



Mukesh Patel **PhD Cognitive Science,** **1991**

Who is your current employer and what do they do?

What is your job title and what does the job entail?

Dexter Consultancy Services - Market Research - Non Executive Director for Business Development/Growth Strategy - while this company is located in India, it also offers services to UK clients.

Lineworks Consultancy - Consultancy on Business Strategy Consultant focused on IT and Education/Training - I am the proprietor. Based in India.

Charotar University of Science and Technology - Advisory Board Member; Academic Council Member - locating India but with growing linkages with UK based Institutes.

How did you achieve your current position?

After completion of my PhD I lived in various EU countries and the US where I was primarily engaged in research in Cognitive Science, AI and Robotics. After about 12 years of this I moved to India in the late 90's to join a start-up software company which grew very fast and from which I divested in 2004. After that I worked a CEO of couple of starts up and then as an IT consultant (which I continue to do on a part time basis). Two years ago I sold the IT part of my business and joined Dexter Consultancy as a part time non-executive Director.

Since coming to India I had been involved in academia in some manner or other; initially the motivation was to get Indian Universities to upgrade their Science and Engineering courses so as to produce graduates that can be productively hired by IT companies such as ours. This role gradually increased to advisory inputs towards new course and institutional development (which turned out to be growing opportunity as new Universities springing up in tandem with economic growth). Currently apart from advising two Universities on a variety of topics, I teach as visiting faculty at three MBA Schools and help Indian Universities to establish stronger ties with UK/US based Institutes.

How do you feel you have used the skills and/or knowledge developed during your research degree in your career to date?

Research and analytical skills have been an invaluable help in everything I have done and achieved in Academia and the corporate world. Communication skills, especially writing and oral presentation skills have helped (though a lot of these developed over a decade or so after completion of my PhD since when I was doing my PhD in the late 80's such skills were not treated as very important for a career in academia!). A capacity of hard work and sense of dedication was also helpful in my future career.

The other main contribution was the ability to work and interact with a lot of different personalities, hailing from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. I think this was particularly so at the School of Epistemics (later renamed Centre of Cognitive Science and now a part of School of Informatics) which at the time had a very small tightly integrated group of post-grad students, research fellows and lecturers/professors. This experience laid the foundation of a very cosmopolitan outlook and one that allowed me to live and work in Italy, France, Germany, Greece and the US (and of course eventually India itself).

Other qualifications

MSc Cognitive Science (School of Epistemics), 1985