



Amit Kothari
(18812791)
Faculty of Business and Economics





A Day at the University of the Future

It seems that twenty years ago, we were living in 'Stone Age.' The world has zoomed ahead in the year 2020. The information technology (IT), the infrastructure, the way of life, etc. has all gone on to a different level altogether. Technology has become an integral part of everyone's life. Technology has become like people's girlfriend, with whom we have a date everyday.

On my date, I would look up Monash University website every evening. It was my dream university where I always wanted to study. With the IT advancing so much, a new world of 'virtual reality' had emerged. Virtual reality is a program where sitting in my home, I could experience what it would feel like, being in that very place. So, looking at the Monash University website in my home, I could literally feel that I was actually standing in Caulfield campus. My favourite place that I would frequently visit on the program was the sitout near 'Marilyn Café.' This program satisfied my intelligence that I could feel the university from my home. But, my emotions demanded that I get an admission to the university and experience being there physically. Literally dragged by my emotions, here I was standing outside Caulfield Railway Station looking in awe at the Monash building.

It was my enrolment day. The moment I entered the service centre, I saw counters over there. I walked towards the counter, to see that there were robots sitting to enrol me in. As I walked closer, it welcomed me to the university. It asked me to put my hand onto a small scanner. I believe it was to scan my hand so as to identify me. I was told that there was no need of an identity card. Every time I want to enter a building, I will just have to scan my hand. It further asked me to allocate my subjects immediately so that I can start attending lectures.

In the library, I looked up the 'Allocate +' for the timings of my lectures. Little did I know that I had a lecture immediately within an hour, at about 2pm. The interesting part was that nothing needed to be read from the website. A tape was on, which kept giving me instructions. It told me a room number to be present in for my lectures. I rushed to find the room so that I was in time for the lecture.



The moment I entered the room, I was baffled to see the size of the room. The size was too small for even me and my professor to fit in. I was still wondering what to do. I still put my hand on the scanner. It recognised me and a voice instructed me to sit inside the class on the chair. The class had nothing but a chair. There were no computers, no boards, no projectors, nothing at all. I sat waiting in anticipation.

The clock struck two and the lights went off. I was getting a bit nervous as to what was happening. Suddenly there appeared a screen from the top and a voice welcomed me to the first lecture. On the screen, a man appeared and identified himself as Mark Haslett. He said that he was my professor for this unit. I thought I was the only student in the class. That thought was quickly brushed aside when on the same screen I saw many other faces as well. In the centre was the professor and all around him were students. That's when I realised that the other students were my classmates.

Mark asked all of us to introduce ourselves. I didn't see any mike to speak on. As I was wondering how to participate in discussions, Mark said that we just had to speak and everyone will be able to hear us and there was no need of mike. As everyone started to share, I realised that there were so many students from so many countries in my class. They were in different campuses. Students from Caulfield, Clayton, Gippsland, Peninsula, Malaysia and South Africa were all together in a single class. It was a brilliant class with so many different views from different perspectives.

I couldn't have imagined being in such a class ever in my life. At the end of the class, I was feeling blessed to have been studying in this age of 'virtual reality.' Could I have ever imagined being with my fellow Monashites from all over the world studying together in the same class. I couldn't have imagined a better day at the university. A decade ago, this day would have really seemed to have been a 'Stone Age' idea. But, here we are in 2020, and this is a reality, and no more a dream.