



HSNC UNIVERSITY

KISHINCHAND CHELLARAM COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

UNDER THE AEGIS OF DBT STAR STATUS AND STAR SCHEME

Edu-Link Lecture Series (2020-21) - Lecture 6:

‘If I Can, So Can You’

On 05 April, 2021, KC College under the Aegis of DBT Star Status held their sixth lecture of the Edu-Link Series: Genetic Counselling: ‘A Journey to Decode Your Genome’. The resource person was Ms. Sapna Vyas, who is the principal scientist of Censo Biotechnologies.

Ms. Vyas is an ex-student of KC College (batch 2004) and she started her talk with her journey in Life Sciences. She mentioned her vocational subject choice which was Biotechnology and how she was always an active contender in all college activities while also being good at studies. Ma’am enlightened the attendees about methods of funding for universities abroad, the criteria and exams to take as she herself went to UK after completing her BSc. She completed her masters from Sheffield University, where she faced intense coursework, language differences. She also benefitted from the creative independence, support from tutors and worked on her research project.

In her early career, Ms. Vyas worked on the development of monoclonal antibodies diagnostic disease in the giant freshwater prawn- which is a cervical disease of much problem in the fishing culture at the time. Along with this, she also worked on genetic recombinant protein expression in yeast cells. Ma’am mentioned that one must always pursue what they desire by an example of landing a job at Sanger Institute, which is world renown for its elaborate research and PhD programs. Here, she was an Advanced Research Assistant on the Moused Genome Project and the lab manager at Prof. Ludovic Vallier Lab. Ma’am also worked on an intricate and difficult topic -Recapitulating beta cell development and diabetes in vitro using iPSC model and genome editing approach at Sanger Institute. This project was elaborate and she worked on Pancreatic development, Disease Modelling and Drug Testing Cell Therapy, adding a note that one has no limits to their potential. Ms. Vyas showed the

attendees the process of differentiating of the pancreas and how minute details are studied. She also mentioned about her work on T cell lymphoma and gave the students an overview of how life outside the cocoon of BSc. is.

Ms. Sapna Vyas was elaborate and concise at the same time. The question and answers were an intense one and the attendees had a lot of questions which she answered wonderfully. Ma'am gave the message that one must always be in the forefront and take things in their own hands. She ended her talk with the fact that with the right dedication, one can achieve anything.

-Team KCLSD