Getting into PhD programme

- Possible driving forces of a PhD student-

  1. Requirement of career or current job.
  2. One has time when there is nothing else to do.
  3. Urge to acquire deep insight into a topic.
  4. Learn how to do research.

- Though a student is likely to state point 3 above as his/her motivation, there are many cases where points 1 or 2 are the truth.
- Actually for a successful PhD work, *all the above motivations are highly desirable.*

PhD thesis vs BTech/MCA thesis vs MTech thesis-

- Usual scenario about the problem and outcome of dissertation work of BTech/MCA, MTech and PhD-

	Problem	Solution
B Tech / MCA	Known	Known
M Tech	Known	Unknown
PhD	**Unknown**	**Unknown**

- PhD thesis should contain novel and original work.
- The novelty and originality is established through publication in good forums.

The supervisor and the research group-

- PhD work is the student's individual work. Though s/he may be working in a group, s/he gets credit for his part of the work.
- The role of the supervisor in a PhD work is usually restricted, since the problem is new/open to the supervisor as well.
- The supervisor's inputs in connection with many issues will be of a general nature. S/he will provide guidance related to the course (path) to be taken.
- When a PhD work is started, the core research questions are "open", even to the supervisor. The supervisor may provide good answers to several questions that the student puts, out of his experience and expertise. However, questions to which the supervisor provides specific answers are not part of the core research problem that the student works on. These answers may help in the research exercise, but *they are not the final outcome of the research.*