

Follow Your Dreams was the theme of SSA Career WebiFair 2021

The Career Guidance Cell of Sri Sri Academy, Kolkata had started its journey from late 2018. For the past few years they have conducted multiple workshops, panel discussions as well as talk shows for the students of grades 8 to 12 of Sri Sri Academy.

SSA Career WebiFair 2021, a virtual career fair for the high school students, was the maiden attempt of the Career Guidance Cell to facilitate students to make informed decisions about the courses of their choice and to zero in on the colleges to pursue those courses. The fair, which was held on 21st December, 2021, had participation from 13 renowned Indian universities like Ashoka, Flame, IIHM, ISDI school of Design and Innovation, ISH(Indian School of Hospitality), Krea, Mahindra University, O P Jindal Global University, Plaksha, Shiv Nadar, Vijaybhoomi, WUD(World university of Design) and Sri Sri University.

Envisioned by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar and founded on the ideals of imparting quality and holistic education Sri Sri University intends to be the global powerhouse of producing skilled graduates who would stand to offer out-of-the-box solutions and above all be humane. Recipient of many awards and honors SSU offers a range of unique courses that seek to preserve the ancient wisdom of the East and offer the best Western innovation through cutting-edge programs in Management, Commerce, Yoga, Governance, Sanskrit, philosophy, Engineering, Science, Architecture, Health and Wellness, Liberal Arts and Performing Arts at UG, PG and PhD level.

More than 550 students from the host school as well as sister schools of SSRVM Bangalore South, VGN and Mulund, DPS Ruby Park and DPS New Town had registered for the event.

Blue Sky Education, Kolkata and IDP Education, Kolkata, renowned study abroad consultants also joined hands with the Career Guidance Cell to bring in several foreign universities to interact with the students.



Mrs. Suvina Shunglu

During the solemn inauguration ceremony, the school Principal, Mrs. Suvina Shunglu mentioned that with the increase of the plethora of options available for today's children the complexity of making the right choice has also increased manifold. She urged

upon the students who were participating in the fair to gather as much information as possible from the panel discussions, the webinar and through networking with the university representatives.



Principal's address during inaugural session

MC Member Mr. Guha inspires students to dream

Student Testimony about Guidance Cell

Mr. Pranab Guha, member of School Managing Committee attended the ceremony as a special guest. In his address to the students, citing examples from his illustrious career Mr. Guha mentioned that he always kept his options open by choosing the right subject combinations till he settled on pursuing Engineering over Medical. He advised the students to follow their dreams

in order to be happy with whatever they do in life.

The panel discussions

The next hour had three panel discussions conducted simultaneously to cater to the needs of the students from all three streams – Science, Commerce as well as Humanities. Each of the panel discussions had panelists from 4 different participating universities. The panel discussions were lively with the panelists suggesting the students various ways to acquire skills and chart their path to success. The last ten minutes of the panel discussions were dedicated to Q and A from the students where the panelists answered many pertinent questions.



The topic for the panel discussion on Science and Technology was - [21st century skills required for being successful in the field of Science and Technology](#).

Each of the four panelists advised the students from their own perspectives. Dr Imroze Khan , Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University emphasized on fundamental understanding of our ecosystem, climate change, loss of biodiversity, several impending diseases and necessary skills required to prevent them.

Dr. Venkatesh Sunkad , *Dean for INSOFE School of Data Science*, Vijay Bhoomi University asked the students to broaden their source of knowledge so that they can get the right amount of information. He also asked the students to have a very deep understanding and knowledge of the domain in which the students wanted to work.

Dr. Dhiraj Sinha, faculty, Plaksha University added the importance of personality development, writing and communication skills for the science students.



[Dr K. S. Chakrabarti, Krea](#)

Dr. Kalyan S. Chakrabarti , *Assistant Professor of Biological Science and Chemistry*, Krea University put focus on gathering information from reliable sources as in new era information is easily available. He also asked the science students to be more curious in addition to the 4Cs of 21st century skills, critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration skills.

[Foothold of Liberal Arts, Design or a Hospitality degree in the corporate sector](#) was the topic for the second panel discussion.

The panelists had valuable suggestions for the attending students. Ms. Anju Deoskar, Associate Director, Admissions Outreach, Flame University, suggested the students break the barrier between disciplines and try to work under one umbrella. She also pointed out that it is a must learn to question a question and keep moving with the changing times.

Ms. Ritu Jolly, Associate Director of Training & Placement, IIBM, Kolkata, mentioned that one has to be happy to make others happy in the hospitality sector. A sensitive and passionate person with the right attitude would excel in this field.



Mr. Shamit Shrivastav, ISDI

Mr. Shamit Shrivastav, Program Director for the UG programs, ISDI expressed that design is actually a mindset. One has to be a great observer and listener to develop the right mindset.

