



## Alumnus in Focus: February 2016



**Pradeep S Naulia (PMP, MBB)  
(PGDM Batch: 2000-2001)**

**Current Affiliation: WW Advance Analytics Lead,  
HPE IT Operations, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

Excerpts from the interview,

**Alcom: Tell us about your life at IFMR: Memories and Experiences.**

**Pradeep:** *IFMR was like a second home to me. It was a 'Big Boss' like experience for me staying in a small campus with so many friends and adjusting with every kind of circumstances. For me IFMR was a perfect place to learn from friends, faculties and from the challenges they confronted with. The canteen, the campus (Kothari road), Library, Computers and Hostel everything was amazing. Life was good with first time hi- tech exposure to MBA audio visuals, computer, portals, etc. for studies way back in 2001. Hostels were well furnished, canteen served great food. It feels nostalgic when I think of those days. Library was fabulous, a treasury of knowledge. Faculties were very approachable and supportive. We could find practical implementation of academics, when we stepped into the corporate world.*

**Alcom: What other opportunities did IFMR provide you besides education (in terms of extracurricular activities and personality development)?**

**Pradeep:** *We had in our curriculum Industrial training, Harvard Case Studies, IT, internet and audio visual materials to better understand corporate dynamics. About 50% of our learning happened through interactions with renowned Guest Faculties, industry projects, Industry Captains, OJTs Interschool events which enabled us to keep up with the ever changing world. Team building exercises, group assignments, presentations were meant for our soft skills and to transform us into a skilled professional.*

**Alcom: Who was/were your favorite professors at IFMR? Why?**

**Pradeep:** *Prof. Venugopal, Prof.Xavier, Late Prof.Ramachander, Prof. Balasubramanian, Prof.Shanti, and Late Prof. Govindarajan were some of my favorites. Each one of them was extremely good teachers and stalwarts in their management fields. Prof. Venugopal had unconventional approach to learning through practical examples, cases and interactions among students. No book was really helpful in mastering the subject. Prof. Govindarajan used to teach us Accounting and his method of holistic teaching was really helpful in making us fundamentally strong in the subject and related areas. Prof Bala innovatively taught us applications of IT into*

management (IFMR being early mover) which now helps me into league of top IT profession. Late Prof Ramachander and Prof Xavier were visionaries in Marketing/Strategy fields and they continue to inspire us.

**Alcom: Tell us about your journey from IFMR to HP.**

**Pradeep:** *In 2001 banks were not in good numbers and were not much sought after for placements in India. At that time we had a faculty who was a VP of a large bank. He wanted us to form a team of bright management trainees for first outsourcing job of this bank globally. It was not an easy task at that point of time. He hired few students and with his guidance we could achieve a difficult task and since then I sprinted. I joined Stanchart in 2001 And after few transitions through companies like Ybrant tech, Verisign, Infosys, CSC India, etc., I finally landed in HP Bangalore in April 2007. Since then I'm working with HP's at its worldwide locations.*

**Alcom: What are the work challenges you face today? How you manage them?**

**Pradeep:** *Challenges are many the most important one is to take decisions based on data. As a data scientist we may think data will give answers to all our questions but you have to look at many other aspects to arrive at a decision. I try to use my past experiences while dealing with a new challenges and learn from my mistakes. Another important aspect is ever changing business scenarios, technologies; everything around us is changing and so our lives, hence great need for acquiring new skills. This keeps me fairly busy. Work life is mostly taken care of by HPE by being flexible with work from anywhere flexibility and also managers look after employee welfare very well.*

**Alcom: How did IFMR help you deal with the challenges at work/ key learnings at IFMR?**

**Pradeep:** *IFMR's practical course structure, its teaching methods which included case studies and industrial training helped us in handling many real life challenges.*

**Alcom: Tell us about your experience outside India.**

**Pradeep:** *I have worked in about 10 countries and main difference that I have noticed is, in India people have a tendency to mix their personal and work lives. But outside India everyone maintains a clear distinction between the two and learn to perfectly balance work-life.*

**Alcom: Any message, suggestion or tips for the budding managers at IFMR?**

**Pradeep:** *Never run for money, highest package jobs etc. Everyone does that. Even we also tread the same path. All that was important then was a job with very fat package. But ultimately in today's world you have to keep learning and which never ends. I don't want to disappoint you all saying all this. All I want you to do is, " Try to be versatile, be creative. Learn at every stage of your life and never limit yourself to just a single domain and function." Create a balance in your approach while making decision. Do collect as much data as you can, use appropriate tools and then take a decision. This way you won't go wrong.*

**Alcom: Your future plans?**

**Pradeep:** *Keep exploring! (with a smile)*