Things I Learnt

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Abstract:
Coming together is a beginning. Working together is Progress and keeping together is success. Being in academic field, every day gives a chance to hone my skills as a teacher, facilitator and trainer. However, organizing conference or conventions give us a unique opportunity to learn at various stages of organizing this event and ultimately become a better professional and human being.

Coming together is a beginning. Working together is Progress and keeping together is success. Being in academic field, every day gives a chance to hone my skills as a teacher, facilitator and trainer. However, as a scientific convener of 17th prosthodontic Society gave me a unique opportunity to learn at various stages of organizing this event and ultimately become a better professional and human being.

I always wished that being one of the premier institutes in Central India we should showcase the talent and infrastructure of our college and I thought hosting such large event will be a great opportunity for our institute to be recognized at a national level. I gave this suggestion to our Dean and Head of Department Dr Usha Radke Madam and she graciously accepted it. After the IPS accepted our proposal, began a long process of planning, preparing, and organizing which lasted for next two years. Her encouragement gave me confidence that taking initiative is the first step towards success.

During preparation phase, many committees had to work together to achieve set targets and thus we prepared Gantt chart, one thing I had learnt in FAIMER sessions. Although we had to modify the chart many times, it served as a tool for effective time management and motivation. At first, I worked along with my colleagues from other committees since the work of scientific committee was scheduled later in the course of time. This step was very challenging as there were several issues related to interpersonal communication, differences of opinions and so on. The things I learnt in FAIMER sessions regarding conflict management again came handy and I implemented them so that we could work effectively in team.

The next stage involved managing enormous amount of entries from all over the country regarding various scientific activities, a few of them were being conducted for the first time. My scientific team comprising of postgraduate students and interns worked day and night to sort out the data and develop a user friendly system so that all delegates could find their allotted halls and timings easily. During this phase although I was rather hesitant earlier and wanted to do all things myself, gradually I learnt how to trust my students and delegate important work so as to gain positive outcome in minimum time.

Last fortnight before the event and the actual event itself was extremely challenging for all of us as we faced many hurdles related to infrastructure management, we had to stay back for long hours and take care of all minute details. During this phase I implemented all strategies of stress management and keeping a very positive attitude helped me sail through that time.

During the days of convention we got a very positive response from students as well as faculty who participated in it. Few of them gave us suggestions regarding certain parts which we implemented immediately. The head office bearers of IPS were satisfied with the arrangements. After the event was over we received a very good feedback again from all over country with students telling us that it was one of the best organized convention so far. It was very satisfying to see that all our efforts paid off.

But for me a word of appreciation and smile on my HOD’s face was the biggest reward for me. Her managerial and administrative skills were unparalleled and because of that we could overcome all roadblocks successfully. In my interaction with her during this time, I learnt a lot regarding effective communication, and leadership qualities. It was overwhelming to see that she completed such a herculean task had been successfully with the support of our management and dedicated team work.

All this has made me believe in myself more and dream bigger since I now know dreams come true..!!