

# A Landmark Letter

22nd December 1990

To  
Mrs Kalyani Gandhi,  
PGP Co ordinator,  
I.I.M., Bangalore.

Dear Mrs. Gandhi,

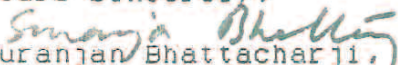
Mr. Vaidyanathan, your student, is a patient of mine and I am writing these few lines to assure you that I am certain that he will not only be able to complete the management course for which he is enrolled and be a tremendous example and inspiration to his classmates but will make a significant contribution to the development and well being of society. I have been impressed by the concern shown by his classmates - I hope this will continue and will help towards Mr. Vaidyanathan's restoration.

I am confident that you are already familiar with his capabilities. It is possible that you are also aware that wheel-chair bound people lead normal lives in the "developed" world. In our country, however, this is uncommon and the disabled often have to battle against many necessary handicaps in society. Nevertheless I am certain that an outstanding and enlightened institution like the IIM, Bangalore will take on the challenge of being the first institution where such people with special needs are not only encouraged, but the physical environment is modified to remove the architectural barriers that would limit the mobility of a wheel-chair bound student. This would encourage other institutions to follow suit and help to nudge Indian society towards a more humane and caring future. As far as Mr. Vaidyanathan is concerned, he is now independent from his wheel chair. He is learning to walk with calipers and crutches but before he can be totally independent with these, it will take a few more weeks. As he is keen to rejoin his course, I have agreed to discharge him in the middle of January, 1991. He will need to come to us during his vacation to continue to work on his walking technique.

I look forward to a continuing interaction with you as we work towards restoring Mr. Vaidyanathan and others like him, to achieve their fullest and highest potential.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

  
Suranjan Bhattacharji,

Head,

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,  
C.M.C. and Hospital,  
Vellore - 632 004.

The 1990 letter of Dr Suranjan Bhattacharji of CMC, Vellore, makes the case for IIM Bangalore's first physically challenged alumnus.