

UPES celebrates success of Project GROW

By OUR STAFF REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 24 Apr: After the success of Project Swasthambhar, UPES continues its commitment to community development with the conclusion of Project GROW. Launched in January 2024, Project GROW, a joint initiative of the School for Life and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), UPES, was aimed at providing a transformative experience to the administrative staff by enhancing their English language proficiency and communication skills.

Under the encouragement and guidance of the CEO – Asia Pacific, GLS Global Services, Dr Shasad Mehta, and with the collaborative efforts of Gautam Mehta, Cluster Head, School for Life, and Dr Ritesh Dutta, Assistant Professor, the project took flight. Building upon the success of Project Swasthambhar, which focused on making 40 women housekeeping staff self-reliant through English language training and financial literacy, Project GROW set out to equip administrative staff with essential language skills crucial in today's globalised world.

The official inauguration ceremony held on 22 December, 2023, witnessed the presence of distinguished guests including Dr Shasad Mehta (CEO – Asia Pacific, GLS Global Services), Manish Mathan (Rajgurun), Col. Suraj Washington (Director, CSR), Rahul Nainwal (Director, School of Business), Ravi S Kumar (Deputy Director, HR), Dr Anil Nautiyal (Director, School of Liberal Studies), and other luminaries, highlighting the university's commitment to inclusivity and community development.

Dr Shasad Mehta emphasized the importance of perseverance and motivation in overcoming language learning challenges. He commended the dedication of participants and facilitators, underscoring UPES' commitment to the comprehensive development of its community.

With 22 enthusiastic participants and 10 faculty members and staff from various schools and departments conducting sessions, Project GROW provided a holistic development experience. Through weekly training sessions spanning three months, participants were immersed in communicative English training, focusing on enhancing their language proficiency and communication skills.

The official closing ceremony was held in the Runway Cafe at the Widhi campus of UPES on 12 April, when certificates were distributed to the participants and facilitators of Project GROW by Dr Anil Nautiyal and Col Suraj Washington.

Dr Nautiyal emphasized the importance of mutual learning and stated that all are equal, irrespective of their backgrounds. He encouraged participants to continue their transformative journey, emphasizing that hard work can overcome any difference in status or position.

Col Washington highlighted the project's objective of building confidence among participants to speak before an audience in any language. He praised the project's success in achieving this objective.

Mohit Dadhich of the Department of Student Welfare encouraged participants to continue their learning journey beyond Project GROW, offering his support for their continued growth.

Arti, a participant in Project GROW, expressed her newfound confidence, stating, "My confidence has grown." Rajjeet, another participant, mentioned how Project GROW has helped him to learn English despite the typical challenges of language acquisition at an advanced age.

Gautam Mehta proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the dedication of participants, facilitators, and organizers.

