**Visualizing new realities - Empowering future generation of students**

The Vinod Gupta School of Management, IIT Kharagpur welcomed 75 higher secondary school students who were accompanied by their teachers from St. Agnes School, Kharagpur for an engaging session on career prospects and business administration as part of its Student Outreach Programme.

The students were teeming with questions about career choices and MBA prospects during their brief interaction with some of the current MBA students of the institute. This ice-breaker activity was followed by a compelling talk by Ms. Protima Talapatra, Head, E-Learning, Ericsson Global India Ltd. A professional with over two decades of experience in the learning domain, Ms. Talapatra has successfully leveraged upcoming digital services in the learning space to develop and deliver corporate solutions.

Drawing light on the alarming trend of fewer female candidates graduating from college with a degree in the STEM domain, Ms. Talapatra highlighted the need to encourage scientific thought and exposure to technical education during one’s formative years to redress this imbalance. Citing examples of success stories across the world, she motivated the students to explore career prospects in Technology and Engineering. The students were then introduced to an intriguing concept - Virtual Reality learning. A thought leader in using VR/AR learning solutions, Ms. Talapatra entranced her audience with demonstrations using the VR headset. The students were engrossed with this novel experience and their faces were masks of delight and awe as they kept coming back for another turn at the VR headset. Having successfully managed to pique their interest in technology, Ms. Talapatra concluded the session by entreating the inquisitive young minds to sustain their enthusiasm and encouraged them to explore career options in the STEM fields.

We are grateful to Ms. Protima Talapatra for her efforts in empowering the future generation of students through innovative learning techniques and for inspiring them in such a lively session.



