

Great Lakes Chennai Hosts One Day Global Immersion Experience Learning Program for University Of Miami Students

Chennai, 7th March, 2017: As a part of One Day Global Immersion Experience Learning Program, Great Lakes Institute of Management hosted 37 students from School of Business – University of Miami at its Chennai campus.

The one day program aimed to help students develop and understand the current business scenario in India, areas that need to be developed and in particular about the unique Leadership Experiential Program — Karma Yoga, which is offered at Great Lakes. **Headed by Dr. Vaidy Jayaraman, Associate Dean, Great Lakes Chennai & Visiting Faculty – University of Miami**, this year's program consisted of debate, discussions and an interesting Case Study Challenge, in which students from University of Miami were divided into groups and were tagged along with a student from Great Lakes since Dr. Vaidy felt that the plight of India's score on the call to end poverty lies in the hands of MBA Millennials!

Post an hour discussion with their team members, the students were asked to debate for and against on set of questions raised by the Dr. Vaidy. The Case study was on '**Self Employed Women's Association – SEWA**' founded by Ella Bhatt, that briefed about how the organization works together as a movement and uplifts in the areas of Employment, Women Empowerment and Poverty in India.

On being asked ***How leadership and growth of an organization like SEWA is different from other MNC's or corporates***, students from University of Miami expressed that, "*In an organization like SEWA, employers are well connected, united, aware of the goals and commitments, whereas larger companies are lagging behind and often end up trying to differentiate between the management and leadership. Even though the former might not follow a strict corporate system, but work towards creating transparent management and attain transformational leadership in their organization.*"

Agreeing with the students, Dr. Vaidy said, "*Yes, the non-profit bodies have a value and vision of an organization that is transformational in itself. They are in the business of change for a purpose, and have a passion to make a difference, i.e., in case of SEWA, trying to eradicate poverty and empower the target group with literacy, and employment.*"

Belonging to an emerged economy of US, the students from University of Miami were able to distinguish and easily review on the sectors that will help eradicate poverty in India. Students added that, "*India is estimated to have one third of the world's poor. Even though there has been a tremendous progress in reducing the cause in last two decades, parts of country, especially small villages, still face lot of issues. Urban areas are developing at the same time, income for villagers are dipping. While social programs have contributed to a reduction in poverty, but it has to be noted that they are not the primary drivers of the poverty. Indian government is doing enough help, but companies in large should come together and solve issues by offering innovative ideas, products and especially focus on Education, Women Empowerment and Healthcare.*"

If this has to reduce, organizations and educational institutions have to start adapting methods, implement realistic model to help employees and students realize that the real problem lies out there, and not inside the system. Socio-economic conditions should be added as part of the work place culture and curriculum. When students are allowed to step out of classrooms, then only ideas will be implemented, added **Dr. Vaidy Jayaraman**

Highlighting on the Unique Leadership Experience Program by Great Lakes, called, Karma Yoga, Dr. Vaidy presented a 10 minute video which showcased how the B School has adopted villages in and around the campus, built necessary requirements like toilets, created self-help groups for women and support them with selling local hand-made products, and indulge the school going children into practical teaching methods etc.

“There’s so much to be learnt through travel and get exposed to different cultures. Walk through Karma yoga program will give you the benefit of that exposure and how to apply the things you are learning like Management, Entrepreneurship, marketing – selling & buying, to real issues in real areas to real people. And no better than an MBA millennial like you all can only make this work. Millennials are diverse - belong to different background, digitally enabled, very social, connected, ready to change and most importantly – ambitious, expressed **Dr. Vaidy**

The interesting session came to end with special entertainment – singing and dance performance by Great Lakers. Students also exchanged gifts and networked over lunch. The students also visited the villages in and around Manamai, interacted with the villagers to know more about the Karma Yoga programme and what the students of Great Lakes are learning through this project.

Emma Kriss, Students from University of Miami, expressed, *“It has been a fantastic session at Great Lakes. We love the culture here and students here are doing extremely well compared to what we are doing back at Miami. The surprise case study was wake up call to all of us and made us realize how an organization can work in a different way to address solutions. And with the Karmayoga project, Great lakes is standing out by teaching that Leadership lies in your hands, not inside the classrooms.”*

Overall the one day program came to an end with a positive note with many interesting lessons and moments that the students of University of Miami carried back with them.