

CIB (India) Mumbai Chapter

Third Meeting Report

April 26, 2014

Venue: IofC flat at Kumaram, Worli Seaface

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

- Edward Everett Hale

Now take 15 people with the attitude of Hale. It is bound to have an effect. They know that they are just few. They are conscious they cannot do everything. But just because they cannot do everything they refuse to sit back and grumble. These are men and women with a desire to make a difference. This is what one witnessed on April 26, 2014 when the CIB Mumbai Chapter met for the third time in as many months.

Right at the onset, the agenda was clear. The focus was two pronged. The first was to discuss how the youth of today could be educated on the importance of values and ethics in life, be it business or any other activity they take on. The second was to plot a path that the CIB Mumbai Chapter would like to see its efforts take three years hence. With this outline before them, the discussions set with earnest.

As Ms. Anita Sinhai Guha a representative of IBM India Pvt. Ltd. was attending the meeting for the first time, Anil Chopra, Convener of the CIB City Chapter went through the round of introductions.



Following this, Anil then shared with the group the sum and substance that Ms. Asha Varma, Principal, Children's Academy, Ms. Rekha Shahani-Jagasia, Principal, Kamla High School and he had been discussing in an earlier preparatory meeting. He captured the essence of a draft content that Ms. Varma had prepared on bringing the importance of ethics to school children and teachers. In order to achieve this, they proposed sessions that inculcated values through games and activities. Furthermore as it was evident that a teacher wields an amazing influence in shaping or moulding the minds of the students, the role of teachers in today's society was also deliberated on.

It was suggested that the pilot plan should have content to cover a period of six months in an institution. It was also felt that since children come from different strata of society, modules that catered to each group must be prepared – for children from affluent homes and those from not. At the meeting, it was also discussed how one could go about to reach out not only to the students and teachers but parents too. Anil then sought support from the members to contribute their time and participate in the sessions when they happened. Since schools were on vacation, it was decided that such programs would be initiated from June onwards.

Though Vivek Asrani, MD, Kaymo Fastner Co. showed some initial apprehension about having sessions with school students, these were allayed when Iggy Pinto, Director, CitizenCredit Co-op. Bank Ltd. gave examples of how teaching values in a rural town of Karjat helped the local students there. Vivek then recalled the wonderful workshop they had at Asia Plateau, the IofC Centre in Panchgani for the boys of an elite Mumbai school.

Taking the idea of spreading the importance of values not only to school children but also to the leaders of tomorrow, Vijay Paranjape, former Group Director and Exec. VP and CEO of Industry Sector, Siemens Ltd. and Rajendra Gandhi, Vice Chairman, GRP Ltd., shared on how the science of leadership must reach management students. While it was recognized that after the 2nd World War, the science of leadership was left out and that there is so much focus now on commercial principles, discussions were held on how career-focused youth of today could be brought to include ethics in their mindset and how this could be taught in a structured manner.



People take ownership in what they believe in hence it was important to bring this important aspect in education properly communicated and packaged. With this in the backdrop, Mr. R. N. Mukhija, Advisor to Chairman, L&T, shared about an NGO, Angel Express in Bandra and Juhu, two uptown localities in suburban Mumbai. This organization was giving tuitions to municipal school children before and after regular school hours. So when the NGO applied for an 80G Income Tax Exemption Certificate, they got it. After two weeks an Income Tax Officer contacted the NGO. He told them how he liked the concept and wanted to share it with others.

To take this further, discussions were then held on how CIB could plan sessions with Management institutions to prompt and provide inputs so as to strengthen the foundation that most youth would have learnt from the lap of their parents. While Prof. Virendra Shukla, Professor from S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research, admitted that there were such sessions already being conducted in most institutions it has not been effective because it is not looked at as important. It was felt that if sessions were conducted where senior leaders from business and industry could share to these ambitious minds the importance of ethics and values, students could sit up and take notice.

It was then shared how CIB and IBM India Pvt. Ltd. have agreed with Symbiosis Centre for Information and Technology (SCIT) to conduct a day's program with the management students in Pune on July 26, 2014. Prof. Shukla has also promised to explore with Management Institutes in Mumbai how sessions could be held where senior business leaders be invited to speak. CIB could prepare some sort of a CV or presentation to introduce itself to these institutions.

The next portion of the meeting was then devoted to how the CIB Mumbai Chapter



could chart a course for itself. For this Prof. Shukla shared the process of how he would like this to take place. He circulated the paper of process for the vision and explained how the data would enable one to know what one needed to focus on in the next 3 to 4 years. Such a route, he said, would enable one to get a conclusive vision to operate with. He enumerated three steps to this process.

To begin with, in the month of June salient topics could be listed out on which the CIB Chapter should focus. Thoughts of all Mumbai chapter members could then be invited and pooled in. For this, Anil said that he would initiate this through the established communication loop by inviting all to give in their points. In this manner, even those who have not been able to make it regularly to the meetings could be included. The second part of the process was to then create three or four categories (or buckets) and categorise the thoughts collected into these. The third part would then be to take the thoughts that do not correspond to any of the created categories and modify them so as to fit in.

Before the meeting concluded, it was suggested that some members from the Mumbai Chapter should attend the Trust and Integrity in a Globalized Economy

(TIGE) July 2014 Conference in Caux, Switzerland. Members also promised to intimate by email the dates they could be available for the various institutional activities that would be planned, the first of which would be an orientation program for the staff of Kamla High School in June.

As most were travelling in the month of May, it was decided that the meeting on the last Saturday of the month would not take place but that the next meeting be scheduled for June 28, 2014. If you happen to be in the city around this time and would like to be a part of the group's deliberations please feel free to contact Anil Chopra on +91-9920803282 or cib.mumbai.india@gmail.com so that he can prepare for you.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Asha Anand who by now had clearly made it a habit to so graciously host meetings.

Next Mumbai Chapter Meeting

Date: June 28, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Venue: Kumaram, Worli Seaface

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