

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR SEEMANT SHRIVASTAV



From left to right- Prof. Senthil Kumar, Mr. Seemant Shrivastav with the students of IMT-N

IMT-N had the privilege of interacting with Mr. Seemant Shrivastav, Chartered Accountant and Managing Partner at Attentio Corporate Services LLP. Mr. Shrivastav has previously worked as a Managing Partner at IxCFO Serviced Pvt. Ltd. and is a consultant with a vast experience in the field of startup venture financing. The session by Mr. Shrivastav provided the student managers with deep insights in the field of startups. His presentation on startups and the analysis allowed the students to understand how to start a successful startup from scratch. In an one to one interaction with Mr. Shrivastav, few excerpts:

1. What was your motive behind going for a startup?

Ans: In life a lot of things happen by design, so there is no plan for few things. My last job at Payback, which was a startup, had the advantage of being supported by ICICI Bank Ltd and they had given us a lot of free hand in terms of operations. At the same time, they also helped us on various issues we faced during operations. This made me realize that the area I should be working on is either in startup financing or having my own startup venture.

2. “India is emerging as a new startup nation altogether” – is it a trend or just ingrained in the minds of the people?

Ans: It is ingrained in the minds of the people because I believe India has always been an entrepreneurial country. It is to an extent about the generation gap that exists in our society. Previously we had our fathers and grandparents seeking secure government jobs over their own ventures, now we see the youth evolving as a resourceful, confident and flexible workforce – able to move with the new time and age and actively participating in the startup culture in the country.

3. What are the pros and cons of working in an established company and a start up?

Ans: The good part of working in an established company is that they have the best of practices, job security, better salary and maintaining a work life balance. Cons of working in an established company is that there are pre-defined rules which gives barely any room for creativity and could lead to mid-career crisis.

On the other hand, the pros of a startup venture is vibrant environment, flat hierarchy, quick decision making, innovative opportunities and a high degree of satisfaction by having independence. On the flip side of working in a startup venture is that there is no comfortable pay but there might be ESOP's, no job security and overtime allowance.

4. What is your take on negative vibes about start up that many premier institutes have?

Ans: There are two things on this issue which have led to this misinformation – lack of communication from the side of the recruitment team of the institutions and also the mismanagement of recruitment by the ventures. Firstly, offer should not have been rolled out when the startup was unsure of recruiting people because of internal miscommunication along with improper planning and execution. Secondly, on the part of institutions, they should not have reacted immediately but mediated the problem by mutual understanding without leaking the news to the media.

5. How was your experience at IMT-N?

Ans: This was my first visit to IMT-N and it is a beautiful campus. I am yet to see the entire campus and for that I'll surely visit again. I had great interactions with students and I saw a number of people being enthusiastic to start their own ventures which was an interesting experience in itself.