn’t this just 1% of what our goals are? We just got into college, the real education hasn’t even begun! If anything, we should be celebrating the fact that the universe has given us a chance to undertake a highly competitive education – something that students with more talent than us missed out on just because they were born in a poor family, or because there families didn’t speak English so they couldn’t develop it either. ONE SHOULD NEVER FEEL SPECIAL . We were dealt a favourable hand.

What happened to the old school values? A goal that I have set for myself is to score at least a 9 GPA. Based on our B.Tech. experience, all of us know it’s not that big a deal if we use our time efficiently. There’s enough room to study and be involved in extra-curriculars. Also, I plan to use these 2 next months to increase my exposure to the philosophy of this world – reading books from Amartya Sen/Daniel Kahneman/N N Taleb etc. But when I shared these goals with a couple of my would-be classmates, there immediate reaction was, chill a little. “Who does that! When will you enjoy!” That was the general response I got. We have come to live in a world where working hard has become a means to a goal rather than the goal itself. Didn’t the Rishi-Munis from our pre-historic texts dedicate their entire lives to eternal search for perfection. That is how they became great enough to teach the likes of Arjuna, Yuddhisthira etc. Bottomline: We need to set higher goals for ourselves than just getting in a college. Holding ourselves to higher expectations is what drove Jobs/Musk etc. (Also, I know I’m not a perfect human being either, and I’ve wasted a lot of my time too, but I own up to it and realize I could have been better).

**MS vs MBA**: As you know, I have always been technically inclined – which is what made MS a natural choice for me. But I am a bit embarrassed with myself that I couldn’t pursue it for multiple reasons – I didn’t have the high GPA in college or any research that’d help me get in a college of my choice. And more importantly, I don’t think I’m capable of living so far away from my family. They happen to be my source of emotional stability and motivation (along with my close group of friends,), and I don’t think I want to give that up.

But this doesn’t mean that I will give up on my dream of being a techno-professional. It simply means the road just took a curve. What makes Kohli such a dominant batsman – he can slug it out on minefield of a wicket, and at the same time he can whoop the bowlers on belter tracks. In short, you need to have all the skills in your arsenal. And that’s where the professional sector is headed. As a professional in today’s world, you need to have both technical as well as managerial expertise to really innovate and stay ahead of the curve. And we are gifted enough to pursue the technical side of it on our own – only, we need to focus our mind towards it. I think India is going all in on Solar Tech (initiating the International Solar Alliance, setting ambitious goals of adding 100GW of solar power by 2022 etc.), and this is where the biggest opportunity lies. Hopefully, we will be able to make the best use of it.

I’m not as excited about joining MBA because I just realized I really loved doing my job. There still was a lot to be learnt, and it was exciting. But maybe, I need to re-adjust.

Anyway, I hope I’m making some sense. Also, I hope the 3 of us can keep this going – the aspirations we share WILL lead to a greater path someday.

Regards,

Siddharth