Mr Anjan Chakraborty, Dean, School of Communication, WUD, advised the students to be passionate about whatever they do. Right perspective, empathy, communication skill and skill in art will help one to excel in the field of art and design.

The third panel discussion focused on [Great businesses thrive on 3 pillars : Law, Finance and Management](#). Prof Anand Prakash Mishra, Director of Law Admissions, O P Jindal Global University, Dr. Suresh Kumar Sahoo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, Sri Sri University, Dr. Shalu Kalra, Associate Professor, Department of Finance, Accounting and Control, School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Shiv Nadar University and Ms. Sweety Sethi, Director, Admissions, ISH were the panelists.

The discussion moved from advantage of a management degree for young entrepreneurs launching startups to the need for integrated degrees of law and management to frequent change of careers. How can a degree in finance and management be of help in the present unpredictability of VUCA was another topic the students really enjoyed listening to.

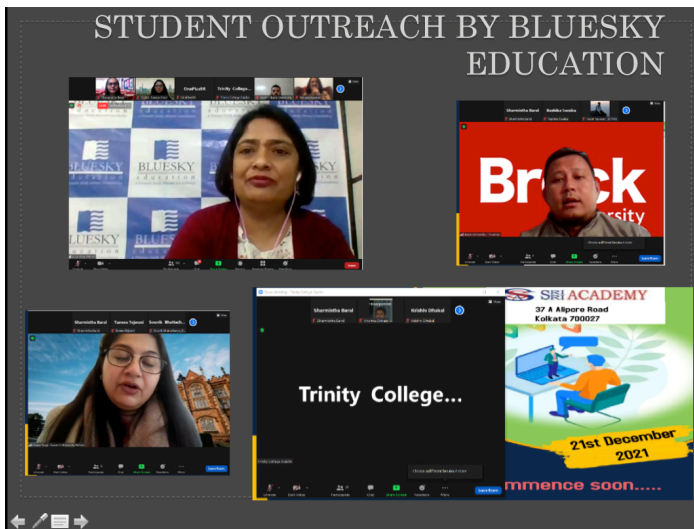
Dr. Sahoo and Dr. Kalra mentioned about certain qualities other than the academic qualifications, which were noteworthy. They talked about the virtues like empathy, tolerance and being non-judgmental were prerequisites for being successful irrespective of the career that one pursued.

The one-hour panel discussions were engaging and the students left the sessions with food for thought.



Dr. S. K. Sahoo, Sri Sri University

Student Outreach by Blue Sky Education



University of Waterloo, University of Windsor and Brock University from Canada, Queen Mary University, Queen's University Belfast, Keele University from UK and Trinity College Dublin from Ireland partnered with Blue Sky to participate in this session. After a preliminary introduction, the university representatives were sent to different breakout rooms. This one-hour had students move between the breakout rooms to

have one on one interaction with the university representatives apart from usual campus tour and courses on offer ranging from Engineering, Medical to Liberal Arts. The footfall indicated the keenness of the students to study abroad.

Student Outreach by the Indian Universities

The next two hours were dedicated to the thirteen participating new age Indian universities specializing in Liberal Arts, Science, Technology and Innovation as well as Law, Management, Design and Hospitality. Six breakout rooms were allotted in the first hour to six universities and seven breakout rooms in the second hour. The universities were grouped carefully so that the students could get the opportunity to interact with maximum number of universities of their choice. The enthusiasm with which the students attended the sessions spoke volumes about the success of these sessions.



Webinar by IDP Education, Kolkata



The concluding hour of SSA Career WebiFair 2021 experienced a webinar by IDP Education, Kolkata on “Effect of COVID on International Education and Strategies to achieve your Study Abroad Dream”. This was supported by Monash University, Australia and Durham University, UK. The representative from Monash University shared about the details of border opening and the protocols that are being

followed to admit international students both existing and the new ones to the different states of Australia. The representative of Durham University talked about scholarship options and the importance of good grades, letter of intent and consistent participation in extra curricular activities to realise one’s study abroad dream. Both the universities also talked about the plethora of courses offered by them.

Organisers speak

According to the counselors of the Career Guidance Cell of Sri Sri Academy, SSA Career WebiFair 2021 had been a great success. They are happy that they could act as an interface between the students and the universities/institutes and could make the students aware of the 21st century skills and other attributes required to be successful in their chosen fields. They are determined to reach out to more students across the country who are deprived of the opportunity to make an informed career decision.

Student feedback

FEEDBACK - SSA CAREER WEBIFAIR

“Extensive content providing details about the Colleges and Career”

Aditya Ajit Nair, class 9, SSRVM, Mulund

“Resourceful, cleared all my doubts regarding various career paths”

Srinjoy Roy, class 11, DPS New Town

“It was informative and the universities chosen were Outstanding”

Sanchit Meher, class 9, SSRVM, Mulund

“An insightful session regarding future job prospects and skills required to be successful”

Krishnendu Roy, class 10, SSA, Kolkata