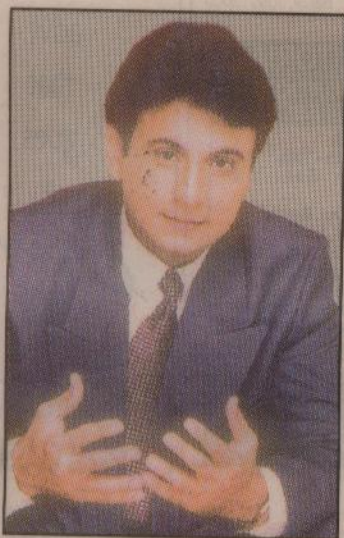


Education QUOTIENT

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MOTIVATING TOWARDS SUCCESS

At the young age of 20, he found his purpose in life. He believed in himself. . . .



Minocher Patel, Director of Ecole Solitaire, says, "Believing in oneself is all that takes to make it big." But, keeping that aside, Patel agrees that his foreign certification to be a trainer or rather a motivational speaker changed his life completely and has helped him bask in the success he's enjoying now.

"In 1988, I was one of the founder members of AIESEC and had to train the younger guys. While others cribbed about their role as a trainer, I started looking forward to it and enjoyed taking sessions. It fascinated me that I could actually mould minds. Soon I was selected for a Train the Trainer's programme at West Germany," reveals Patel. This programme helped build his life and he continues, "There were people from 48 countries and we followed an intensive programme of working for 12 hours a day. Our trainers scrutinised us and recorded each move so as to point out our strengths and

weaknesses." While Patel bagged the Best Presentation award at the end of the certification, he also received a scholarship to study further at Finland. "Both were short term, courses but the foreign certification counts nevertheless," he adds.

Returning to India, Patel did not immediately plunge into the profession. Says he, "I did my

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MBA from Symbiosis College and specialised in marketing after which I worked for 7 years with two different firms. It was only after I gathered the experience, that I took to training young students. Ever since there's been no looking back and I've even spoken abroad at Dubai, Sri Lanka, Thailand."

Does the foreign degree eliminate all chances of a struggle? Patel disagrees and explains, "In any field, a foreign degree is very recognised but a bit of struggle is always there. One has to put in a lot of hardwork even while studying and after that. Like at my certification course, we were taught presentations skills, confidence, right attitude, improved listening skills since that is important for communicating well, humour instincts and grasping the attention of the audience. This wasn't easy since there were the best of people with a high intelligence level and to cope with it all, I had to really work hard and do my homework."

With more and more students opting for foreign degrees, Patel feels, "There is no hassle with our education system. Infact, it's a lot tougher than the exams

abroad but we lack EQ. Concentrating on emotional quotient is very important. The course I did was tough since they were ruthless and we couldn't afford to make mistakes. Also, at that time there was no such course in India."

Acquiring money to go abroad to study or even through an institute based here is very easy, Patel feels. "There are banks which give loans easily and if a student is really good, then only he must do a foreign degree because there's no point wasting money resources."

Living a happy, content life, Patel smiles, "This job offers good remuneration. Infact, I've heard that after actors, motivational speakers are the highest paid professionals provided they're really good! The only setback, if it can be termed as one, is that personal life has to be sacrificed to an extent. There's a lot of work involved and parties are a no-no. I go to bed early since I've to be fresh when at my talks, and I've to be emotionally and physically fit. And then ofcourse, at times people are so critical but one has to cope with that like in any field."

While with a foreign certificate or degree, most prefer working abroad, but Patel says, "I get that satisfaction only when I work here. Moreover, there are so many youngsters who need to be trained and motivated. Ofcourse, with my certification, I have been approached to work in the USA. I know it will fetch me more money, but then I term myself as successful and richer when a student tells me, "You've changed my life."

NUPUR CHAUDHURI