

## **ASPIRATIONS, ACCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF SUPER 30**

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India is a country of youths. According to 2011 census, 19 percent of the total population consists of young population which is expected to reach up to 34 percent by 2020. This share of youths in Indian population brings hopes and aspirations, but at the same time, it also poses a challenge before the Government. Being a country of the youths, the Government has the responsibility of providing them with what they need the most. Education has always been a major tool in transforming people into human resources. Now, the question which attracts our attention is that Is the Government's attempts enough to reach those people who are living in the remotest part of the country facing grinding poverty. Even after the Government's policy of free education till intermediate in public schools, we find a great difference between the percentage of enrolment in secondary education and tertiary education. As per the 2012 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), we find that 95 percent of rural children get enrolled in primary schools, but the percentage goes down to 40% when we take secondary education into account, the percentage of enrolment in tertiary education is more frustrating as it goes below 24%.

Now, the question arises as to what are the reasons behind students not joining colleges and universities. When we look into this problem, we find that economic conditions play a key role in such a low transfer rate to the institutes and universities dedicated to higher studies. The second major issue is the number of higher education institutes. The number is so less as compared to the number of students seeking admission that it makes admission a tedious task. What happens as a result is the growth of coaching centers who charge heavily for the tuition they provide, which promises admission in the colleges.

The Concern here is dedicated only to the admissions in IITs. IITs are premier institutes that offer engineering courses. For getting admission in these colleges, students are required to take tests like JEE MAINS and JEE ADVANCED. Here starts the business of

coaching centers which prepare students for these tests. Students belonging to rural India fail to join these centers as they can't afford to pay the heavy tuition fee there.

Super 30 is a highly progressive and ingenious educational programme that runs under the poster of Ramanujan School of Mathematics. It searches for 30 talented but economically underprivileged children and prepares them for the India's most prestigious institution- Indian Institute of Technology. In the last eighteen years, it has sent 455 students to different IITs. It filters the talents at two levels and those who qualify both these tests get a chance to be a part of it. Everything including coaching, food, and lodging are absolutely free here. Ramanujan School of Mathematics affords all its expenditure as Super 30 doesn't accept any kind of funding from any other individual, corporate or Government. The founder of this program is a renowned mathematician of Bihar, Mr. Anand Kumar. Anand Kumar's mother Mrs. Jayanti Devi, volunteers to cook for the students while Anand Kumar along with other teachers tutor the students. Anand Kumar's Brother Mr. Pranav looks after the management and funding and other requirements.

The purpose of my research is to find out vision, mission and working principles of super 30 and its relevance in current educational scenario. The main objectives behind the study are:

- ❖ To find out the Vision and Mission of Super 30.
- ❖ To find out the Working Principles of Super 30.
- ❖ To explain the importance of Super 30 in current educational scenario.

Case study method has been used to carry out this qualitative research. The two tools used are **structured interview** and **non-participant observation**. The sources of data are both primary as well as secondary. The primary data includes interview with Mr. Kumar, teachers, students and other staff members of Super 30. The secondary data includes data available on the digital platform and books on Mr. Kumar and Super 30. The study has been delimited to Super 30 of Patna owned by Mr. Anand Kumar.

### **Rationale of Study**

Super 30 is a distinctive type of institution that tutors economically deprived children without taking a penny from them. No such institution other than Super 30 is doing such a great job. There is no research work available on any aspect of it. So, the researcher is interested to work on it.

### **Collection of Data**

The researcher went to Super 30, met with the proprietor, the staff and collected the data for this study at different levels. During the data collection, all the possible aspects related to the study were taken into account.

1. **First Level-** At this level, a rapport was established by the researcher with the receptionist and the manager of the Super 30. An appointment was taken by the researcher with the help of the manager of Super 30.
2. **Second Level-** The researcher visited Super 30 coaching situated at Kumhrar in Patna and met the founder of Super 30, Mr. Anand Kumar. The date and schedule for the interview was fixed by the researcher with Mr. Kumar.
3. **Third Level-** The researcher presented himself/herself on the date of interview and took a structured interview of Mr. Kumar and his mother Mrs. Jayanti Devi at his resident at Bela, Patna.
4. **Fourth Level-** The researcher collected data from the students, teachers, and other staff members at the coaching institute.
5. **Fifth Level-** At this level, the data were collected from secondary sources i.e. books, various websites, and Youtube etc.

