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## SUMMER WORKSHOP 2019

This much-awaited gathering of around eighty scholars and mentors from across the country was typically fraught with all kinds of nerves as the logistics were carefully planned and organised. Fortunately, it was yet another resounding success with old friends joyfully meeting up and new relationships forged overnight. Ansal University kindly provided us with accommodation for the scholars and some of our venues this year, as did WeWork in Gurugram.

The theme of this year's workshop was '**Success - From Dream to Reality**'

*Chapter one - Different definitions of success.*

In her opening address, Reeva Misra, Executive Director Vahani Scholarships, talked about the traditional definitions of success related to power and money, and how that may have changed with time to become more about finding a meaning and purpose in life and making a difference. The scholars wrote what success meant to them on post-its which were referred to at the end of the workshop when scholars talked for a minute each on their definition of success, examining if that had changed by the end of the three-day workshop. It was not surprising to see how many had absorbed the values and advice given by this year's array of speakers.

*Chapter two - Inspirational Journeys.*

The different panels led to a series of thought-provoking discussions on the meaning of success as speakers shared their life stories, all of which were



• 2019 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

honest and inspiring. Scholars were encouraged to believe that there is nothing hard work and perseverance could not help achieve. Each session revealed a different path to success.

On day one we enjoyed a dynamic discussion on 'Shaking up Industry Norms' with an exciting group of self-starters - Ashish Kashyap, Founder INDWealth, Ankit Nagori, Founder CureFit, and Ananth Narayanan, ex-

CEO Myntra, moderated by Rajeev Misra, CEO Softbank Vision Fund. This was followed by a profoundly moving and interactive panel with authors Shilpa Raj ('The Elephant Chaser's Daughter') and Varsha Adusmilli ('Wonder Girls'). They shared important anecdotes from their books and spoke on 'Inspiring Change through Self-Empowerment'. The session was moderated by Mariya Ansari, Program Manager, Vahani.

Day two began with Karan Virvani, CEO at WeWork who took us around the office for a tour before sharing his incredible personal journey. Later that afternoon, we had a stimulating panel discussion with Mona Gandhi, Founder of Upraised, and Suchita Salwan, Founder of LLB, moderated by Shalini Misra, internationally recognised Interior Architect and Designer on 'Redefining the Path to Success'. The third and the final day of the workshop began with a Professional Development Session where we invited young speakers Dhruv Goyal and Hannah Patnaik to share their journeys and experiences of career choices in different countries and fields. The last panel was a conversation with Richard Rekhy, former Chairman KPMG, Lizzie Chapman, Founder ZestMoney, and Gautam Mago, Founder A91 Partners, on 'Becoming the Author of your Life', which was moderated by Aniket Dey of WeWork Labs.



### Chapter three - Moving around !

Conscious that energetic young people will not want to sit around listening all day long, a range of activities had also been planned to transport everyone to various dinners, sporting activities and personal development workshops. On day one, dinner was hosted





at The Quorum, Gurugram, where the scholars got an opportunity to interact with all the speakers in an informal, relaxed setting and finally danced the night away to their favourite songs. Day two provided a completely new set of experiences as we were hosted at WeWork India in Gurugram. The air of energy and positivity was evident from the moment we entered the building and excitement was high throughout the day (aided by aromas from the Chai counter, the delights of the games room and gifts at the end of the workshop). The activity at the close of the day was at Trampoline Park, where the group leapt and jumped together, a completely new and exhausting bonding experience.

A bittersweet note was struck when we hosted our first Graduation Dinner at Olive Mehrauli, where the first batch of graduating scholars narrated tales from their college years, now at an end. Stories were exchanged over hot pizzas, exotic mocktails and overindulgent desserts. It is a proud yet nostalgic moment for the whole family as our first few scholars take flight, moving onto jobs, fellowships and further education.

#### *Chapter four - Self-love and Gratitude*

The crux of the workshops every time the family comes together is reaching out and identifying ways to take care of each other. However, self-love forms the foundation of one's single, most important relationship. Without the strength of that foundation, it remains impossible to form other relationships. To love oneself is not just about boosting self-esteem but getting rid of



negative emotions and learning to give yourself a pat on the back. On day two the Yoga and Self-Love session led by Dr Bhavna Barmi, Dr Piyush Jain and Reeva Misra, revitalized everyone present in the room and reduced many of us to tears. The session inspired us to be willing to receive as much as you are willing to give. It was a reminder to be kind to oneself, looking after mind, body and spirit. The session that followed added to this message by addressing the issue of developing confidence and finding a voice. Mentor and tutor Jaishree Misra ran this session of 'English Role Plays' with help from Poonam Patnaik, international school teacher, where teams of scholars created their own (sometimes very humorous) skits in English in which every single scholar had a speaking part. It was clear, as everyone roared with laughter, that there is no better way to bond than by laughing alongside each other.



