

BY KARTHIK 'KANA' NARAYANAN ('01 E&amp;I)

## LOOKING BACK

Four wonderful years at BITS, the years that changed the way that I cry and the way that I think!



**“FOUR** wonderful

years at BITS, the years that changed the way I cry and the way I think” – An impacting line from my wingie, Raghuraman’s blog that succinctly conveys the phenomenon called BITS, Pilani and forms the central theme of my article.

flexibilities like electives and innovations like Practice School. Or the independence expected from students in managing their resources – time and money. Or the concept of departments, clubs, messes and council, wholly managed by students which aid in developing team spirit, nurturing innovation and sharing. It could be being away from home in hostels and wings, meeting people with myriad

faculty, seniors (also known as ragging?!) and juniors that imbibes the courage to face people of every kind or the favorable sex ratio that enables understanding complex emotions of the opposite sex and self (of course, this now seems endangered with the new admission system!) ...or any of the million other reasons. Whatever it may be, it can be summarized by a single fact - BITS, Pilani caters to enhancing both intellectual and emotional intelligence. The former is widely acclaimed but it is the latter that causes more impact. Emotional Intelligence, popularized by Daniel Goleman through his book, is described as a set of five basic emotional and social competencies –

- Self- awareness – knowing what we are feeling
- Self-regulation – handling our emotions
- Motivation – using our deepest preferences to drive us towards our goals
- Empathy – sensing what people are feeling
- Social skills – handling emotions in relationships well.



**My wing – miss them a lot. About eight more were away on PS.**

Often, I wonder what it is in that place that transforms the naïve students in their late teens into balanced, responsible and courageous individuals 4-5 years down the line. And immediately it seems to be a problem with infinite solutions. It could be the wonderful curriculum with its

backgrounds, understanding them and coexisting with them. Or the freedom given to students to involve themselves in activities of their choice, face tough situations, differentiate right from wrong and develop decision making skills. Or the variety of interaction with

A look at these competencies and an understanding of the BITS ecosystem is enough for anybody to conclude that the BITS ecosystem definitely contributes to enhancing emotional intelligence, a high degree of which organizations readily welcome.

And the story does not end there. What does this highly developed emotional intelligence coupled with intellectual intelligence do? Yet again a question with many answers, but I would like to point out salient ones. BITSians are driven by their passions and continue to impact in technology, business, community and every other realm in eclectic ways (*"Fits*



The snap that sparked Madhu's comment

*BITS"*, Sandpaper Fall 2005). Energetic in what we do, this also seems to spawn an entrepreneurial spirit in many.

Another point is that, BITSians have a sense of sharing and a commitment towards social responsibilities (look at BITS Tsunami or 30 under 30 award winner profiles or the BITSian next to you).

Further, we carry so many nostalgic memories about the place that we seek BITSian company wherever we go and it has, for sure, resulted in well 'networked' alumni. Sometimes, this has also caused us to be branded as being too emotional about any issue regarding BITS or BITSians. This is the feeling that made another wingie of mine, Madhu, remark, "Yesterday, I accidentally caught sight of this one snap and I literally broke down. It

seemed brilliant, a pool of fondness beckoning from the distance... wanting everyone whoz been there to come back again and left cruelly wanting

those 4 years that seems now a bygone era"

**No doubt Raghu, BITS is the phenomenon that changes the way we cry and the way we think.**

All this and more - the result of how the place adds to our emotional quotient (EQ) which in turn helps in meeting the Institute's expectations of its graduates to make a mark in their careers; contribute to efforts for development and quality of human life and setting high standards of performance worthy of emulation by successors (adapted from Degree certificate).

No doubt Raghu, BITS is the phenomenon that changes the way we cry and the way we think.

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*(Thanks to Kaushik, Ravi, Raghu, Madhu and Divya for their contributions in shaping the article.)*

## Global 30 under 30 Awards - 2005

# dedication

This award is dedicated to all those young BITSians who thought and acted differently, who challenged the status quo, rewrote the rules, and created their own paths. To the leaders, innovators, researchers, academics, students, entertainers, entrepreneurs, winners, engineers, scientists and concerned samaritans who came from every corner of India. To the best examples of what it means to be a BITSian.

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