The data thus collected from the various sources were decoded and written in sequence. At the end, the collected data were analyzed to draw conclusions.

### **Working principles of Super30**

The success of Super 30 lies in its working style and the working principles. The working style of Super 30 is different from those of other coaching institutes. These differences are with respect to resources available, background of students, teaching methods, and the ultimate goals. These working principles are:-

- ❖ **Great Service-** Super 30 is a great service being provided to the economically underprivileged group of students who are unable to join any expensive coaching due to their economic disadvantages.
- ❖ **Empathy-** The founder of Super 30 feels the pain of economically challenged because Mr. Kumar himself has gone through all those difficult situations in his life. He never forgets his days of hardship when he had to sell papads door to door on his bicycle.
- ❖ **Respect for All-** Mr. Kumar respects all the visitors despite of their caste, race, social and economic background.

- ❖ **Family Values-** Super 30 is not only a coaching institute; it is far more than that. Its members live happily like any other families.
- ❖ **Lessons about Life-** Its students not study only Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry but the lessons about life, its challenges and probable solutions. They also learn the basic principles of life.
- ❖ **Sharing-** The coaching has very minimal resource but whatever they have they share among themselves equally. They feel a sense of pride in sharing books, knowledge etc.
- ❖ **Caring-** Each member of the institute cares for each other. They cater to the weaknesses of the others. One who is good at Physics teaches others who are not good at it and the vice-versa. They motivate one another if someone is lagging behind.
- ❖ **Modesty-** Mr. Kumar is modest and simple. He doesn't talk much about his own abilities and good qualities.
- ❖ **Soft-Spoken-** Mr. Kumar is a very sweet person. He greets everyone warmly and talks politely.
- ❖ **Ambitious-** Mr. Kumar and his students are very ambitious. They always set high goals and strive rigorously to attain that.
- ❖ **Individualistic Approach-** He knows each and every student very personally. He knows the strengths and weaknesses of everyone and teaches them accordingly.
- ❖ **Motivator-** He makes students to have faith in themselves and their own potential and abilities.
- ❖ **Raising Level of Confidence-** During the training in the institute, the most important thing that Kumar has to do is to raise the level of confidence of students because they come there with their inferiority complex.
- ❖ **Making Students Mentally Prepared-** He helps students to get rid of their inferiority complexes and makes them mentally prepared to fight for their rights.
- ❖ **Strength in Unity-** All the thirty students of the institute live together, eat together and study together under the guidance of good teachers.

- ❖ **New Plans to Motivate Students-** Mr. Kumar has always a new plan to motivate the students in some or another way. The most common example which he uses is the two characters- Ricky and Bholu. These two characters vary in their social background, living standards, and types of schooling they get but despite of these differences the character Bholu solves any problem in every possible way. His students resemble Bholu and thus he motivates them.
- ❖ **Determination-** He and his students are always ready to face any difficult situation with their great determination. They are always determined enough to achieve their goals.
- ❖ **Rigorous and Caring Guardianship of Teachers-** Mr. Kumar and the teachers of the institute are one of the factors that lead to its success over these years.
- ❖ **Humorous and Interactive Classes-** He doesn't create a stressful environment in the class but such a humorous one in which students are involved in their activities of solving the problems on their own and helping each other.
- ❖ **Imparting a Lifetime Learning in the Classroom-** He inspires students to fight and struggle to achieve their goals without being distracted by the difficulties. He instills confidence in his students that they can achieve anything no matter what the circumstances are.
- ❖ **Seeing the Problems from Various Angles-** He emphasizes to see a problem from different angles and come up with as many ways as possible to tackle the same problem. In the theory classes, he gives students examples and solves problems using different methods. Similarly, students prepare for Physics and Chemistry too.
- ❖ **Success Stories of Previous Students-** Students of Super 30 always come to learn from the success of previous students. It is a source of morale and inspiration that keep the students going.
- ❖ **Assistance to students in Every Possible Way Even After Leaving the Institute-** According to Shivangi Gupta who studied at IIT Roorkee and who was in 2012-2013 batch of Super 30, she faced initial problems regarding fee

expenses there. The Institute helped her with getting a loan from a bank for her studies by giving the guarantee required for the procedure.

