Shoolini University
Outreach Team: *Ideas That Matter*

Overview

The Outreach Team of Shoolini University, also known as *Ideas That Matter*, is an offshoot of the Admissions and Branding function at Shoolini University. Chaired by Shoolini's Vice President Ms. Avnee Gupta and headed by Ms. Shikha Sood, the Team is an action-focused think tank and a collaborative platform that connects forward-thinking schools, academia, students, scientists, cultural icons, industry leaders, public figures, beyond borders and age groups.

The aim of *Ideas That Matter* is to share knowledge without boundaries, to inspire young India, to transform academia, and to prepare teachers for a new tomorrow. Through events and interactions, *Ideas That Matter* aims to nurture a new generation of innovative problem-solvers who dream big, think deeply, and experiment fearlessly. Believing that ideas grow and thrive in a vibrant atmosphere, the aim of the team is to inspire students and teachers to contribute towards a better tomorrow.

Initiatives and Events:

1. **The Young Researchers' Programme (YRP):**

The ***Young Researcher's Program*** is a research focused school engagement programme. Objective of this programme is to nurture creative problem solving skills among high school students and guide them to translate their idea into concrete products. The programme is 10-12 months long and divided into 4 major phases.

1. **Phase 1:** Comprises of extensive workshops for school teachers and participating students on areas such as brainstorming, questioning skills, creative thinking and patent filing.
2. **Phase 2:** Post first phase, a gap of 4 weeks is given to students to select a particular social problem and come up with an innovative and unique solution. These projects are then sorted based on their practicality, originality and uniqueness, assigning these projects to a mentor from the team of researchers at Shoolini University, who guides them to shape it up towards a concrete research project that can be presented before the Innovation Committee.

3. **Phase 3:** The Innovation Committee comprises of experienced researchers and professionals both from academia and industry to select the top patentable projects based on seven parameters- simplicity, usability, sustainability, clarity, originality, scalability and practicality. These selected project innovators are presented with certificates and a detailed report on the strengths and challenges of their project along with recommendations from the committee.

4. **Phase 4:** The final phase is the process of patent filing and working further in implementing the projects under the guidance of senior researchers at Shoolini University.

The programme has been implemented among high school students of four schools in two cohorts that generated approximately eighty innovative ideas. From them, twenty-eight ideas have been taken forward for mentoring. Three ideas are already in the process of patenting while the other ideas are in phase two of the process undergoing further selection and mentoring.

As a further process to document the learnings, a white paper is being written collaboratively by the winning innovators of the first cohort, members of the innovation committee, the guiding teachers from each school and members of the outreach Team involved in YRP.

2. Q?riosity: One of India's largest Virtual Quiz for High School Students

Q?riosity is one of India's biggest annual inter-school quizzes for school students. The quiz, which tests critical thinking, aptitude and general knowledge, provides students with a national platform to compete and win laurels.

Collaborators: Stepping onto the 11th year of this quiz competition, Q?riosity this year have registered some of the top schools of this country. Jointly hosted by *Ideas That Matter*, and Shoolini's Faculty of Management Sciences and Liberal Arts (FMSLA), Q?riosity this year have launched a technology platform to encourage maximum participation from schools. Quiz questions are created by undergraduate students of Shoolini University who are also experienced and awarded quizzers.

Process: Instigating the thirst of knowledge among students, Q?riosity this year witnessed the participation of approximately 400 schools and 10,000 students. Quiz questions revolve around general knowledge and other subjects students study in their school. The entire quiz involves six rounds. The first two rounds are conducted through the Q?riosity technology platform while the remaining four rounds are conducted live with six students in each quiz session.

The finals are conducted with Top 5 performing students. Top 3 performers emerge as the winners and get exciting prizes.

