

# “Getting to be an Independent Director is as difficult as getting through IIT and IIM!!”

Sounds wrong? No watch this [video!](#)



Weekly Learnings 46 / 2024

I did this Ted style talk three weeks ago at the exclusive SHRM Executive Network forum of 200 senior leaders.

1. India has 5200 listed companies and 62,000 unlisted companies. The average board size for listed companies is 6 and a third by law must be independent directors. Each unlisted company needs two independent directors. That's a total of 1,34,400 unique slots. See the video to see how many IIT + IIM seats there are per year.
2. 31,200 people have passed the necessary board certification exam. That does not guarantee an Independent director role. Its just an exam.
3. Every company be it an MNC, PE run firm , family run firm that has a majority shareholding above 50 pc needs a board for the rules, this majority has the temptation to use the board as a post facto body.
4. What are the challenges of being an independent director? How does one do the best that one can?
5. How does one improve the odds of getting to be an independent director?

If you are a board member or wanting to be one, do watch this 14 minute 16 seconds video.

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