

YET ANOTHER CROSSROAD*'Don't let society chart your course of study'*

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Having undergone this stage both as an aspirant and as a parent myself, I have now witnessed the situation more objectively and seen children look thoroughly bewildered and completely foxed after completing their Class XII.

This is the first crossroad when students start thinking about further studies. It is at this stage that you could choose a law, engineering, medical, accounting professional degree, fine arts or commerce, science, arts etc. At this stage, the decision making is influenced by many factors. They could be your own parents, one achiever in the family or society, to name a few. At this stage, even though you appear to be driving, the steering wheel is mostly controlled by parents, partially with the road maps provided by family, society and peers.

Having undergone all this you gather a degree, look through the windshield

now either to earn or go in for further education. The purpose of higher education from an individual's perspective is to enable one to face the world independently (even economically), create a mind set to handle real problems, inquire into the option and then come to a solution. However the larger landscape displays that education makes an individual fit the family environment, a responsible member of society and citizen of a democratic country. The direction that he opts for depends on his aptitude and resources.

A higher education in management is now very important. Whatever be your graduating degree, there is the freedom to choose and that too with a cause. Whether you want to be part of the government, corpo-

rate sector, or financial institution or start your own enterprise. Further qualification in management increases your market value in labour market too.

Now comes the pertinent question. In a nation where there is a mushrooming growth of institutes providing management education, how does one decide from which institute you can gain this advantage? The following panel discussion summed it so well (<http://m.ndtv.com/video/player/heads-up/what-matters-most-course-or-college/371908>).

One aptitude test can make your choice automatically restricted. This is the time for

you to sleep with your questions in your mind, to argue incessantly with yourself as to why do you say you aspire for what you

do. Is the parent, peer or society still controlling your steering wheel or are you?

If you have prior work experience and understand the key issues of the industry, you might have realised that you are not happy just making money even though not being part of the rat race. Maybe, you would like to challenge yourself, let the adrenaline rush when you make crucial decisions that control your company, or yet again professionally contribute to the society and be the change one wants.

The choices are many and critical but don't let management education be a result of a mad rush. It gives you a window of opportunity that you want to seek. Choose an option that may be a combination of abstraction, modularisation and flexibility, for the world is constantly changing gears and you will be in actual action a couple of years later.

