
How Indian bureaucracy repels academics

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Ever wondered why good academics are so hard to find in India ? How is it that they all thrive and succeed so well overseas ? Why did people like Manjul Bhargava, Venki Ramakrishna, Hargobind Khurana or (the list is infinitely long) “betray” this great country ? Was it just for money, or is there a deeper curse which keeps these gems away ? Has anything improved since the days of Srinivasa Ramanujan [1] ? There is only one correct answer – a sad NO. Here is an example of a so-called institute of national importance.

The website [2] of this institution imposes certain delarations which a potential academic has to make and swear upon, if he/she wants to teach in this institution (GOD forbid). The details required would remind one of an interrogation in a prison in a war-torn country. You will find it easier to make declarations at the customs gate of an airport in a country ruled by a military/religious dictator. You dont believe me ? Read the web page of this great institution:

Here are a few extracts from the 22-page document :

[http://www.iith.ac.in/images/images/dofa/DECLARATION FORMS FACULTY 19sep16.pdf](http://www.iith.ac.in/images/images/dofa/DECLARATION%20FORMS%20FACULTY%2019sep16.pdf)

For a moment, let us overlook the typos and liguistic flaws in their website. Do not ask how all this is relevant for confirming the intellectual or academic qualities of the prospective teacher. There is plenty of comic material to enjoy in this document.

1. Of course, every employer has to check the criminal background of every prospective employee. Remember, even if you just want to join an educational/academic institution, and not the KGB, CIA, or NSA., you must answer all these questions:
 - (a) Have you ever been arrested?
 - (b) Have you ever been prosecuted?

- (c) Have you ever been kept under detention?
- (d) Have you ever been fined by a Court of Law?
- (e) Have you ever been bound down?
- (f) Have you ever been convicted by a court of Law for any offence?
- (g) Have you ever been debarred from any exam by any Public Service Commission from appearing at its exam/selection?
- (h) Have you ever been debarred from any exam or rusticated by any university or any other educational authority/ institution?
- (i) Is any case pending against you in any court of law at the time of filling or this attestation form?
- (j) Is any case pending against you in any university or any other educational authority/ institution at the time of filling up this attestation form?
- (k) If the answer to any of the above mentioned question is Yes, give full particulars of the case/detention/ fine/ conviction/ sentence/ punishment etc.

All the above information is in addition to character certificates you must attach along with your application. You have to also provide names and addresses of three respectable references. We take no chances !

2. The institution has the right to extend this probe into some more ridiculous and hilarious details about its future teachers. You will have to declare that:
 - That I am married and have more than one spouse living. Application for grant of exemption is enclosed.
 - That I am a married and that during the life time of my spouse, have contracted another marriage. Application for grant of exemption is enclosed.
 - That I am married and my husband/wife does not have other living spouse to the best of my knowledge.
 - That I have contracted a marriage with a person who has already one wife or more living. Application for grant of exemption is enclosed.
3. Remember that since you are joining a top-secret military operation of strategic importance to the nation, you must declare the following:

I do solemnly affirm/do swear in the name of God that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person or persons any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall become known to me as Official of xxxxx. Notice the “swear in the name of God” and the unconditional embargo implied by “any person” “any matter” .

4. Of course, the employer must know about all details about all the immovable property you own. There is a detailed proforma for giving this crucial information.
5. You must also provide an inventory of all the movable property you own and all your possessions :
 - Jewelry (Gold/Silver/ Diamond/ Precious/ Semi precious stones etc). (Don't get carried away by the original spelling of some words here)
 - Motor Vehicles (Scooter, Motor Cycle, Car etc.,)
 - Home Appliances (Air Conditioner, Refrigerator, Washing Machines, Music Systems, RO Systems, Television etc)
 - Electronic Equipments (Computer/ Laptops etc)
 - Furniture (remember to add details about all the carpets, curtains and doormats you own)
 - Agricultural implements (Tractors/ Motor Pumps/ Drip irrigation systems etc)

You are free to add details of all other property you own e.g. brooms, mops, tooth brushes, ball pens, shoes, mobile phones, domestic appliances like mixies, blenders, coffee machines, pressure cookers etc. Any lapse in this regard will be treated as willful suppression of facts.

6. Your financial health is most important for us to know. We must know absolutely :
 - Statement Of Liquid Assets as on 31ST March xxxx
 - Cash in hand (or in your pocket or wallet or purse)
 - Cash with Bank (Current/ saving account only)
 - Deposits (Time Deposits/ NSCs etc.)
 - Loans and Advances
 - Investments (Shares/ bonds/debentures/ Mutual funds/ ULIPs/LIC Policy etc)

- Debts and Other Liabilities For The Year Ending on 31ST March
xxxxxx
- Statement of Provident Fund and Life Insurance Policy on First Appointment

There is of course, the mandatory medical examination, where we will strip you down and check up if everything is okay with you.

You are most welcome to join this brilliant institution, if you have no respect for personal privacy, or if you don't have any objection to such close scrutiny. Do not ask what happens to all the data you give. Is there any guarantee for its protection from prying eyes ? What kind of reciprocal assurances does the institution give you explicitly ?

This is just the beginning, the harassment and humiliation will not end with the ridiculous interrogation described above. Having a thick skin is certainly an advantage.

After all this, we still wonder why did people like Manjul Bhargava, Venki Ramakrishna, Hargobind Khurana or (the list is infinitely long) "betray" this great country !

GOD save and bless the wannabe academics of this country. Amen.

References

- [1] Why is Ramanujan still jobless ?
- [2] IITH,
[http://www.iith.ac.in/images/images/dofa/DECLARATION FORMS FACULTY 19sep16.pdf](http://www.iith.ac.in/images/images/dofa/DECLARATION%20FORMS%20FACULTY%2019sep16.pdf)
