

Katalyst aims to be a leader in this continual elevation and transformation of young women from low income communities to lead change in their professional and personal spheres of life.

To achieve this, Katalyst provides an enabling environment to enhance the employability of girl students pursuing professional degrees or courses. Katalyst does this through specific interventions such as skill enhancement, mentor support, assistance with internships and exposure to corporate life.

To know more, please visit:
www.katalystindia.org



NEWLY INDUCTED KATALYSTS PERFORMING AN ENERGIZER!

128 Shiny-Happy Katalysts have been inducted in the Bangalore and Pune centres.



Katalysts participated in the Pune Pinkathon



Training on interview and grooming etiquettes and Zumba workshop by Sofitel, Mumbai

From the desk of the CEO

The third quarter at Katalyst was filled with lot of buzz, more students, more college partners, corporate partners and variety of activities hence more exposure for the Katalysts! 128 new students joined across Pune and Bangalore taking the Katalyst cohort to 332 by end of 2016. There were several opportunities for these girls to build confidence and enhance critical thinking and perseverance through case study challenge, push them out of their comfort zone through Pinkathon, groom them and raise their energy levels through grooming, etiquette and Zumba sessions at Sofitel. In this quarter, we also focused on building capacity of mentors by starting a series of Mentor workshops with the first one being in Mumbai. I am confident that each of these interventions is helping us move closer to our vision of building women leaders. **Poorvi Shah, CEO, Katalyst**



Katalyst together with JP Morgan organised a Case Study Presentation in Mumbai and Bangalore. Each team was assigned a mentor. Seen here are the winners who presented on a Waste Management System.

Come, be a Katalyst Mentor!

“ It was a delight to have the opportunity of mentoring the Katalyst students during the brain storming sessions held at Katalyst. We did an overview of Cloud computing to Katalyst students in the first session and the students showed tremendous passion and enthusiasm. In the subsequent sessions, the students came up with ideas to solve real life problems that will transform the world in one way or the other. Students were very creative, participative and showed tremendous intent to try new things. We would like to thank Ms. Vijaya Thilakam for her leadership, drive and motivating the students to get to where they want to be.”

-Mr. Srikanth Cisco Systems, Bangalore



The Winners of the Katalyst Tech Fest Bangalore



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KATALYST TECH FEST, BANGALORE

The Katalyst Tech Fest is an annual science and technology festival that is organized to provide a platform for the Katalysts to develop and showcase their technical prowess. It is a platform for Katalysts to hone their technical skills, presentation skills and leadership abilities.

The Katalyst Tech Fest comprised of

four competitions namely; Presentation of Engineering Projects, Technical Talk, Mini Engineering Projects and Technical Paper Presentation. 27 Katalysts who participated in these competitions, worked tirelessly for six months, before making their presentations. 10 Katalysts were awarded prizes for their work at the Prize Distribution Ceremony that was held

at Siemens. Each participant also received a trophy and certificate for their effort.

Katalyst would like to acknowledge the support of Siemens Technology and Services Private Limited for hosting the event and making it a grand success.

[Click to read the Tech-fest Newsletter](#)

TRAINING

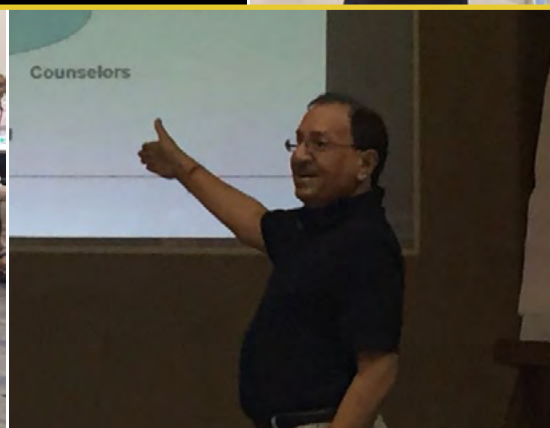


Five day Interview skills training on algorithms conducted by Goldman Sachs, Bangalore.



An activity based workshop conducted on English communication Skills.

A Public Speaking workshop comprising of elocution, a street play and a video interview of a student on campus.



MENTORSHIP

EXPOSURE VISITS



Katalysts interacting with women leaders at the Symantec Global Service Week 2016.

Katalyst organised a Mentor Workshop in November to build capacity of mentors and offer a platform for mentors to interact with one and another. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Vijay Mahajan. An instrument was administered to help mentors assess their styles. Mr. Mahajan then went through the roles of a mentor, traits of a successful mentors, pitfalls, benefits to mentors and mentees. The mentors also shared their experiences and exchanged ideas.

CENTRE	NEWLY INDUCTED KATALYSTS	TOTAL No. of Katalysts	Total Training Hours Conducted
Bangalore	81	180	1566
Mumbai	-	32	664
Pune	47	120	1912

OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Varsha Pagare was only 10 years old when she lost her father. She reflects how her mother left no stone unturned to see that both Varsha and her little brother received the best, despite all the hardships. The family of three lived in the district of Nashik, Maharashtra. Varsha learnt early that she had to be successful in order to make her mother proud. She was always a bright student in school. She was awarded a Scholarship of Merit in Class 7 which encouraged her to achieve more from life.

