Title of the Project: The Dexterity School of Leadership and Entrepreneurship (DexSchool)

Project Location: Patna, Bihar, India | Sponsoring College: Tufts University

Student: Sharad Vivek Sagar (India), Tufts University

Project Website: www.dexschool.org

Section I

DexSchool’s primary goal was to equip future leaders of the world (most coming from marginalized communities and low-income countries) with leadership and entrepreneurship as tools of change. The project equipped young leaders from low-income countries with proficient skill sets, built their network of advocates, supporters and collaborators, and enabled them to solve and address the challenges and needs of their communities through innovative and effective leadership and entrepreneurial solutions.

The 100 Projects for Peace Grant acted as a huge enabler for successfully carrying out the DexSchool. We were able to bring in another 10,000 USD in cash and kind from other partners and channels. This mostly included program tuition, small gifts from people and complimentary service or in-kind service from certain businesses.

DexSchool was successful in bringing some of the smartest and most driven students from all across South Asia to one common place. It was also successful in being able to convince and bring some exceptional entrepreneurs and leaders as mentors. There were some unanticipated difficulties, too, but then that’s a part that you have to anticipate and be prepared for and our team managed those pretty well. These challenges were mostly logistical and sometimes, small delays mostly due to not enough follow ups with some business-to-business services. However, the earthquakes in Nepal and parts of Northern and Eastern India were something no one had expected. The earthquakes left some of our selected candidates in a situation where their families were struggling to rebuild and no matter how much they wanted to but it was almost impossible for them pay for the programme or the travel of their children to the programme. Understanding the problem, we announced full scholarships and travel aid to all students from Nepal directly and to students from other slightly affected parts if they underwent
significant hardships during the earthquakes. The grant enabled us to take this extremely strong and helpful decision.

Since, most schools in South Asia either have English as a compulsory language or as the medium of instruction, we didn’t have much of a language barrier. Likewise, the subcontinent has greater acceptance and understanding of the diverse cultures and thus the confluence almost looked seamless and beautiful. There were immediate 40 graduates (mostly high school and some in college) who benefitted from the project directly at the DexSchool. However, we created abridged platforms of the DexSchool after the program was over. Through these abridged platforms, mostly talks and workshops, we reached another 12,000 students directly in their schools. DexSchool has a sustainable model and it has an exciting future ahead of it. DexSchool would continue to stand out as life-changing MBA for the young ones.

Section II

If we look back, two kinds of people have had the greatest contribution to world peace: those who were courageous enough to dream and those who were determined enough to act. The DexSchool enables the young generation in low-income countries to dream (without fear) and act (without hesitance). We can’t afford to let the dreams and ideas of our young generation die. DexSchool is creating a generation that may have lived through 21st century challenges itself but is striving hard to ensure it’s the last generation that sees those problems. DexSchool graduates are agents of peace, prosperity and change.

In short-term, the ability to undergo a world-class curriculum, irrespective of your socio-economic background and equipping yourself with a terrific set of skills, is peace. In long term, using them to solve the developmental challenges and issues the bottom of the pyramid faces, will be peace. I have been doing my small part at Dexterity for the last 8 years. Each year, simply makes me grow more and more convinced of how incredibly powerful education is and how much our youth can offer to the world. I am convinced that these young changeagents will touch millions of lives and change their lives in their own unique ways for once and for ever.
“Sometimes people ask me why am I so excited about what I do. My reply mostly is, "You see one celebrity and get excited. I see several hundred thousand future celebrities, change makers, and world movers, everyday.” DexSchool gave me an incredibly amazing chance to meet future world leaders and true change makers of tomorrow. – Sharad Vivek Sagar

Online Accessible Media Reports about DexSchool


Link to all Pictures