### Access and Success of Super30

Super 30 is an outrage these days in the field of education among the other coaching institutes existing all over India and abroad also. In its journey of 18 years starting from 2002, it has so far sent **455** students out of **510** to different IITs. Many of them passed out from IITs to hold important positions in India as well as abroad also. According to the **Economic Times** (11 July, 2017), the successful candidates include children of taxi drivers, masons, farmers, and daily wagers and they have studied from schools which are affiliated to the Bihar School Examination Board. All the students have their own stories of sufferings, which they have overcome through great courage and hard work. On an average, 26-27 students qualify for IIT every year. In the three consecutive years **2008, 2009, 2010** and again in **2017**, all the thirty students cracked IIT, bringing the worldwide attention towards the institute. According to **Economic Times** (11 July, 2017), Super 30 had success rate of **88 percent** in 2017 with all the thirty students cracking IIT. The number of students cracking IIT every year from 2003 to 2019 has been summarized in a tabular form below:

Session	Number of Students Who Cracked IIT( Out of 30)
2002-2003	18
2003-2004	22
2004-2005	26
2005-2006	28
2006-2007	28
2007-2008	30
2008-2009	30
2009-2010	30
2010-2011	24
2011-2012	27
2012-2013	28
2013-2014	27
2014-2015	25
2015-2016	28
2016-2017	30
2017-2018	26
2018-2019	18

In these years, Super 30 has earned a lot of name and fame.

- The Japanese channel **NHK** in **2005** made the first documentary on super 30 titled “**Super 30: Hard Lessons**” acknowledging its great works. **Yoichi Itoh** dubbed it as “**Secret Weapon of India**”.
- After two years in **2007** a Japanese actress and Miss Japan, **Norika Fujiwara**, shot another documentary on Super 30. She was deeply impressed by Anand Kumar’s efforts in Patna and it was the presence of Fujiwara that alerted the Indian media towards Super 30.
- In **2009**, Discovery Channel made a documentary on Super 30, produced by **Veronica Hall** and directed by **Christopher Mitchell**.
- In **2009**, **The Hindu** commented on Anand Kumar saying that “**One is tempted to call him Midas**”.
- In **2010**, **The Time Magazine** admired Super 30 as the “**Best school of Asia**”.
- After The Time Magazine, **The Newsweek Magazine** in **2010** listed Super 30 as “**One of the four most innovative schools**” in the world.
- In **2010**, Barack Obama’s special envoy, **Rashad Hussain**, gave super 30 title “**the best institute in the country**”.
- Over the years, Super 30 has been part of several Japanese documentaries. The book “**Indo No Shougeki**”, published in **2011** by Japan’s famous publisher ‘**Bhusan**’ and written by journalists of Japanese TV channel **NHK** has a chapter exclusively on Mr. Anand Kumar’s struggle and success of his Super 30 institute. It tells the story of how Mr. Kumar is helping several talented students from underprivileged families crack the highly competitive IIT exams.
- Anand Kumar was awarded the “**Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Shiksha Puraskar**” in November, **2010**, the highest award given by the Bihar State Government in the field of education.
- In **2012**, **The People Magazine** took into account a detailed feature of the work of Mr. Kumar and listed him as “**People’s hero**”.
- Anand Kumar entered the **Limca Book of World Records** in **2009** for his contributions.
- A popular radio channel **BBC** made a comment on Super 30 “**revolutionary experiment to bring about social change**”.

