Education Plus Karnataka

Studying in Singapore has value addition

Kaushal Dugar

BRAND AMBASSADORS for products and services are passé. Now, we have a student ambassador for Singapore, aggressively marketing educational institutions. Twenty-one year old Kaushal Dugar from Singapore Management University (SMU) is now in India, along with the "Singapore Education" Fair, promoting the new educational destination.

Born in Siliguri, Dugar did his schooling in his hometown. He pursued his undergraduation (Bachelor of Commerce) at St. Xavier's College in Kolkata. But within a year, he changed course and applied for business education at SMU.

"I was not liking the system that much here. The study here is mostly theoretical with hardly any project-based work. I wanted to have a better undergraduate education and my parents ruled out the U.S. as they did not like the culture over there. In 2002, I moved to Singapore to do BBM."

"I feel in India we are not moving forward in the education system, barring the IITs and the IIMs. Studying in Singapore has value addition. I am studying with students from all over Asia and this kind of international exposure you will not get in India. As there is
continuous project work, you develop not only hardcore academic skills, but also soft skills such as communication, team work etc. I got to interact with top business leaders from across the world. I would never have got such an opportunity in Kolkata."

In two years, he has proved that given the right kind of opportunities and environment, any student can excel. Dugar has represented his university at the International Business Case championship, international debating championships and is currently heading the Entrepreneurship Society.

Now as an education ambassador of Singapore, he is in a position to share his experiences with the prospective students who would like to know the nitty-gritty of admissions and campus life.

"There are lots of opportunities available, which one can find when one looks deep enough".

"The professors in SMU are some of the best minds in the world, so you are assured of good quality education for which you would be paying one-third of what you would be paying in the U.S." "When you are studying in Singapore, parents get the safety of Asian values and you are just four hours from home."

"I am doing business management, a four-year course, and I can complete it in three years and it is designed on the lines of the course at Wharton School in the U.S. Nearly 70 to 80 per cent of students get tuition grant if they are admitted into a public university and would have to pay only about 6000 Singapore dollars."

"As an education ambassador, my main job is to share my experience as a student studying in Singapore with prospective students. I talk about positives and negatives of Singapore and also of India. I do a presentation and then talk to parents and students individually too. First of all, they ask what kind of job opportunities are there. They also want us to compare with IIMs and IITs and I am able to do that."
"It's great fun to be back in India and interact with the students. I plan to work for a couple of years in Singapore and do MBA and come back to India and start my own business. After all, India is India."