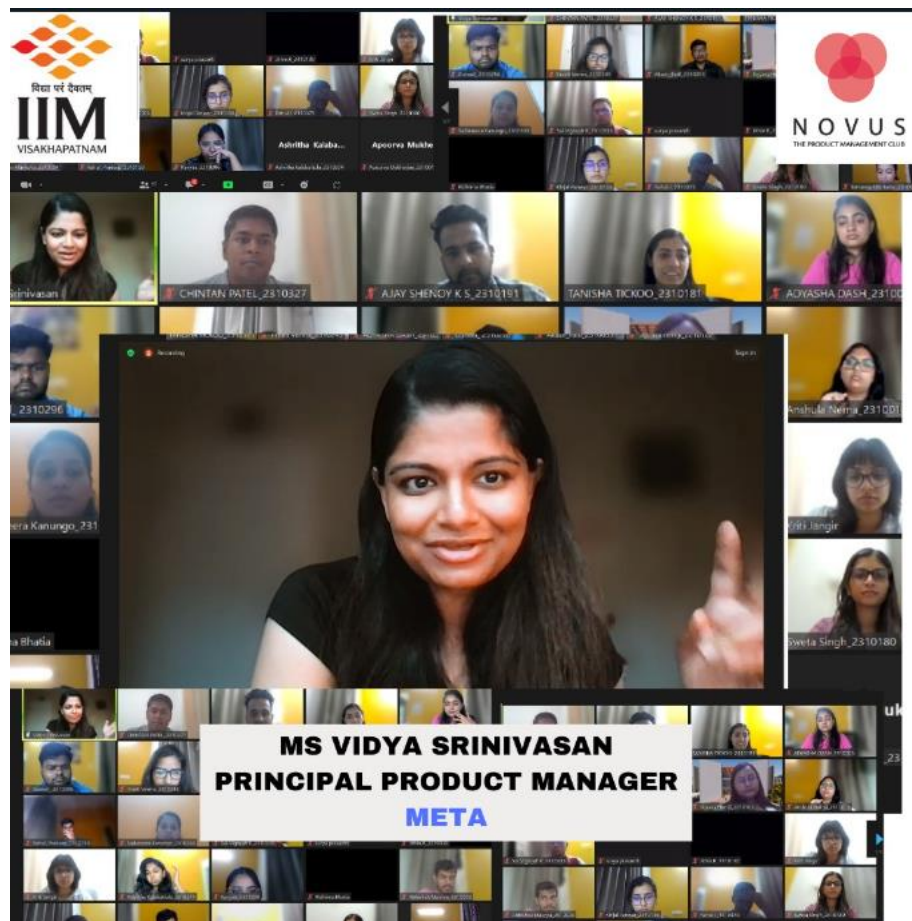


Event Report: Vaktavya Leadership Talk 4.0 Episode 2 with Ms. Vidya Srinivasan hosted by Novus on 11th October 2023

1. Event Overview:

Novus had the privilege of hosting Ms. Vidya Srinivasan, Principal Product Manager at Meta in USA and an ex-Microsoft professional, for the second episode of Vaktavya Leadership Talk 4.0. The fireside chat aimed to dissect the world of product management and shed light on some of the common misconceptions students have regarding the world of product leadership in the tech industry and provide valuable insights to the audience.



Snippets from the fireside chat

2. Key Event Highlights:

Ms. Srinivasan's talk was both enlightening and inspiring. She discussed several crucial aspects of product management, offering valuable takeaways for the attendees:

2.1 Traits of a Product Manager: Ms. Srinivasan emphasized the essential qualities a product manager should possess. These include a keen sense of product management, analytical thinking, and effective problem-solving skills. Product managers should not only know "how" to solve problems but also "what" to solve and "why" to solve them. This perspective helps them make informed decisions and prioritize tasks effectively.

2.2 Mind Gymnastics and Product Sense: Product management was described as an exercise in "mind gymnastics." It involves constantly stretching one's thinking and staying agile to adapt

to changing circumstances. The importance of cultivating a strong "product sense" was highlighted, which involves understanding the market, user needs, and technology trends to make informed product decisions.

2.3 Enjoy the Process and Learning Curve: Ms. Srinivasan also encouraged the audience to find enjoyment in the product management process if chosen as a career. She explained that success in this role often stems from embracing challenges and actively seeking to learn and grow. She stressed on the significance of embracing the learning curve and viewing it as a valuable opportunity for personal and professional development.

3. Benefits for Students:

The fireside chat provided students with a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the journey of a seasoned product professional and tap into her wealth of experiences. Moreover, the audience actively participated by posing questions, creating an enriching and interactive learning experience.

Among the manifold lessons for students, the event underscored a key takeaway: Product management is a learnable skill. While technical proficiency is preferred, it's essential to recognize that this proficiency can be acquired through sustained effort and dedication. Students not only gained valuable insights from an accomplished product manager with a rich history in leading tech companies, but they also received career guidance, helping them understand the necessary attributes for excelling in product management roles at tech giants. Furthermore, Ms. Srinivasan's personal journey and achievements served as a source of inspiration and motivation, encouraging students to ardently pursue a career in product management and emphasizing the significance of relishing the learning process as they navigate challenges and growth opportunities.

Some student reviews post the fireside chat,

"The GL was actually nice"

"Sahi talk tha, great job done by Novus"

"She answered most of the questions."

"Nice speaker"

In summary, the Vaktavya Leadership Talk 4.0 Episode 2 featuring Ms. Vidya Srinivasan was a remarkable opportunity for students to gain valuable insights into the world of product management, learn from an industry expert, and find inspiration in their career aspirations within the tech industry. It was a successful and enriching event that left attendees with a clearer perspective on the path to becoming a successful product leader.