- Anand Kumar was conferred with **2014 “Ramanujan Mathematics Award”** in Rajkot on 27 January 2014. The award was given to him at the 8<sup>th</sup> National Mathematics Convention organized in Rajkot.
- In **2015**, the French director **Pascal Plisson** made the film **“The Big Day”** that comprised four special stories from across the globe. One of them was the story of one of the students of Super 30 Nidhi Jha who cracked IIT in 2014 and was studying at ISM, Dhanbad.
- In **2015**, Anand Kumar had been invited to the **German State of Saxony** where he was honoured by **Eva-Maria Stange**, Minister of State for higher education and research, for his commendable work.
- In **2015**, two students of Super 30 were selected by the **University of Tokyo** for higher education with full scholarship.
- In **2018**, Anand Kumar was honoured with the **Global Education Award 2018** by Malabar Gold and Diamond in Dubai.
- Anand Kumar had been felicitated in US with the prestigious teaching award **“Education Excellence Award”** by Foundation for Excellence (FFE) in 2019 for his contributions towards imparting education to the country’s needy students.
- A film was made on Super 30 directed by **Vikash Bahl** in **2019**.
- Anand Kumar joined the illustrious list of Indian personalities most-searched on Internet giant Google in 2019.
- **Kailash Satyarthi**, Nobel Peace Laureate and founder of Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation commented on Super 30- **“Anand Kumar’s Super 30 students are great inspiration for the youth of today. They are an ingenious manifestation of what a passionate investment can yield.”**
- **Prakash Jha**, film-maker and screen-writer said **“handicapped by his modest background, this brilliant mathematician Anand turned his failure to gain higher into an inspirational success story by making sure that hundreds of students from impoverished and backward societies didn’t suffer the same fate! Super 30 empowers them to believe they can!”**



## Conclusion

The study comes to the conclusion that Super 30 works with a vision of expanding the reach of IIT coaching to those who can't afford expensive coaching institutes to prepare for IITs. It looks for students who hail from economically lower sections of the society with a view to giving them the opportunities which they could have otherwise missed because of their financial situations. Super 30 advocates that every student has a right to equal opportunities to study in IITs and it has prepared its mission accordingly. It runs with working principles which include family values, life-lessons, sharing and caring etc. Students, teachers and other staff members work tirelessly to execute their mission and vision. The success rate of Super 30 and the fame it enjoys speak its reach among the masses. Its vision, mission and working principle is a success mantra and a slap on the faces of those coaching institutes which charge heavily for coaching students. Super 30 and its vision have proved that with right intent, dedication, and will to serve the society can do wonders.

Today, when private schools, colleges and coaching institutes who have made education a business which only the rich can afford, Super 30 is a ray of hope for all those who could have otherwise lost the patience of continuing their studies because of grinding poverty. In times, when we have news of fee hike protests coming across the country, Super 30 sets an example that if the institute wishes; they can provide education to all just by charging minimum fee. Government and other independent bodies should ponder over the issues related to unavailability of equal opportunities to all and they should come up with ideas like Super 30 because after all what we are taught in our school: “शिक्षार्थ आइए सेवार्थ जाइए”.

Super 30 is a service to mankind. It teaches us a lesson that the aim of life should not be only to earn money but also to provide service to the society. Many more people or community should come forward with these ideas.

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## APPENDICES

### Interview with Mr. Anand Kumar

**1 सुपर 30 की शुरुआत करने के पीछे क्या vision था, इसे पूरा करने के लिए आपने क्या रणनीति अपनायी?**

सुपर 30 की शुरुआत हमलोगों को आईडिया 2000 में आया जिसकी शुरुआत 2002 में की और इसके पीछे का कारण था कि पैसे का आभाव में हम केंब्रिज नहीं जा पाए तो दर्द हमको हमेशा सताता था कि भाई कैसे बच्चे हैं जो नहीं जा पा रहे हैं, उनके लिए कुछ करना चाहिए। इस लिहाज से हमने सोचा कि चलो भाई ऐसे बच्चों के लिए कुछ किया जाये जिनके पास कुछ भी नहीं है। तब इस प्रकार सुपर 30 की शुरुआत की।

