Biz minds learn and grow

Five days of camp, five days of learning and five days to becoming an entrepreneur — students broke down walls and came up with ideas at Youngpreneur’s camp at The Newtown School...

Entrepreneur is a producer and not a consumer. Take the steps. Do something that you have never done before. Fun is when you are in your elements and doing what you are good at. When you change, everything will change for you. Braining is not bad, if it’s done in a way that people are going to like.

This and much more was discussed over five days at a teen entrepreneurship camp conducted by Cut-cute-based Youngpreneur, a youth academy and think tank that promotes entrepreneurship and innovation-oriented growth among high schoolers aged 13 to 19, in The Newtown School.

The bootcamp was primarily conducted by Devika Majumdar, Co-founder and CEO of Youngpreneur, and Avdul Roy. Students from Class IX got a chance to learn the tricks and trades of the entrepreneurial world and what it takes to make it big in the world of business.

From public speaking to confidence-building, this camp had students making their first product pitch at the end of the five days.

FIVE DAYS OF BOOTCAMP

Day 1: This started out with ice-breakers and group formation. The class was then introduced to the idea of entrepreneurship, followed by entrepreneurial mindsets, games and bug reports. At the end of the day, the students came up with a list of what “bugs” they found in their daily life and what problem they would like to solve to make the product better.

Day 2: The groups discussed each of their “bugs” and did a market survey by taking votes on to who else in the camp also faced the same problem. Then they chose the project that they would like to work on to make it a reality. That is part of the customer-discovery exercise and customer-discovery findings. The students were then taught MVP (minimum viable product) and the rest of the day was focused on building a prototype.

Day 3: The day started with understanding a lean start-up, a business model and business model canvas. The mentors worked with each group on their MVPs and their understanding of the concepts.

Day 4: This day focused on business planning and development. Students learned how to pitch their products in 60 seconds. The session was completely dedicated to communication and public speaking.

Day 5: This was the pitch day, where everything came to a full circle. The participants worked one-on-one with the teachers and mentors and finally went up to the panel to pitch their products.

All of us carry smartphones and all of us know the challenges of finding charging points whenever we are on the move. Group IX figured out a way to help beat those charging blues. Here’s a wireless charger to your rescue that can charge from a distance as well.

I wasn’t expecting the workshop to be so much fun and informative. Each day was a great experience. I am a shy person and cofabulating a product really helped me in that section.

- Class IX

Entrepreneurial skills are valuable to students, whether they see themselves going into business or not. In the real world, where simple answers are rare, where change is fast, competition is fierce, and the careers of tomorrow aren’t yet known, students armed with an entrepreneur’s toolkit will have a distinct advantage over those who are used to simply “doing” school. Skills and benefits that students gain through Youngpreneur Academy include comprehension, purposeful writing, presentation, drawing, technology, financial skills, consumer awareness, storytelling, listening skills, creative thinking, problem-solving, collaborative skills, and teamwork.

And above all, the soft skills that truly distinguish a very successful entrepreneur and a good human being. I always reference to all parents, whenever I get an opportunity, that with every aspect of the programme seamlessly blending into the school curriculum, it doesn’t interrupt your child’s education — it enhances it.

- Devika Majumdar
Founder and CEO Of Youngpreneur

Generations have tried to solve why smartphones always tangle when left alone. To solve this never-ending problem and create a product that’s both unique and extremely helpful, Group IX came up with a paperphone holder that’s compact and easy to use and will keep the smartphones just how you want them to be.

My dad and sister encouraged me to take part in this workshop. Here, I learnt complicated things in an easy manner. I am going to be a fashion designer and this workshop helped me a lot.

- Class IX

Learning anything new is great. The workshop was both informative and educational. I loved the pitching session as well as the fact that we played Mafia at the end of every day.

- Class IX

The Youngpreneurs’ learning model is especially effective because students are immersed in an experiential learning environment where they become active participants in the learning process instead of being passive recipients of information-driven lectures. As a society, we’re faced with massive issues at the national and global scale that extend beyond economic growth, like the environment, energy, sustainable development and human welfare in general. We owe it to ourselves as a nation, to empower the next generation of change-makers as active participants in shaping the next era of this country’s future.

- Devika Majumdar
Co-founder and CEO of Youngpreneur
It was something that school children will relate to, along with people from the corporate world or those who wear formal attire on a regular basis — a how-to tip. It saves time and also saves one the embarrassment of not knowing how to make the knot. Hook it and you are done, said the students of Group IV.

I had expected it to be more theoretical. If I read all that they have been telling us on Google, I wouldn’t be able to understand it. But they explained it so well.

