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IIT Hyderabad was 'the right choice'

- **Sajal Sagar Singh, [Hindustan Times](#), New Delhi**
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- Updated: May 29, 2015 19:03 IST

Sajal Sagar Singh (third from left) picked up leadership skills during his stint as secretary of IIT Hyderabad's students' governing body.

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As a child I always wanted to do something different from the rest, to work in a direction which leaves an impact on the society and to be the best in whatever I do. Throughout my journey these three simple fundamentals along with hard work and perseverance have helped me succeed in various spheres of life.

When I was in Class 11, I came to know from my father about IITs and their reputation in the international community. I knew that this was the place which can provide me the best opportunities to excel in my field. IIT Hyderabad being a new IIT back in 2011 particularly interested me because it was a fast growing institute, I would have had the opportunity to contribute my part in growing the institute. I therefore, decided to study mechanical engineering in IIT Hyderabad.

Now, after spending four years here I feel very lucky to have made the right choice. IIT Hyderabad is a place where one gets an opportunity to do whatever he/she likes and explore every field. Right from my first year I started exploring various branches. Although I was a student in the mechanical department, I did projects from various other departments, thus getting to know more about the recent advances made in various fields. I also learnt programming, software development etc, which added value to my skill set.

I also had a deep sense of social responsibility (again something imbibed in me by my parents) and believed in giving back to society. In my second year I took charge of National Service Scheme (NSS) as the general secretary and I along with my team of 150-plus volunteers worked to improve the education of rural kids in nearby villages.

In my junior year, I was appointed the coordinator of Infero – the programming club under the Science and Technology Council of IIT Hyderabad. I taught software development and database concepts to students and supervised a variety of projects floated by the club. Consequently, Infero was conferred with the Best Science and Technology Club of the year award. In my senior year, I was elected as the secretary of academic affairs of the student gymkhana - the official student governing body. The responsibility not only made me a good leader but it also improved my efficiency, made me more self-confident and prepared to face the outside world.

IIT Hyderabad has an environment conducive to research. The best thing is that the faculty members are young and very cooperative. I have spent hours brainstorming on research ideas with them. As they are young, their research areas are also on the current applied topics which makes it even more interesting to work with them. I started research right from my second year where I worked on various areas of microsystem technology and dynamics of microsystems.

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