**2 अपनी स्ट्रगल स्टोरी बताइये?**

बहुत बड़ा स्ट्रगल था। कई कोचिंग माफियाओं ने तंग किया। शुरूआती दौर में तीस बच्चों को खिलाना-पिलाना एक बड़ी संकट की बात थी।

क्योंकि पैसा तो किसी से हम आज भी नहीं लेते हैं-न सरकार से, न किसी गैर सरकारी संस्था से। फिर माफियाओं ने बहुत रोकने का प्रयास किया, हमला किया, बहुत कुछ किया। आज कल भी फिल्म रिलीज़ होने के बाद, इतनी प्रतिष्ठा मिलने के बाद भी कई लोग बदनाम करने के लिए कोर्ट केस कर देते

हैं, खबरें फैलवा देते हैं लेकिन जैसे ही कोर्ट हम जाते हैं अपना बयान देने के लिए, तो वोलोग केस को वापस ले लेते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में बदनामी तो होती है, तो इस तरह का चैलेंज है। हमारा निष्कर्ष है कि क्यों न एजुकेशन के ही हो, बच्चे अगर आप अच्छे से काम करियेगा, बावजूद इसके समस्याएं जीवन में आती ही रहती हैं।

### 3. सुपर 30 कैसे काम करती है?

सुपर 30 में हमलोग 30 बच्चों को सेलेक्ट करते हैं जिसमें हमारी माताजी खाना बनाती है, मेरा भाई प्रणव कुमार बच्चों की देखरेख करता है और हम मैथमेटिक्स पढ़ाते हैं। इसके अलावे 2-3 टीचर्स हैं जो केमिस्ट्री और फिजिक्स पढ़ाते हैं।

### 4. उन टीचर्स के नाम क्या है?

टोटल 4-5 लोग हैं। 2-3 लोग हैं जो बदलते रहते हैं। इसके अलावे रहमान सर हैं जो हमलोगों की मदद मैनेजमेंट में करते हैं।

### 5 आपलोगों के पढ़ाने का तरीका अन्य कोचिंग संस्थानों से किस प्रकार अलग है?

हमलोग पढ़ाने के दरम्यान रिक्की और भोलू की दो कहानी सुनाते हैं जिसमें दिखते हैं कि रिक्की के पास तमाम सुविधाएँ हैं, भोलू स्ट्रगल करके आगे बढ़ता है लेकिन जब एक सवाल बनाने कि बात आती है तो सबसे पहले रिक्की बनाता है और भोलू का मज़ाक बनता है कि तुम कहाँ बना पा रहे हो तो उसी सवाल को जो भोलू है कई तरीको से बनाता है और उसके बाद पूछता है कि बताओ हीरो तुम हो या मैं? पढ़ाई पैसों से होती है, पढ़ाई इक्षाशक्ति से होती है या पढ़ाई मेहनत से होती है?

### 6 रिक्की और भोलू की कहानी का कॉन्सेप्ट आपके दिमाग में कैसे आया?

एक दिन जब हम पढ़ा रहे थे तो कुछ बच्चें थे जिनको पढ़ाई समझ में नहीं आ पा रही थी ठीक से। गांव- देहात से बच्चें थे तो वो लोग जा रहे थे वापस कि नहीं सर, हम नहीं पढ़ पाएंगे। कहाँ आज के तारीख में अमीर लोगों के लिए फाइव स्टार होटलों जैसे स्कूल हैं और कहा ये है हमारे लिए। ऐसी हालात में कुछ भी नहीं कर पाएंगे। प्लीज सर, हम वापस जा रहे, तब हमको लगा कि ये बेचारा भोला भाला बच्चा भोलू है और वो रिक्की है। ऐसे ही करते आईडिया आया।

### 7 आप लड़के एवम लड़कियों का चयन एक निश्चित अनुपात में करते हैं या मेधा के आधार पर?

नहीं-नहीं, डिपेंड करता है। लेकिन हमारे देश में आज भी दुर्भाग्य कि बात है कि बच्चियों को कम मौका दिया जाता है। अगर कोई बच्ची पढ़ती भी है तो टीचर और डॉक्टर बनाया जाता है, इंजीनियरिंग में बच्चियां कम आ रही हैं, इसलिए 2-3 बच्चियां ही हर साल रहती हैं। कभी-कभी कोई

