

Courtesy: Google Images



Barber Shop in Bandra?

Finding a hair salon in Bandra is like finding a grocery store. With a little over 30 hair salons in every nook and cranny of this hip suburb, you may have a variety of hair stylists to choose from. But ever wondered how easy it would be to open up your own salon in this side of town?

Darshan Yewalekar is 22 and is already five years into this profession. Today, he has built up the courage to open up his very own hair studio called Darshan 'N' Huda in Bandra that is due to launch around 12th or 15th of this month! But while he's anxious about the opening, he shares a few tricks of this trade for all those who dream to open their own salon in Bandra someday.

Location! Location!

Location is most crucial for a hair salon in Bandra. You cannot afford

to open up a shop in the interiors in a quite by-lane or next to a grocery store. It may burn a huge hole in your pocket but a prominent location for your salon will be your instant ticket to attract crowd.

Experience is the Key!

You have to be a good hair stylist first, before you decide to open up a salon in your name. Bandra is a crowded market of hair stylists, so you have built up a name enough to open a salon in your name.

Set Shop Stylishly

It ain't a barber shop from the 70s anymore where people just come, cut their hair and go. Today, going to a hair salon is all about the experience. The interiors of the salon should be stylishly decorated. Use of funky, vibrant colours and catchy themes will reflect your personality and also set the mood for the client of what can be expected. But with that said, don't just stuff the place up with high tech gizmos or random things that are of no use.

Service is your Command

Hair Styling is one thing and running a hair salon is another. Hire stylists who will help your client in what they are looking for. Clients don't want a dumb stylist who will just stand there and do what they ask them to. Moreover, a successful salon is defined by the service you provide to your clients. Be it a one-chair salon or a 15 chair salon, if you don't provide good service to your clients, they'll never visit you ever again.

Word-of-Mouth is the way to go!

There is nothing better than word-of-mouth to promote local hair salons. Be it a celebrity or a regular client, if one loves your haircut, he/she will recommend your place to 10 others, and those 10 others will recommend to 100 others. So cash in on that!

Pricing

On an average, the chief hair stylists in Bandra charge anything from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1,500 for a haircut. So if you are someone with reasonable experience, you can start with that price range. Popular hair salons do go as high as charging Rs. 2,500 per hair cut.

All said and done, Darshan maintains that nothing substitutes hard-work. So if you are determined and focussed on your work, success will indeed walk through the doors.

DISHA GADHIYA

disha.gadhiya@gmail.com

Percentile - To be or not to be?



With the State government cancelling the percentile system for tenth standard students, Tanvi Malhotra interacts with few of them and gets their reaction

The Maharashtra Government's percentile system which was introduced for one year has been scrapped. The percentile system was introduced keeping the SSC students in mind as they were completely ignored by the CBSE and ICSE students despite working hard to secure good marks.

But what has happened now is that the High Court has overruled the decision of having percentile. "After implementing the percentile system for one year, now the admissions for first year junior college will be same like before," says Vinay Dubey, First year student at Nationals College, Khar. "When a new rule is implemented in education system, a thorough survey of its success needs to be done. In this case it was not done and so it failed," he adds further.

Not just Vinay but many other SSC students feel the same. "Firstly, giving preference to SSC students above CBSE and ISCE is unfair. In spite of following it, many students failed to secure seats and ended up taking admissions in junior colleges," says Nirali Oza, SNTD college student. The future of these students lies in the hands of our government and they are confused over their decision.

But when percentile system was introduced, many students and parents were happy. "Checking is always strict when it comes to SSC students. So 4% increase in existing score was a kind of relief for my child as she scored 71%," says Aarti Mehta, whose daughter appeared in SSC in 2008. "A jump from 84 to 88% was very important to me as I could make to NM College in the third list," says Kaajal Shah.

"Had percentile not been there, than me getting admission even in the fifth list was doubtful," she adds further.

On one side if the percentile was allowing SSC students to be at par with students from other board, it compelled the colleges to reduce the cut-off's per list. "There was a time when in spite of scoring between 80-85% one had chances of securing a seat for science in Mithibhai. But this time the scene had changed," says Hiren Sharma, who scored 83% after adding percentile.

Many students like Hiren failed to get in good colleges in spite of scoring high percentages. Who is to be held responsible for this? The college authorities or the government? "Neither of them can be blamed. The government tried best to make sure each student secures a seat and so did colleges," says Ashok Shah, father of Kaajal Shah.

However, today with the abolition of percentile will admissions be back to the same? "You can't really say now. It depends on how the exams go and how many clear with flying marks," says Rucha Verma, who will be appearing for SSC next year. In a way Rucha feels that eradication of percentile is good as "All will be equal status and plus you are getting admission on your merit." What will happen in future no one can say, but one thing is for sure that playing around with the future of kids is something which is not expected from our education system!

tanvi.r.malhotra@gmail.com