

STADIO

HIGHER EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER



DR DIVYA SINGH

"Be the change you want to see in the world," a simple but profound declaration attributed to Gandhi. If you take a moment to think about it, you will realize that it is an appeal for positive contribution and social impact, or stated differently, a plea that each one of us gives of ourselves to enable the pursuit of something better. As a graduate, you will understand what I am saying.

At an individual personal level, is this not the reason that you chose to study further and equip yourself with improved knowledge, and greater skills and competencies to better your life and walk towards a more successful future? However, you will read in the literature that humans are social beings, and in this role, it behoves us all to act beyond our own individual (and sometimes selfish) interests and to take cognisance of what many describe as 'the greater good' and to act in a manner that creates benefit for communities and society as a whole. A higher education qualification is a rite of passage, during which professional expertise and discipline knowledge is acquired. But equally importantly, as STADIO responds to the global imperatives for holistic development, civic responsibility, and sustainability,

our Graduates are also being exposed to the values of citizenship and principles of social consciousness, in other words what it means to be a good citizen. I hope you have taken the opportunities that were available to you and that you will always strive to make a positive impact.

As a graduate, you are amongst a privileged few in this country and you should be an agent of change, contributing to the building of a better future for those who come after you, where the values of human rights and social justice, respect for cultural diversity, and dignity are reinforced and solidly grounded. How sad a day would it be if we all left this world worse off than it was when we entered it! "But" you might argue, "I do not have control over the world" and I will respond, "but you do have influence in the community in which you live." You will not change the world overnight, but you can start with small steps. My challenge to you is try it and you will quickly realise how rewarding it becomes.

Congratulations on becoming a graduate. You have achieved a significant milestone, and you have every right to bask in your well-deserved glory. But it will be short-lived and nothing more than a photo on the wall if you do not decide to stand up and do something to be the change you want to see in the world. I believe that your student journey at STADIO will have equipped you with all the qualities and skills required to pursue your dreams. Higher education study is not an easy task: it requires patience, resilience, hard work, tenacity, and the ability to focus...and you have proved that you have all that (and probably more). As we celebrate today's success, make a promise to yourself that you will not give up on your dreams and that you will be an enabler of change for your own empowerment and for the benefit of others. Go on, say it: YES, I CAN!