साल बच्ची रहती भी नहीं है लेकिन आने वाले भविष्य में बच्चों कि संख्या बढे इसके लिए हम जरूर प्रयास करेंगे।

**8 लड़कियों के लिए रहने की क्या व्यवस्था है, क्या लड़के एवम लड़कियां एक साथ रहते हैं?**

लड़कियां हमारे माताजी के साथ रहती हैं, चाहे शिवांगी गुप्ता हो, निधि झा हो, नीति मिश्रा हो। कई सारी बच्चियां हैं जो रही हैं। लड़के एवम लड़कियों कि रहने कि व्यवस्था अलग-अलग है।

**9 आप क्लास टेस्ट किस तरह organise करते हैं और यह कितने अंतराल पर होता है?**

हमलोग रेगुलर प्रैक्टिस टेस्ट औसतन weekly करते हैं लेकिन हमलोग क्लास generally 8 बजे से 1 बजे तक रखते हैं और week में हमलोग 5 दिन पढ़ाते हैं। हमलोग रामानुजन स्कूल शाम को चलाते हैं। वहाँ से जो आमदनी होती है उसी से हमारे परिवार का और तीसों बच्चों का खर्चा चलता है। जब एग्जाम नजदीक आता है तो alternate day टेस्ट लेते हैं।

**10 क्या आपके यहां remedial क्लास की व्यवस्था है?**

आने वाले भविष्य में कई सेमिनार और कैंप के जरिये इन चीजों को करेंगे।

**11 बच्चों का ध्यान पढाई से न भटके, इसके लिए आपने क्या प्रयास किया?**

बच्चों में इतना मोटिवेशन होता है, उनके पास एक ही मात्र उद्देश्य होता है कि गरीबी से ये कष्टभरी जिंदगी से निकलने का एक ही रास्ता है और वो है एजुकेशन। तो बच्चे एजुकेशन के लिए समर्पित रहते हैं, पूरी ताकत लगाए रहते हैं। यही कारन है कि वो बहुत focussed रहते हैं।

**12 सुपर 30 एक family की तरह है, ऐसे cooperative वातावरण को आपने कैसे create किया?**

धीरे-धीरे बच्चों में प्रेम बन गया। शुरूआती दौर में ऐसा होता है लेकिन सब एक दूसरे कि मदद करते हैं। खाना घटने पर एक दूसरे को देता है। तो ये धीरे-धीरे रहते-रहते प्रेम बन जाता है।

**13. कई बच्चों को इंग्लिश न जानने की वजह से IIT छोड़नी पड़ रही है, इस दिशा में प्रयास करने के बारे में आपने क्या सोचा है?**

हमारे बच्चे भले ही इंग्लिश में उतने मजबूत नहीं होते पर IIT में जा के, अच्छे जगह पे अच्छे से सीख लेते हैं। आज हमारे बच्चे चाहे चिरंजीव हो, अभिषेक हो, शशि नारायण हो जो कि अमेरिका, इंग्लैंड में पढता है।

**14. आप अपने बाद सुपर 30 कि जिम्मेदारी किसे देंगे?**

अभी आने वाले भविष्य को बताना बड़ा मुश्किल है लेकिन जब तक हम हैं अभी आने वाले भविष्य में इसको और बड़ा करेंगे। एक बड़ा स्कूल का रूप देंगे।

**15. अगर आपको शिक्षा में सुधार का जिम्मा सौपा जाये तो कौन से बड़े बदलाव करने का प्रयास करेंगे?**

सरकारी स्कूल जो चल रहा है, उसको काफी दुरुस्त करेंगे। उसमें टीचर्स की क्वालिटी को बढ़ाएंगे और जो बड़े-बड़े महंगे प्राइवेट स्कूल हैं उसके मुकाबले सरकारी स्कूल आकर खड़े हो सकें, इसका प्रयास करेंगे।