

My initial childhood was quite contradictory to my present- a boy with no interest in studies, always a notorious backbencher at school, whose parents always had to keep their heads low while attending the parent-teacher meeting. My parents were very worried about the fact that I just could not sit with the book. I would spend my whole day just watching the T.V. Homework and assignments remained pending which were never completed.

During my third standard, we received a form of science Olympiads by SOF from school. Although I wasn't interested in Olympiads then, my parents registered my name. Unwillingly, I appeared and the result was pathetic as expected. The same scenario repeated in my fourth grade, however this time I surprisingly cleared the first stage of NSO-SOF. Although it wasn't a big achievement, for me it was!! Unfortunately, the fate of the second stage wasn't like that of the first one. In my fifth grade, I took it personally. I have a habit of taking setbacks very personally; WHY CAN'T I??? This question always hits me and I rebounded with double momentum. I prepared and cleared the first and got a gold medal at city level in the second level.

Although Olympiads were intriguing, they weren't compelling enough for me to extensively sit and study. Sometimes some teachers turn out to leave behind a huge impact on your life. Well, I was fortunate enough to meet such a teacher in my sixth grade itself. My science teacher saw an immense potential in this young distracted mind of mine.

It was the turning point of my life. She gave me proper guidance following which I topped the state in the NSO-SOF as well as the IMO-SOF!! She was the one who introduced me to the Junior Science Olympiad in my seventh grade and encouraged me to prepare for it. Continuing my triumph in the SOF Olympiads in seventh grade, I made an aim of clearing the NSEJS(first Indian stage of junior science Olympiad). While preparing for the tougher versions of Olympiads, I never realized that I had developed enough thrust that I bagged international rank -2 at IMO-SOF in my eight grade.

However, still NSEJS itself seemed so far that I could just never imagine higher stages. Fortunately with the help of strong basics, I managed to clear NSEJS in my eighth grade. It was yet another point of inflection in my life. The unexpected result opened my doorways towards the vast arenas of science. I tried to prepare myself within the limited time for stage two which is considered to be 10 times more difficult than the former, however I was unable to clear it by just 3 marks.

Again that hit me personally. I went into an 'exile' with science. After 8 months of me and science packed up in a room, I came back, rejuvenated, and cleared the first and the second stages in the ninth grade. The third stage-OCSC camp was a nail biting one but surprisingly I cleared it too. It was a once in a lifetime moment, I was going to wear the Indian blazer and represent INDIA!! I paused, looked back, connected the dots and saw my entire journey bear ripe fruits in front of me. From a boy with lack of interest in studies to an international representing one- surely a striking transformation. I felt that every intricate correct decision and moment together directionalized the entire drift.

After then there was no stepping back, from IJSO gold to IBO cancellation to IChO Silver, these seemingly less valued SOF Olympiads have drastically changed my life forever and I have no regrets for it.