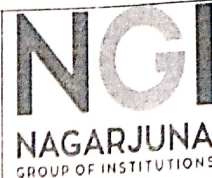




Nagarjuna College of Engineering & Technology
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Mudugurki, Venkatagiri Kote Post, Devanahalli, Bengaluru 562164
Department of MBA



Activity Report

Date of Event: 24th September 2022.

Activity: Online Learning Session on "Career and Leadership Development"

Details of the Resource Person: Ms. Deepa Parthasarathy, Director-Technology at Target

Event Details:

On career, Carlton Fisk had said "It is not what you achieve, it is what you overcome. That's what defines your career". At the same time, on leadership, the famed South African freedom fighter and statesman Nelson Mandela predicted "The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow". Keeping these two dynamic concepts and their union in mind, the Department of MBA, NCET along with the Bangalore based organization "Disciples India" organized an online learning session for its second semester students on the topic "Career and Leadership Development".

Disciples India sees to fill the gaps in students pertaining to attitudes, skills and knowledge keeping in mind the provisions of the NEP 2020. It was the good fortune of students that Ms. Deepa Parthasarathy obliged to address them on the above mentioned topic. To give a brief of Ms. Deepa, she is an alumna of the famed RV College of Engineering (RVCE), Bangalore and the Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. Close to a decade and half, she was with CISCO followed by Epsilon. In her current assignment at Target Corporation, she is designated as director-Technology and is instrumental in providing a hybrid work environment to over 3,50,000 people scattered across the seven seas!

Dr. Lokesh from the Department of MBA introduced Ms. Deepa to the audience once the organizers had ran through a video presentation of Disciples India. Ms. Deepa began the talk by telling the audience that she would dwell on her own "stories" so that the audience could relate to the concept. She compared the experiences she has been encountering to "sprints" in a marathon and how she had to face life in distant Canada immediately after marriage and subsequent emigration after her Bachelors in Engineering. She had to face extreme weather conditions and knew hardly anyone except her husband! While searching for jobs, she used her elevator pitch and never let fear or inhibition to get to her. These two, she said if one lost it, would see loose the battle initially! She brought about the transition that happened when she enrolled for a Master's programme and how she was in Manhattan for an interview when the dreaded 9/11 took place. All these incidents have shaped her personality and brought about various insights that she has inculcated in her life. While she landed her first job, she went to narrate how she was faced with the challenges of axing 50 middle aged and physically fit men with technology. That is when she highlighted the role of conscience in the job.

Ms. Deepa seamlessly wove the next set of stories by making the audience understand how she was able to set up and manage IT infrastructure especially when not many women have been able to do it. She credited her Indian background apart from the foreign exposure for it. In her next stint at CISCO, she was given the title of "Queen of Networking" as she was able to successfully run a US \$46 billion enterprise as a part of her "coveted responsibility". For this, she ensured building of teams, leadership and human capital. She drew reference to a Tech Mahindra report that said that an alarming 87% of students still being unemployed. To lessen this, from her end, Ms. Deepa said that she has involved in Internet of Things (IOT), setting up of Centre of Excellence, bridging gaps through Campus to Corporate programmes and developing course materials (which she does for RVCE). She has also embarked on a programme to relaunch people into the workforce as it was necessary to be in the "business of people" by using soft skills along with team spirit and being a team player.

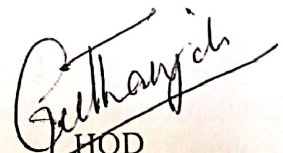
Participants posed questions via the chat box. The question-answer session was...

Muthu Kumar, from Disciple India. With composure, poise and wisdom, Ms. Deepa answered the questions by relating to suitable examples. She said that one never had to loose confidence even if one hailed from a small town or underprivileged background and called upon the need to identify 'mentor/s'. She recommended that everyone read Dr. Patrick Spencer Johnson's best seller "Who Moved my Cheese?" and take that "leap of faith". She stressed that students should know both what they are good at as well as what to be good at and that they should focus on strengths to overcome their weaknesses. Since the future of work seems to be marching towards the hybrid mode, she brought the need for Work Life Balance and that the corporate that one worked in was to be treated akin to one's family. For this, she reiterated that the employee one worked for was to be given the top most priority and she has never "chased" jobs or titles and instead "chased" experiences and exposures. Highlighting the need for good communication, she confessed how she is a polyglot having being a part of the Kendriya Vidyalaya due to frequent transfers of her father. Towards the end, she felt that if changes had to be brought about, it had to be in the form of skill based initiatives, bringing about collaboration and influencing to develop people, ensuring gender diversity and 'choosing to be managed'. The session came to an end at 7.00 PM when Dr. Geethanjali, HOD- Department of MBA delivered the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Deepa and all those present for this unique online learning session.

Youtube Link: https://youtu.be/_TPubOAK9Xs



Prepared By
Prof Chinmaya Prakash



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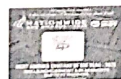


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 AN ISO 9001 : 2015 CERTIFIED ORGANIZATION
 IN ASSOCIATION WITH
NAGARJUNA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
 DEPARTMENT OF MBA, DEVANAHALLI, BENGALURU- 562164

98TH LEARNING SESSION
24 SEPTEMBER 2022 FROM 5:30PM TO 7:00PM



TOPIC:
CAREER AND LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



GUEST SPEAKER: DEEPA PARTHASARATHY
DIRECTOR - TECHNOLOGY AT TARGET

Deepa comes with over 20 years of experience in directing multiple facets of IT, Services and Product development. She leads Global IT Collaboration, HiTech and IT Site Services for Target. Prior to that has worked with Epsilon leading Digital Experience portfolio and spent 14 years with Cisco with their Infrastructure and Customer Experience organizations. Deepa graduated from R V College of Engineering with an undergrad in Instrumentation and Electronics Engineering and has a Business degree from Canada.

ZOOM MEETING ID:
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PASSWORD: 98



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ANYBODY INTERESTED TO LEARN CAN PARTICIPATE.

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