

## ***VUCA or VOODOO?***

As a tradition that has been followed for a little over 60 years now, as a part of Dr.Mrs. YGP 94<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, this year too, the Shashtiabdapoorthi endowment lecture took place at PSBB T.Nagar on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

The Chief Guest, Mr Shanthanu Prakash (Trustee, Learning Leadership Foundation) shared his views about managing a VUCA World in the Indian perspective.

The gist of the speech is given below:

The radio took around half a century to reach its first 50 million users, the T.V, 13 years, the internet, 4 years, Facebook, 2 years and Whatsapp, 3 months!

The world is ever-changing, from driverless cars to drone deliveries, from 'hey Siri' to 'Alexa play Despacito'. Basically, in Rajni's words, "matram onru dhan maradhadu"!

But if you've noticed carefully, this change has undergone an avalanche effect (It doesn't take a genius to figure that out.....). *Every single day*, you see something new, hear something new, and taste something new (probably straight out of a vending machine!)

We refer to this constantly changing world, as a **VUCA** world!

**Volatile, Uncertain, Chaotic, Ambiguous.**

As exciting as change is, every coin has two sides. The world is no longer as predictable as before, life as we know it is no longer the same and the future remains uncertain. And this uncertainty leads to chaos and hence ambiguity and indecision.

The word, VUCA, was originally coined in the backdrop of war and rightly so. Even though today, most of us don't face physical wars, each one of us fight our own day to day emotional battles. Change is not new to the world but the pace at which it is happening demands so much more from an individual than it did before.

Like the industrial revolution that has taken over the world twice before, and even though it brought to us the scientific age, the immediate aftermath was 'The Great Economic Depression', which was definitely uncalled for.

We *need* to remember that it is the survival of the *fittest*. And the fittest today is neither the brainiest nor the brawniest. The fittest today, is the one who can multitask, using his skills to his advantage, accumulating as many as he can.

In less than a decade, the jobs that we know of will be obsolete, taken over by artificial intelligence and by machines. This will leave about 50% of our population unemployed, or doing meagre jobs to provide for their families.

Now the question is, where will you stand 10 years from now?

Will you be a part of the society which thrives? Which survives? Or which perishes?

To become part of the society which thrives you have to make yourself IRREPLACEABLE! Not by another human and certainly not by a machine!

Never stop learning, learn how to learn, continue to hone your skills, keep in mind the future and its needs.

Remember, the ones who resist the change, fail, the ones who adapt to the change, survive and the ones who lead the change thrive!

Then, Mr Shanthanu made it a point to clear a few selected doubts that the students had. Two questions that our very own students of Siruseri had, were also answered.

**Arjun Pant {(XII A1) (SPL)}**: I'm a millennial and haven't witnessed war, let alone face it. How does the concept of a VUCA World affect me?

**Reply** : Wars today, aren't fought in the battlefield with swords or pistols. Each one of us face our own battles, every day, all day. It is not necessary that all of us need to have the same problems and we cannot look down upon another person's challenges. So yes, in that sense we do live in a VUCA world.

**V.Sai Sriya {(XII A1) (SPL)}**: Complexity of life is ever increasing. Is this what we call development?

**Reply** : Progress and happiness are two different things. You cannot mix them up. Just because the society tells you that the world is materialistic it doesn't mean that you have to go ~~buy~~ by what they say. So no, that is not development. Development is what makes *you* happy.

Then the endowment scholarships were distributed.

YGP ma'am blessed us all with her words and proved that she was actually 94 years young. The program was truly an eye opener to all of us oblivious of the VUCA world glaring at us

## **REPORTING**

*The Shutterbugs*