— Aaksha Malhotra
Class IX

A smart generation with a smart phone would quickly get interested in this product that Group V was selling. An app cleaner that can clean and protect all apps on your phone, or any other type of gadget. Safe and secure!

I always wanted to learn entrepreneurship. My dad is in sales and I have always been interested in learning the language he speaks. I hope and dream to create my own empire. Safe and secure!

— Mallick
Class IX

It’s incredible to see the enthusiasm and intelligence that is pooled in the teenage minds. Four students are already developing products with the full intention to build a viable business. The future of our country looks very bright. These teenagers have realized the paramount gift of an entrepreneurial mindset. No matter what, they end up choosing as a profession, this mindset will allow them to always make decisions and solve problems creatively. We focused quite a bit on verbal communication because we might have a great product but unless one knows how to sell, no one will care about it. We are always selling, selling ideas, selling ourselves, selling our brand, selling our reputation. One who knows how best to sell stands out. They become rich and famous. I guarantee you that each of those kids will make our country very proud!

Founder, Kirktaka Ventures, Youngpreneur board of advisors

We wanted to make available to the students of Hovehah and the surrounding areas quality education at an affordable fee. Since Motion is a renowned name in the field of HT-JEE coaching centres, we wanted to bring the benefits that we offer to students here as well. Our comprehensive study materials and technology-driven teaching methods are what sets Motion apart.

We have just init. the wheels rolling. My aim is to help the kids out with the tricks and techniques of the entrance and competitive examinations, making the schedule and exam plans and more. Students from in and around Hovehah have signed up to study here, and the feedback regarding the teachers has been great. The students have been waiting for this kind of an institute in Hovehah. As far as I know, within the next year, four or five centres will come up in Calcutta as well.

— Reu Bandypadhyay
Academic coordinator of Motion Coaching Centre

We were just init.

What makes life easier for a teenager? Of course, a shoe without lace. Who wants to get caught up tying lace? Shoes without straps were the choice for Group VI and they did their best to sell them.

It has been a superb experience. This workshop has changed the way I used to see entrepreneurship. The best part has been the interaction with the teachers.

— Mukta
Class IX

What I expected from the workshop was that it would be a boon for my students to enhance their creativity and ability to be more innovative. It has enhanced their communication skills, urged them to be thinkers and present themselves well. In our daily grind, innovation takes a

Text by Serebrite Sen, pictures by Sharlay Roychoudhury and Armeb Mondal

TREAT FOR THE BEST
The felicitation ceremony of the IIT, ISM, Madras, and JEE toppers of the 11 Dhoonmik, under the archdiocese of Calcutta, was held at the Loyola High School auditorium. It was a proud day for the principal, teachers and students of the school, who lifted their shingles receive awards for their commitment and effort.

The programme began with the lighting of the lamp by Bishop Thomas D’Souza, Fr. Cyril Roy (D’Souza, Inspector of the Dhoonmik schools, Fr. Rodney Bora, Principal of Loyola High School, Fr. Sekul Das, Principal of St. Mary’s School, Fr. Philip D’Souza, Principal of Sacred Heart School, Kharagpur, and Fr. Hajeel D’Souza, Principal of Meghamala Roy Education Centre). The programme continued with a song by the Loyola School choir followed by a welcome address presented by the students of Meghamala Roy Education Centre. The first category of awards was given to the toppers of Class X, XII and Mahamud of each of the Dhoonmik schools and the three highest scorers among them. This was followed by a dance performance presented by the students of St. Anthony’s High School.

The next category of award was for the toppers of Class XII (ISC and HDS) and the three highest scorers. There was also an award for schools achieving 100 per cent results for the encouragement and support given by the principal and the staff to their students.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the host school principal, Fr. Rodney Bora.

Text and picture sent by school

SECO Income

Motion Coaching Centre for HT-JEE opened its first branch in the region recently in the newly constructed building next to Siddhi Municipal School in Liliak. The room was chock-full by the time the programme started and the show went smoothly. The director of Motion Coaching Centre was present at the event, along with the headmasters of the neighboring schools, including Anand HC School, Sadar Memorial School and Hovehah Jala School. The instructors at Motion explained the functioning of the coaching centre in a mixed audience of students, parents and teachers.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown tracing the story of the successful journey of this institution. The centre has many facilities available for the students such as Homework Corrector Ward, Motion Solutions lab, Student Support Cell and more to make learning easier. The centre also provides full-time academic counselors on the premises. Shreya, a student at Motion Coaching Centre, said, "I am getting a lot of help from this institute. The teachers are very understanding and friendly. They treat all the students equally and answer everyone’s queries patiently."