

SEDS INDIA ELECTIONS 2017
Questionnaire for SECRETARY



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1. What motivated you to be a part of the SEDS India Board and how would you rate your organizational skills on a scale of 10 and why?

- I have been an active member of SEDS- VIT and SEDS India since my first year of college at VIT. Needless to say, I was always in awe of space and astronomy and was extremely happy to have got an opportunity to be a part of SEDS.

Being a part of SEDS-VIT has certainly been the highlight of my college years. It has presented me with immense number of opportunities to learn and interact with so many people with the same interests.

I personally believe everybody has evolved for the better through the journey whilst in SEDS. With so many chores to be done irrespective of small or large and with so many brainstorming sessions amidst the laughter on poorly interpreted jokes somewhere all of us learnt so many things and grew as an individual. It has taught me to put in **hard work** and shown me that it certainly pays off. The best part has always been celebrating little things with so many other people. SEDS has never been a one man/woman show, which is why it gives us much more incentives to put in efforts. SEDS taught me **teamwork**.

This has been my largest motivation to be a part of SEDS India. I aspire to be a part of this flourishing organisation and put my skills to the best use.

- On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate my organisation skills as **8**.
I am a meticulous person and believe that the work is half done if well planned out.
Throughout my tenure as SEDS VIT Marketing Director and SEDS India staff member, I have made sure that all my tasks are organised and implemented in the best possible way.

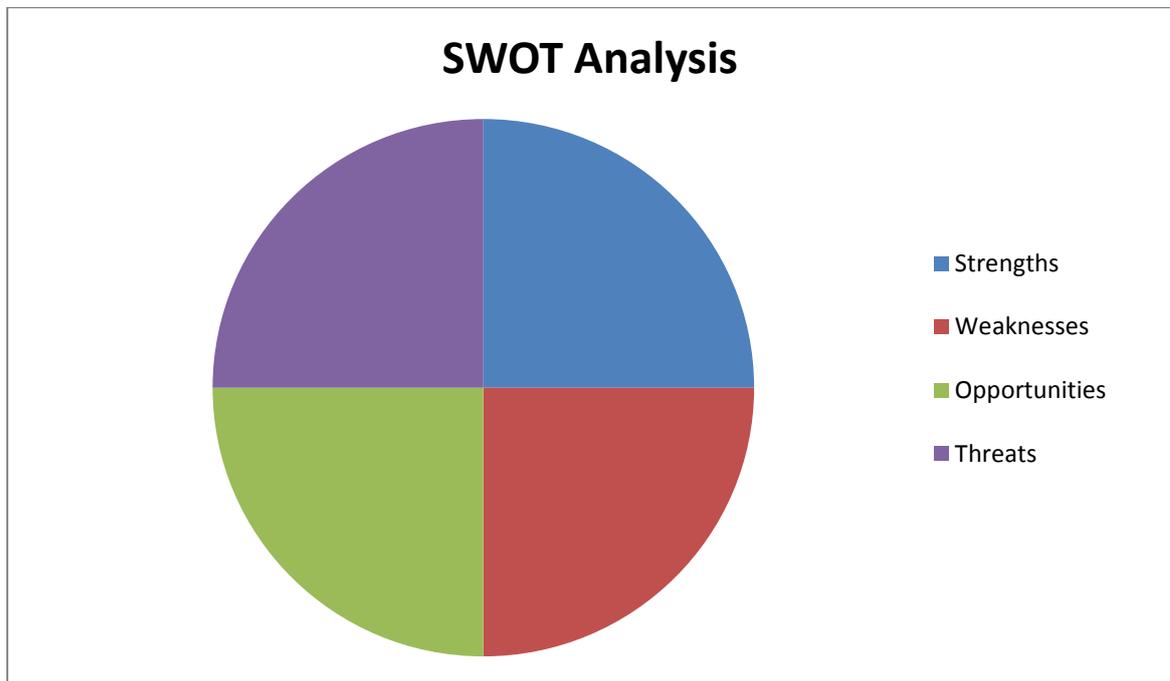
2. What attributes and qualities do you possess that you think would prove to be an asset to SEDS India.

I firmly believe that I can be a capable leader in this organisation as I have realistic aims and goals and the innate capacity to lead. I also have qualities like being good with dealing people and bringing out new innovative ways when in a group. Leadership also revolves around the ability to develop energy that drives the entire team/group to excel which I believe I can do. I have in me a better purpose and dream to drive this chapter.

A few of my **Qualities** would be:

- Creative
- Can multitask efficiently
- No excuse attitude
- Can work under pressure
- Good Time management skills

3. Please provide us with a detailed SWOT analysis of yourself in relation to the working environment like that of SEDS India.



