

REPLY TO AN OLD FRIEND(NOT IN ACADEMIA) FOUND AFTER 28 YEARS

ON THE QUESTION :

" DID YOU SEE THREE IDIOTS , PROFESSOR?"

Yes three idiots , That,s a great movie (but I have been telling that to all my students in my first class , especially to the B.Tech students. i tell them be a mochi(cobbler) but a top class one. Don't be a B.Tech and work for a multinational Bank. If you are smart do something your own at least create your own business, maybe your own bank. You will be disappointed with life around the age of 44-45 when you have made money but have no urge to go to office (as many alumni tell me)since they are not having anything challenging to do. working on mundane things with the fine mind that these kids have and that mind will not be required for that job at all. Like Chetan Bhagat they then change to something more creative and many take up social work and teach in villages etc leaving microsoft,even GE, IBM etc. I am really happy that I chose a profession which I enjoy. I work (write/read, lecture and discuss experiments) at least 16 to 20 hrs everyday. I enjoy giving a lecture, especially if the class is 100 and above (we will have 300 student lectures soon). I can talk to my research students/post - docs (i will have 19 at present) anytime in the day & night and I never am tired to proof read a paper or to review a project or write new projects. I meet some of the smartest people in the world and also get to see some wonderful places. This year itself i have been/will be to meetings in switzerland, California, Alaska, Manali, Goa, Kollam, kerala and mangalore among other metro cities. I prepare my conference lectures to perfection many times spending the whole night before the lecture (even though the similar lecture has been given half a dozen times in the past 6 months). Everytime I go on stage I am excited, like a performer and I want to hear after my lecture....ashok , you gave a fantastic talk.... from my peers. I cannot ask for more. I think I am enjoying life to the full and I think if I am born I will choose the same profession. The most important thing with teaching and research is that you are always with young people and it makes you feel younger and positive. For me my vocation is vacation. I hope you now know that I had the idea before Aamir Khan .

I hope you too are having the best of time and enjoying your profession to the full.