

How PGP Batches 2006-08 Supported a Decade of Transformation, Aiding Over 50,000

Rushikesh Humbe – PGP 2006-08

As I prepare to reunite with my batch for our 15th-year reunion, my thoughts inevitably drift back to the first encounters with some of them, long before I even enrolled at IIMA.

At that time, I was in Pune, passionately running an NGO called SPANDAN, which I had founded at the College of Engineering Pune (COEP). One of SPANDAN's key initiatives involved conducting training programs for COEP students, and I extended an invitation to my soon-to-be classmates to join me. Five of them made the journey all the way from Mumbai, and that's when our mentoring journey took its inaugural steps.

After completing my PGP at IIMA and working with a consulting firm abroad for over four years, I found myself drawn back to India, motivated by a deep-seated desire to make a meaningful impact through my work. That's when I decided to embark on the DISHA initiative, with the aim of helping students and professionals make informed career choices.

Over the past decade, DISHA has made a significant impact by assisting more than 50,000 students across India through over 300 transformative sessions, guiding them toward the paths best suited to their aspirations. Among our many achievements, over 500 of our mentees have secured coveted admissions to top-tier B-Schools such as the IIMs, while countless others have ventured into entrepreneurship. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of my fellow batchmates and seniors.

As the Disha sessions were conducted across different locations, I would reach out to alumni in that location to join me for conducting these sessions and guide students on various career-related topics. My fellow WIMWIANS never failed me. They helped me conduct the sessions on topics like— how to choose the right careers, a career in management, preparing for interviews, and also entrepreneurship as a career. They shared their own journey and experiences with the audience which was not only inspirational but also helped them to learn from their experiences.

Some of the alums who joined me include Sarathbabu Elumalai (PGP 2006), Amey Asuti, Vibhsahn Waghmare and Vinita Singh (PGP 2007), Naveenan R, Siddhartha Banerjee, Vijendra Haryal, Nirmal Kumar, Varun Agarwal, Suhruta Kulkarni, Pranav Kumar, Vibhor Tikia, Vinit Barve, Kapil Modi, Nikhil Chalakkal, Kaushik Mukherjee, Suhruta Kulkarni, Raghav Sehgal, Tejas Chavan (PGP 2008), Sneha Jain, Sahan Ray, Gaurav Sharma (PGP 2009).

Reflecting on this journey, which commenced with a single session and evolved into a formidable career movement, I've gleaned some valuable insights. It's become evident that tackling significant challenges is more manageable when we break them down into smaller, collaborative efforts, making even the most daunting tasks appear surmountable. More importantly, the act of giving invariably yields more, empowering us to effect more substantial and far-reaching change.

As I look forward to reuniting with my batchmates and sharing these reflections, I'm reminded that our alumni network has been instrumental in making a lasting impact on the lives of thousands. Our collective commitment to mentoring and giving back has not only transformed individual career paths but has also contributed to building a brighter future for countless young minds across the nation.

Here's to another decade of making a difference, one mentorship at a time.



WIMWIANS who supported DISHA initiative from Top to Bottom

Sarathbabu Elumalai (PGP 2006), Amey Asuti and Vinita Singh (PGP 2007)

Naveenan R, Siddhartha Banerjee, Vijendra Haryal, Nirmal Kumar, Varun Agarwal, Suhruta Kulkarni, Pranav Kumar, Vibhor Tikia, Vinit Barve, Kapil Modi, Nikhil Chalakkal (PGP 2008) , Sneha Jain, Sahana Ray (PGP 2009) and Alok Gotam (PGP 2011)

Rushikesh Humbe – PGP 2008