## Chapter Five – Making Friends !

Each year a new batch of scholars joins the family. This year's newly-selected batch of 2019 surprised everyone with their confidence and curiosity. The senior scholars diligently helped the new arrivals make the most of the experience, creating an environment of growth and care. The workshop ended with an emotional closing ceremony as we said goodbye to the graduating students. Then, surprising us all, the new scholars expressed their gratitude and excitement at joining the Vahani Family with a delightful and touching performance. They must have been practicing their moves at midnight!



## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

This year our newly selected 2019 Scholars went through the pressure cooker of college admissions. The month of May till end of July can be a harrowing time for school leavers and the pressure is more intense in the case of students whose scholarships also depend on their admission to top institutes via competitive entrance exams. In the current batch some had sufficient marks to get into DUs top five colleges like Miranda House and Hansraj. Two scholars made it to NIT and DTU and one scholar to Government Law College in Mumbai.



## WHAT'S NEW?



ONLINE  
APPLICATION FORM



FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS - ON WEBSITE



CREATIVE WORKSHOPS  
AND MEETS

Prashant Kumar, a gap year scholar, cleared NEET and took admission in Maulana Azaad Medical College, New Delhi. All the scholars had worked hard and proved their mettle by getting admission to various well known universities. In Vahani the biggest concern we face as mentors is helping scholars choose the right career path and identifying the best option for their future. Amidst the confusion of multiple entrance exams and faced with a growing variety of undergraduate programs, students are understandably confused. With this in mind, each



new scholarship-holder is guided with a tailor-made college and course suggestion list, with all the important dates and eligibility criteria included. The scholars also take an aptitude test which helps them choose the correct discipline in college. Our handbook, which is updated every year, offers a complete guide for college admission procedures, course information and

requirements. Every scholar receives this handbook as a ready reference and it is regularly updated. Mentors and senior scholars are assigned to every individual scholar and make themselves available 24/7, should there be any need for specific guidance and help.

## THE CORE TEAM

Vahani's founding trustees are Rajeev and Shalini Misra and their daughter, Reeva. In essence they lay the foundation for what Vahani truly is: a family. A strong, committed and ever-growing family. Rajeev is a recognised and lauded genius economist, well known within the powerful world in which he walks. Shalini is one of the design industry's leading architect-designers, winning copious accolades across the world. Reeva has studied at Oxford and Yale and now juggles her dedication and commitment as Executive Director of Vahani alongside a senior position in a technology company. More relevantly, the Misras are human to the core with strong family bonds that now include every single one of the Vahani scholars.





The Managing Director is Rashmani Singh who is equally dedicated to the idea of education and upliftment. With her tremendous connections, she is key to helping the Vahani Scholars prosper, giving each one immediate and individual assistance whenever required. She is ably assisted by Programme Manager, Mariya Ansari, who manages the busy social media , website and the workshop programmes alongside Vahani's outreach work across the country. The Delhi team would not be complete without Strategic Consultant, Mike Knowles, who describes himself as 'a mix between Father Christmas and an Angrez version of Prime Minister Modi', a kind-hearted and generous educationalist who loves the 'magic' of mentoring young people and bringing out their most creative sides. In addition, there are also a large number of other wonderful people who volunteer their time as mentors and tutors and friends to Vahani. More about these people and activities in the handbook!

## VAHANI IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*-by Mike Knowles ( Strategic Consultant and Board Member , Vahani Scholarship)*

Vahani is a name synonymous with Vision, Energy, Caring and Success. Closely mentoring our students is key to our commitment and unique to our approach. The way we mentor as a team is directed by one important word - relevance. We teach our scholars to keep up with the dynamic pace of change this world is experiencing with no room for negative thinking. The advent of AI, which we term as Augmented Intelligence - nothing artificial thank you - along with Robotics has brought a paradigm shift to the way the world will develop. Technology is advancing on a daily basis and, as a responsible organisation,



we keep our scholars up to date with these advances. AI and Robotics will bring with them a whole new way of working requiring a whole new skill set. Developing empathetic as well as brilliant scholars is at the heart of our endeavour at Vahani. But this approach, rather than dismissing the massive changes in technology, embraces it. Today's young professionals grew up in an age of mind-boggling technological change, seeing the growth of the internet, the invention of the smartphone, and the development of machine-learning systems.

### **Communication**

The most basic form of communication is constructing a compelling story. Although efforts have been launched to create robot authors and the impact of robots on fake news and echo chambers is undeniably significant, the ability to communicate compellingly will always be in high demand and hard to automate.

### **Content**

Communication must be about a particular topic. If you know a great deal about a given domain, you have a rich base on which to draw. Moreover, if you have an appreciation for the dynamics of that domain, you have something mere Googling can never replicate.



### **Context**

Automated systems are usually very bad at recognising context. Understanding the context, business model, competition, and leadership of a client or an employer makes your understanding of content more useful.

### **Management**

Gleaning facts and even finding the solutions to problems is of little help if you cannot manage those fact efficiently. Process is power. Emotional competence. Robots will never understand the human heart. Our options may be set by rationality, but it is emotion that binds us to action. The most basic level of emotional competence is being able to recognise the emotions at play in the context of analysis and action.

