

Event Report 180DC SSCBS: The Consultant's Guidebook

Date: 18th September, 2024

Time: 8:30 pm

Event Overview:

180 Degrees Consulting, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies (SSCBS) chapter, organized an insightful speaker session featuring Mr. Soham Chakraborty. The event, attended by over 110 enthusiastic participants, was a resounding success, offering a deep dive into the world of consulting.

The session was inaugurated by Mr. Gaurang Rathi, Director of External Relations, 180DC SSCBS. He welcomed the speaker and set the tone for the evening by introducing both the chapter's accomplishments and the illustrious background of the guest speaker.

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Soham Chakraborty, a Senior Manager at Bain & Company, brought a wealth of experience to the discussion. With an impressive academic pedigree from IIT Bombay and IIM Ahmedabad, and professional stints at Deloitte, Alvarez & Marsal, and Bain, he captivated the audience with his journey and expertise.

Session Highlights:

The session was structured around a podcast-style discussion, with the following key takeaways:

1. Career Transition:

- Mr. Chakraborty reflected on his transition from engineering to consulting, sharing that the shift stemmed from a desire to impact businesses at a strategic level. He acknowledged the challenges of moving from a technical to a strategic mindset but emphasized the rewarding nature of the journey.

2. Balancing Academics and Career Aspirations:

- He spoke about his time at Deloitte and how he prepared for the CAT alongside work. His disciplined approach and focus were key to achieving a 99.92 percentile, an inspiring feat for aspiring IIM candidates in the audience.

3. IIM and Consulting Career:

- Discussing the value of an IIM degree, Mr. Chakraborty elaborated on how IIM Ahmedabad equipped him with critical consulting skills, while also asserting that the "IIM tag," though advantageous, is not the sole determinant of success in consulting.

4. Experience at Alvarez & Marsal:

- Mr. Chakraborty described his enriching 7-year tenure, highlighting his growth and key learnings in leadership and client management.

5. Switch to Bain & Company:

- Explaining his move to Bain, he attributed the decision to the opportunity for greater global exposure and alignment with Bain's values of driving meaningful change.
- 6. **Work-Life Balance in Consulting:**
 - Addressing a common concern among aspiring consultants, he provided a balanced view of the demanding yet fulfilling nature of the profession, emphasizing the importance of prioritization and self-care.
- 7. **Future of Consulting:**
 - Mr. Chakraborty highlighted the transformative role of technology, data analytics, and AI in reshaping consulting practices, advising students to adapt to these advancements to remain relevant.
- 8. **Key Learnings for Aspiring Consultants:**
 - He shared three invaluable lessons:
 - Focus on building strong problem-solving and communication skills.
 - Foster adaptability to thrive in a dynamic and fast-paced industry.
 - Develop a client-centric approach while balancing short-term and long-term goals.
- 9. **Insights into Challenging Projects:**
 - Sharing a real-world case, he detailed the complexities of navigating regulatory compliance and market volatility. His approach underscored the importance of innovative solutions and strategic foresight in consulting projects.

Audience Engagement:

The interactive session saw enthusiastic participation, with attendees posing thought-provoking questions about career choices, challenges, and opportunities in consulting.

Conclusion:

The event concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Chakraborty for his time and insights. His session left the participants with a clearer perspective on consulting and the tools to navigate their own career journeys effectively.

Acknowledgments:

180DC SSCBS extends its gratitude to Mr. Soham Chakraborty and all participants for making the session a remarkable success.