After topping her Class in standard 12, Varsha joined COEP for Mechanical Engineering. And that's when she was introduced to Katalyst. Varsha believes that college and academic life teaches you a



lot which was true in her case too but it was Katalyst that enabled her to be the confident and independent person she is today.

In 2013, she was selected by Eaton Technologies through campus placements and worked with them for two and half years. Thereafter in 2016, she took the UPSC exam and successfully bagged the post of Assistant Commissioner of Provident Fund at the Ministry of Labour Commission.

She is currently training in Delhi and will receive her posting soon.

Looking back, Varsha recalls the Katalyst training and exposure visits that she went through and believes that it was much easier to enter the corporate world and survive in it because Katalyst prepared her for it. She is proud of the person she is today, and gives credit to her mother, her brother and

Ms. Anjali Hari (Katalyst) for being the catalysts to her success.

Siddhika Save hails from a village called Gholwad, located near the Maharashtra-Gujarat border. Her father, a farmer knew from the very start that he wanted his daughter to go to Mumbai and pursue her studies after completing class 10. Siddhika remembers her growing up years and how her family was affected financially due to the fluctuating income owing to the nature of seasonal agriculture. However, her father had decided that he would not let anything affect the education of his daughter. Through all their hardships and her father's support, Siddhika moved to Mumbai after class 10. She pursued engineering from VJIT college, and that's when she was introduced to Katalyst.

Siddhika believes that Katalyst not only helped her financially but also improved her soft skills and made her the confident person she is today. She remembers having sessions on presentation skills and corporate workshops with Oracle. Most of all she believes that the day to day interaction with the Katalyst team helped her understand the

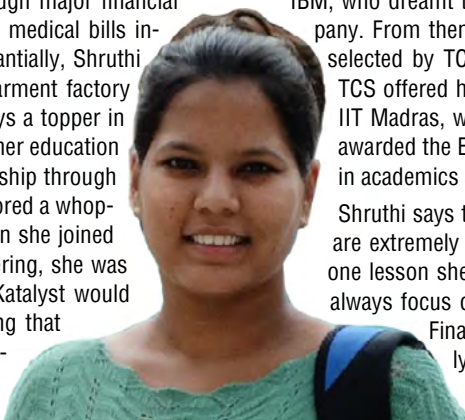
meaning of professionalism and taught her to take responsibility for her own actions.

Through Katalyst, Siddhika also got an opportunity to do an internship with Mahindra & Mahindra. After her B.Tech, Siddhika was placed with Larsen & Toubro Limited through campus, but she turned down the opportunity to pursue her MBA in marketing from JBIMS, where she was placed at Vodafone Pvt. Ltd through campus.

Siddhika believes that students don't succeed by just getting into the best college, but they succeed through their own hard work and dedication towards their goal. She is thankful to Katalyst and her father who believed in her throughout her journey.



Shruthi Gopinath was the only daughter of a well-to-do middle class family in Bangalore. Although, when she was in Class 8, her father who was working at a recording company, went through major financial crisis that affected his health adversely. With the medical bills increasing and the family income decreasing substantially, Shruthi contemplated if she should take up a job in a garment factory to help her family. However, as Shruthi was always a topper in her class, her teacher advised her against leaving her education and instead encouraged her to apply for a scholarship through the Perna Nurture Merit Test- Infosys. Shruthi scored a whopping 98% and won the scholarship. In 2008, when she joined Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology for Engineering, she was introduced to Katalyst. Shruthi reminisces how Katalyst would conduct social skills and managerial skills training that groomed her. She believes that the campus to corporate exposures that were organised by Katalyst got her ready for the post college life. Most of all



Shruthi is grateful to Katalyst for being there like family through all her difficult times. She fondly also remembers her Mentor Mr. Nagendra from IBM, who dreamt that Shruthi would one day be the CEO of a company. From then on, there was no turning back for her. She was selected by TCS Bangalore in 2012, through campus. In 2015, TCS offered her to pursue her MTech in Merchant Design from IIT Madras, which she happily accepted. In Nov 2016, she was awarded the Eaton Prathiba Award for being an all-rounder both in academics and in extracurricular activities.

Shruthi says that her family is now well settled and her parents are extremely proud of all her achievements. Looking back, the one lesson she has learnt through all of this is that, one should always focus on one's goal and believe that one can achieve it.

Finally she says that she is forever grateful to Katalyst who groomed her to believe in herself and to achieve everything she has today.



Ravinol Chambers, producer and director of Be Inspired Films, in conversation with Katalyst students and alums to explore and capture their perspectives on Women Empowerment for their upcoming documentary on Educating Girls!

YOU CAN HELP TOO!!!

Through the Mentorship Programme, Katalyst connects its students with professionals from various walks of life to inspire them to become leaders. It is a mutually rewarding programme as both the mentor and mentee grow by interacting with each other. If you have what it takes to help empower these future torch bearers, **[Come, be a Katalyst Mentor!](#)**

THE KATALYST TEAM

Katalyst Board of Directors and Advisors:

Sunit Mehra, Shital Kakkar Mehra, Vijay Mahajan

Katalyst Executive Team

Mumbai : **Poorvi Shah, Anjali Hari, Manali Ghaghda, Avila D'souza**

Bangalore : **Vijaya Thilakam, Steffi CT, Shamshidha Zainab**

Pune : **Megha Verma, Astrid Fernandes**

New Delhi : **Krithika Rao**



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