3. Speech Ke Siqandar: Public Speaking Skills Programme for High School Students

Speech Ke Siqandar is an AI based public speaking and speech-mastering programme developed in-house at Shoolini University. Based on Speech, IQ and Acumen Recognition Technology, this is an AI solution to help students master speaking skills. 2020 marked the first year of this programme and witnessed a participation of more than 2000 students. Students have to choose any one from the five optional topics, record a video of their speech particular to their chosen topic, upload this video to the AI system. Students are then judged on three key skills:

    a. Verbal/Content: The AI system automatically converts the audio to speech and evaluates the response based on the topic spoken.

    b. Visual/ Expression: The system evaluates the posture and facial expressions to measure positivity in the speaker.

    c. Vocal: Speech modulation, tone of the speech, speed of speech are evaluated for the vocal quality.

4. Masterclass: Valmiki Ramayana

To enlighten students about ancient mythology and the management lessons associated with them, *Yashovardhan Deodhar, Founder of 21 Notes Valmiki Ramayana*, has created a series of short-format videos on the ancient epic. This short masterclass series aims to familiarize today's youth with the ancient epic, which continues to be relevant. A total of 10 masterclasses have been completed with a total participant of 700 students.

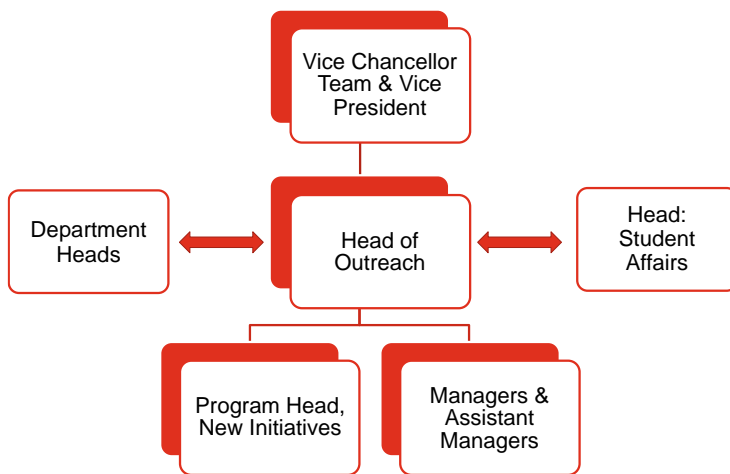### 5. Webinar Series: Success Strategies for Schools

This webinar series was started during the lockdown by Atul Khosla, Founder & Vice-Chancellor, Shoolini University, and Vivek Atray, an ex-IAS officer & a motivational speaker, to share their ideas and insights with the education fraternity. In 250+ webinars, they spoke about issues such as emotional

intelligence, self-awareness, spirituality, creativity and more to almost 400 schools and numerous teachers, principals and students.
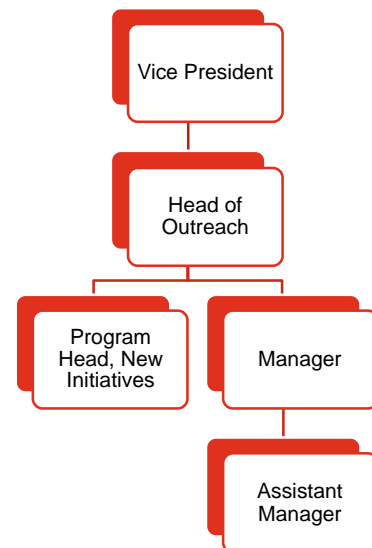
6. The 'Yogananda Guru Series'

The Yogananda Guru Series of webinars is a series of high-impact webinars. Impact speakers like Padma Shri Dr Dinesh Singh, ex-VC Delhi University, Vivek Atray, ex-IAS, an author, a TEDx speaker and under-19 cricketer Yuvraj Singh, Dia Mirza, actress and activist, Pavan Jha, film critic were invited to share their stories with the education community. A total of 250+ webinars have been conducted and have seen participation from 50,000+ participants.

Information Flow at the Outreach Team

Hierarchy at the Outreach Team

Shoolini University

Outreach Team Appointment Order

Reference Number:

Ideas That Matter for the academic year 2021-22 is comprised of the following members:

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