Infosys Spark Catch them Young is a programme started by Infosys to develop an interest in information technology in school going, preferably middle school children. They conduct a two week programme for the high performing children from middle school on IT. The students are selected based on their performance in the entrance test.

I was selected to take part in this programme. First, we had to give our names and then a panel of teachers’ shortlisted 21 students that is 7 from each section of Class VIII. Luckily, I was one of them.

We had no idea what to do except solving one of the sample papers which the Infosys team had sent to us. However, my friend Siddarth’s dad, Mr. Ramesh Iyer, took a two day workshop to familiarize us with the pattern and the level of questions. The motive was to test our logical and analytical skills. He identified two areas where most of us had a doubt, Seating Arrangements and Blood relations. So we spent one full day practising questions based on seating arrangements and blood relations. The next day we practised all types of questions ranging from tricky Math questions to all types of patterns whether it was word patterns or number patterns. This workshop helped us a lot and I am really thankful to him from the bottom of my heart!

Finally, the day arrived 16th Jan was the day we had to appear for the entrance exam. The previous day, I was really anxious whether I’ll get selected for the programme or not..! When we arrived at the Infosys campus, seeing the number of children started arising that constant fear of me not getting selected. There were supposed to be just 300 students but when we went there, we got to know that there were a total of 450 students. Apart from our Orchid school, schools like D.A.V. Public School, Vidya Valley, Indira National school, Sanskriti Educational Society and Abhinav Public School had also come to name a few. Once I came to know that only 35 students were to be selected, it almost became a nightmare. My expectations were to be in the 15 students who were to replace someone if anyone of the 35 students withdrew.

Once we were seated, the papers were distributed. Seeing the paper, I ran out of breath! The paper wasn’t the way we expected it to be… It
was full of Math sums and less than 50% was logical and analytical skills. We had to attempt 40 questions in 60 minutes which seemed almost impossible seeing the level of questions. But as they say, even “Impossible” says “I’m possible”, I finished the paper in 45 minutes so that I could recheck my paper.

Once the paper was over, we were taken for a tour of the campus. The infrastructure was mindboggling! It was so awesome! Equipped with a cricket ground, football ground, tennis court and a swimming pool, this campus might be one’s dream office!

We all were seated in the canteen where they were serving tea/coffee and biscuits. Then it was the time for the results. Everyone was very anxious. When the host said, “And the first person who will be a part of the CTY programme is……”, the anxiety grew. Out of 450 students, who can this person be… Well, lo and behold, it was me, the first student out of 450 students to qualify for this glorious workshop! It was such an awkward moment to be alone on the stage, with 449 students and almost 25 to 30 teachers watching you!

Well, in the end, two people from our school got selected for the workshop which was none other than me and my friend, Siddartha. Another student, Sudeep, was selected in the 15 students who were to replace someone if anyone of the 35 students withdrew.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience. I am seriously waiting for the workshop. If the entrance test can be so exciting, then what all wonders can this workshop hold? That is why I am so excited about this workshop…!

Tanmay Goyal

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