Strengths:

- i) Opportunistic- Can take necessary decision by evaluating pros and cons without much delay
- ii) Creative- Have vital design and art skills
- iii) Can work under pressure and tight deadlines
- iv) Can multi-task efficiently
- v) Meticulous
- vi) Always open to Criticism

Weaknesses:

- i) Perceived as slightly authoritative
- ii) Impatient
- iii) Punctuality
- iv) Procrastinate at times

Opportunities:

- i) Expansion of the chapter
- ii) Increasing interest in the 3 facets of SEDS- Core, projects and Outreach
- iii) Tie-ups with international SEDS Chapters for a motley of events and projects
- iv) SEDS-VIT being the headquarters: Easy communication and assortment of work
- v) My straight forward nature helps resolve any conflicts quickly

Threats:

- i) Emergence of a new Space/Astronomy Chapter
- ii) Unhealthy competition
- iii) Juniors/ peers as Malingers

4. Where do you see SEDS India administratively in next 5 years? What steps should be taken to ensure the fulfilment of your vision?

SEDS India is a renowned organisation with high potential for growth. It is one of those organisations which is not materialistically driven but has deep rooted principles and ideals.

It is this innate value of SEDS India that ensures its success.

My **vision** for SEDS India is:

- Expansion to 70% of the colleges in India (In fields including but not exclusive to Engineering)
- An exponential increase in donation/ funds
- More inter-chapter communication
- Increase in the number of projects and participants in competitions throughout India and worldwide.
- More Focus of theoretical domains such as writing Research papers
- Increased Interaction with SEDS Alumni
- Encouraging Talks or video lectures by dignitaries successful in their field. (Contacts and Speakers from our various conferences/ star gazing sessions)
- More in-person meeting with all constituent SEDS chapters
- More focus on PR and publicity
- Catalogued and proper Documentation on all fronts
- Proper working plan with goals every month for the elected staff members and ED

A few **steps** to ensure this would be:

- Making a list of colleges which have an active space chapter and approaching them. Also approaching colleges with no space chapters at all.
- Having an impressive portfolio ready, when pitching to other companies to showcase our work
- Periodic tasks and completion of goals.
- Maintaining a balance between core, Projects and one space
- Incentivising more people to take up projects and providing them with quality mentorship through seniors and other dignitaries

5. What should be the immediate priorities of the Secretary of SEDS India? What flaws in the administration and documentation should you avoid?

My **immediate priorities** as the **Secretary** of SEDS India would be:

- (1) Restarting the process of expansion of SEDS chapters within the nation.
- (2) Increasing focus on Publicity and Public relation both on online and offline media fronts. For instance, Facebook, Twitter and Blogs/newsletters.
- (3) Revamp of the existing Staff plans.
- (4) Assortment of roles and yearly plans for each SEDS India board member and the board as a whole.
- (5) More interaction with each chapter in different colleges.

Some **flaws** that I would definitely avoid are:

- Procrastination , especially concerning documentation
- Having regular check posts for update on progress
- Avoiding redundancy
- Ensuring active participation from all throughout the year. More members' enthusiasm fizzles out after the first couple of months
- Working actively to raise more funds
- Better training to SEDS members and new recruits.
- Develop more strategies and events that attract the non space enthusiast crowd.
- Make optimum use of our meeting times.

6. Case Study:

SEDS INDIA is working on extending its arms in various colleges and schools across the country. In this process there is always a possibility of mismanagement and improper guidance within a chapter where relations between chapters could be hampered, leading to chapter being shut down or its eventual downfall. What steps would you take to avoid such a situation? How do you plan on evaluating their present and future goals?

What usually happens after the formation of a new chapter that leads to its shutdown is either less interaction from our side or technical difficulties/ less members for board formation from the respective college's side.

Another Scenario would be where there is lack of communication and delay in the procedures from our side.

A newly incubated chapter does require certain amount of zeal and energy to make it a success. A few guidelines to begin with would be heavy online and on ground publicity i.e. any form of active engagement with the crowds.

Conduction of good quality events in the same domain would a push start.

It is vital we take certain steps to ensure the burgeoning of SEDS.

We need the ability to set realistic goals and know how to approach them and hence always have a plan A and plan B ready. We also need to be able to discern strengths and weaknesses of each individual and then of the team as a whole and thus allot chores accordingly.

Innovations and new endeavours are something that always keep an organisation going. The potential to grow and excel develops therein. Here are a few changes that I propose to bring about to avoid the said situation:

- Develop a system of better and regular feedback within SEDS.
- Have more transparency and keep all members upto date with all recent events and the work that has to be done for the same

throughout different colleges. This may provide inspiration to the inactive clubs and give them a stepping stone to start.

- Make sure to use meeting time slots more efficiently with a well chalked out plan in mind and with meetings starting and ending in time. When in-person meetings aren't possible, group video calls is always an option.
- Provide incentives to increase interaction within all SEDS chapters.
- Have a system of representative in each college so as to be better accessible to problems that the entire team or an individual might be dealing with.
- Regularly check mail act on them ASAP. (Being more responsive)
- Organising and maintaining better records during contact so as to revert to these people after the completion of one cycle
- Innovative methods of online publicity with more emphasis on the posters and content. Call to action type posters will be certainly more effective.
- When we bring up new and innovative methods to portals like online publicity, we should always have an edge over the other flood of posts that sets us apart. A unique strategy or signature that essentially symbolises SEDS could be developed. We should also focus more on the kind of headings or titles our posters or blog articles have as these are the first few things that come to notice first. Always keeping a track of the reach of our posts through the official page and analysing the recent social media trends could also be helpful.