AGI tackles data science skills gap

Students teach students in an innovative interpretation of the Qlik Academic Program

LEAD WITH DATA™ Qlik Q

"The Qlik Academic Program and our state-of-the-art Data Analytics Club have a unique approach that delivers role based, application oriented, hands-on learning and the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification which prepares our students for the lucrative field of data science."

Dr. G. Vishnu Murthy, Professor and Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Anurag Group of Institutions

Vision of high academic standards

Anurag Group of Institutions (AGI) is spread over 50+ acres with a total built-up area of over 700,000 square feet. The AGI is setup with best-in-class infrastructure facilities to train about 6000 students with the support of about 650 teaching and non-teaching fraternity.

The institution has adopted a world class teaching-learning pedagogy that is constantly appraised and revised to align with the trends in global higher education.

Anurag's vision is to maintain high academic standards that promote 'the analytical thinking and independent judgement necessary to function responsibly in a globalized society'.

Need for trained data analysts

This commitment to preparing students for successful working lives is particularly relevant in Anurag's Department of Computer Science Engineering which has 720 students and 52 faculty members. Data Analytics has high priority as Department Head, Dr. G. Vishnu Murthy explains: "There is a serious skills gap for good data analysts in industry and business. The forecast is that there are 97,000 jobs that need to be filled in the area of data science so there is a huge need for skilled people."

Professor Ravinder Reddy adds: "For the past five years I have been teaching 'Big Data' subjects to students and we now see from Gartner publications that the future for the next 30 years will be data analytics."

Solution Overview

Customer Name
Anurag Group of Institutions

Industry
Higher Education

Geography
Hyderabad, India

Function
Higher Education

Business Value Driver
Qlik Academic Program

Challenges
- Improve student job prospects with training and practical experience with leading data analytics tools
- Support business and industry by addressing the need for trained data analysts
- Increase the educational benefits of direct collaboration with industry

Solution
Anurag Group has supplemented its curriculum with the Qlik Academic Program and has created a Data Analytics Club where trained students teach their contemporaries. The goal is to obtain the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification.

Results
- Improves student job prospects through hands-on experience with professional software
- Benefits industry by creating trained job candidates
- Broadens the institution's educational offering and boosts its reputation

Providing practical hands-on experience

Seeking the best way to instruct students in data visualization and, importantly, to provide them with practical experience, Anurag realized that the Qlik Academic Program was an ideal fit. Dr. Murthy explains: "We were very much fascinated with Qlik's vision of creating a data-literate world and that is why we decided to collaborate with them."

Training for an industry-recognized qualification

The university-level Qlik Academic Program gives professors and students a full year subscription to Qlik Sense software, and access to the Qlik Continuous Classroom self-paced learning platform. The program also provides a data analytics curriculum that features lecture notes, on-demand videos, course materials, student exercises and real-world interactive business use cases.

In addition, students and professors are provided access to the Qlik Community, an open community for professors and students to collaborate with others and share experiences. At the end of the course, students can earn the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification and receive a printable certificate and digital badge to share on their resumes and social media channels.

Innovation of students teaching students

Anurag instituted the Qlik Academic Program with an initial student enrolment of 190. Two faculty members also completed the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification so they could better support student learning.

"To supplement the learning with practical lab exercises, we have created a separate facility for the Qlik initiative where students work hands on, form in groups and very recently Mr. J. Shashidhar Reddy, Student President, Data Analytics Club participated in a 'hackathon' focused on data science and machine learning," explains Dr. Murthy. "Also we are happy to share that Mr. Shashidhar is recognized as Qlik Captain for Hyderabad and is responsible for organizing meetups in Data Analytics. In tandem with the Qlik Academic Program, the organization has also formed a Data Analytics Club where senior students can share the knowledge they have gained in data science and the importance of data literacy."

In this innovative development of the Qlik Academic Program, three students who had already obtained the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification have helped train the remaining students and the result is, of 60 who enrolled in the second phase of the program, 51 obtained the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification – with a whopping 85% pass rate.

Also, 41 Data Analytics Certifications have been earned. The students are now completing their final year but have the confidence of knowing that, of the previous group who took part in the course, 14% went on to obtain employment based on the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification.

Unique approach to hands-on learning

Dr. Murthy explains: "The Qlik Academic Program makes study more interesting for the students and keeps them engaged because we can now show them exactly how data visualizations can be done, using charts we have designed with Qlik Sense Desktop. The Qlik Academic Program is also very helpful to the industry because it provides job candidates whose learning has been supported by best practices and assessment."

In the future, Anurag is looking forward to having students obtain the Qlik Sense Business Analyst Qualification and plans to broaden the reach of the Data Analytics Club across technology-based student clubs. Those clubs will recognize that data analytics can be implemented across various domains like Internet of Things (IoT), Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, Android Application and Web Development, Cloud Computing and add value to the Big Data Course.

"With students taking a lead role in this innovative learning program, we believe that student participation is going to increase because giving them more responsibility has made them think about the positive value that can be added to the data analytics classes," concludes Dr. Murthy. "We are now setting certain pre-conditions for students to nominate themselves for this lead role and we have also created a separate website where you can see all the initiatives we have in support of the Qlik Academic Program. We are very thankful to members of the Qlik team for acting as enablers and enhancing the knowledge base of our students.

"Everyone is very enthusiastic to participate and be involved in the unique approach of the Qlik Academic Program; The kind of tasks students undertake and the exercises they need to execute are clearly demonstrated and it makes them participate hands-on. That is the uniqueness of the Qlik Academic Program."

"With increased student enrollments, continuous learning and qualifications and certificates offered by the Qlik Academic Program, AGI is looking forward to being recognized as a Qlik Center of Excellence." adds Professor B. Jyothi, Coordinator, Data Analytics Club.

The keys to success

85% of candidates earned a Qlik Sense qualification

92 qualifications or certifications earned by students

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About Qlik

Qlik is on a mission to create a data-literate world, where everyone can use data to solve their most challenging problems. Only Qlik's end-to-end data management and analytics platform brings together all of an organization's data from any source, enabling people at any skill level to use their curiosity to uncover new insights. Companies use Qlik to see more deeply into customer behavior, reinvent business processes, discover new revenue streams, and balance risk and reward.

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