

Nice Learning Experience.

Knowledge is an intangible treasure which gives us immense pleasure after the exploration. Exploring new dimensions in knowledge is an utmost important task in student life. In the journey of knowledge searching I came across this course of 'Corporate Social Responsibility' in the spring semester. When I went through the course content it inspired me to follow the course. I was interested in learning what is CSR, (how it is normally called) and its relevance to society.

As I was attending the classes I realized it enriches my learning capacity at the same time widen the horizons on Corporate Social Responsibility. From the very beginning the sensei wanted us to take part in class discussions. Although the class is designed on lecture method with power point presentations, he wanted us to contribute our ideas at any time during his presentation. This was very striking for me and as we got a chance to air our views freely and make clarifications whenever we encounter problems. This kind of free learning atmosphere made everybody of us feel at ease in the class and sometimes we were not aware of the clock ticking away. After a couple of weeks, sensei suggested us to read the relevant reading material for the each class day beforehand and send him questions or discussion points. These were very impressive and made us ready for the class and have fruitful discussions. It was obvious that sensei wanted us to be more involved in the subject and have active participation in class discussions. Not only that, it gave us room to reflect upon what is to be learnt in the class.

The course content comprised with introducing basic knowledge and main previous studies of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and dealt in depth with triple bottom lines in economics, environment and society. In addition to that, general theories and practices of CSR, with more specific focus on issues related to global context were broadly discussed during the class hours. It enlightened me in forming perspectives on CSR with special concern on the pyramid of corporate social responsibility which emphasized the corporate social responsibility of business with the fulfillment of the firm's economic, legal, ethical and philanthropic responsibilities. The course gave me a good insight of that the firm need strive to make a profit, obey the law, be ethical, and be a good corporate citizen.

The method used in delivering the knowledge is remarkable as it was a combination of typical lecture type and live classroom discussion. These discussions helped to break the monotony of the class. I'm in the opinion that it was a good way of presenting ideas especially in an adults' classroom.

It is worthy to mention how we were evaluated throughout the course and after the course. There were three quizzes of open book type throughout the course giving room for us to be constantly evaluated. So I was able to be constantly in touch with the subject. The other way of evaluating is the abstract paper presentation. I got the opportunity to present my paper abstract on the case study which I selected for my term paper. It was highly beneficial for me as I received a good feedback from the sensei and colleagues. The other way of evaluating is the term paper based on the presentation. I found

it easy to be dealt as I received very good and constructive comments from my class. The above mentioned last two evaluation methods are very essential in student's life. I had a better chance to develop my presentation skills by this way in front of my classmates which would help me in the future. When writing a term paper it concerns a lot on our analytical and comprehensive skills at the same time writing skills too.

Kyriakides et al state (2009) teacher behavior and skills are crucial in quality teaching. Teachers can create a learning environment in the classroom providing constructive feedback to student answers which transforms classroom into an active teaching-learning environment. Yoshi Takahashi sensei was very skillful in providing such kind of classroom environment to us. He was never annoyed of our interruptions in the middle of his lessons and was quite welcoming and responsive.

Finally, the whole learning process can be considered as a 'nice learning experience'. The course content, the way knowledge was shared and the pleasant learning environment created were unforgettable. It improved my knowledge on the subject along with writing and presentation skills.

Reference: Kyriakides, L., Creemers, M. P. B., & Antoniou. (2009). Teacher behavior and student outcomes: Suggestions for research on teacher training and professional development. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 23,1102-1112