### **Teaching**

At Vahani, this transmutes into mentoring. The way we interact with those we are trying to develop is not merely the imparting of facts. Empathy is vital, alongside concern and getting to know the individual.



## Connections

It's not what you know but who you know that counts. As the Vahani family grows, the network thus formed will be the scholars' greatest resource in life.

## An ethical compass.

We are beginning to realise just how important ethics and the capacity for moral judgement are in the field of applied AI. The fact that the world will be increasingly controlled by machines lacking an ethical compass amplifies the importance of having people in our future workforce who possess strong moral values. Through our mentoring groups, Vahani students are every day being equipped to go on and do good work. That is what will make them special.

# 2019 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to you and the Vahani Family for giving me this amazing opportunity to intern with Paytm this summer. I began the internship on the 10th of June and will be interning here till 26th of July. I am working here as a tech intern with BI and Data warehouse team and my work is based on Business intelligence, data visualization, and Big data management. It is a huge platform for me to learn new skills and work ethics. It has been a rewarding experience so far and I enjoy working with my team, manager and project mentor (who is also my senior from Jamia Millia Islamia). I got this internship through Vahani Scholarship's Summer

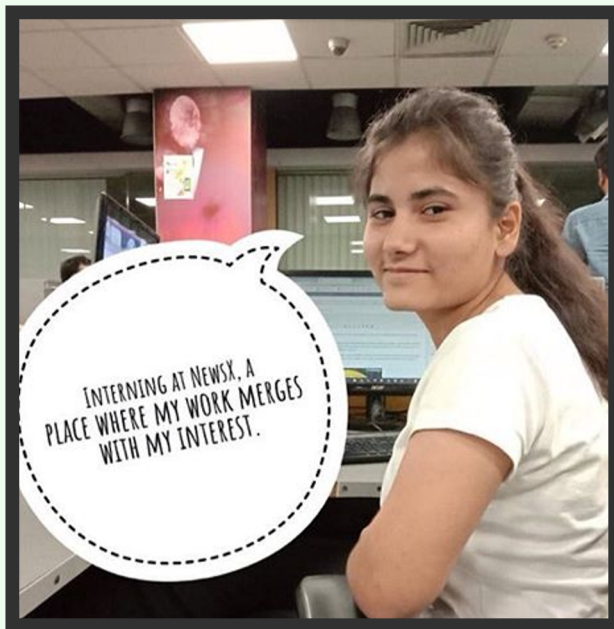
Internship Programme. I am very thankful to Vahani Family especially Shalini ma'am and Reeva ma'am, without whose support and efforts this would not have been possible. I am highly grateful to them. I look forward to gain more knowledge and experience from the company which will definitely help me in the future. Thank you once again for your guidance and support.

Regards,  
Savej Hasan  
2016 Vahani Scholar



## BECOME A VAHANI MENTOR

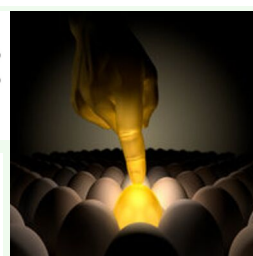
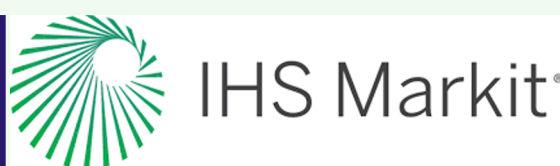
We are looking for additional mentors to join our team. If you are interested in mentoring a student and shaping their journey, please get in touch. Reach out to us at [info@vahanischolarship.com](mailto:info@vahanischolarship.com) , visit/follow our social media handles (Facebook & Instagram) and website [www.vahanischolarship.com](http://www.vahanischolarship.com) for recent updates.



I interned at NewsX this summer, particularly getting involved in digital content writing. During my internship I wrote various stories on entertainment, lifestyle and fashion, education and jobs, and learnt to finish my articles on time! This experience helped improve my English grammar and writing, my typing skills and generally made me a more confident individual. I got to know more about journalism and the entertainment world, especially understanding how a story is published. A sincere thank you to Rashmani ma'am and Uday sir for organising this internship for me and to the Vahani board, especially Reeva ma'am and Shalini ma'am, for boosting my confidence.

Regards,  
Sakshi Gupta  
2018 Vahani Scholar

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP ORGANISATIONS





# VAHANI ONLINE APPLICATION IS LIVE NOW

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Nominate a child that deserves everything but has close to nothing . Follow today and transform the life of a student with potential.

Application for 2019-20 Vahani Scholarship can be filled online. Visit apply [www.vahanischolarshipapplication.com](http://www.vahanischolarshipapplication.com) now, to become a Vahani Scholar.

Check out the application tutorial video on YouTube - [Vahani Scholarship Online Application Tutorial](#)

Reach out to us here:

