

# How to upgrade your career growth with Executive MBA

The EMBA programmes have always put a big emphasis upon networking with both students and alumni, writes **Gary Stockport**

**D**uring the Covid-19 pandemic, some B-schools have seen increasing demand for their Executive MBA (EMBA) Programmes. Although traditionally offered face-to-face, many working professionals are now taking up the online option.

An EMBA is for practising managers who want to study part-time and typically within an 18-24 month timeframe. So, they study while doing a job.

## Upgrading knowledge & skills

**Career Development** — a person's career progression will positively correlate with the amount of professional development they invest in. Doing an EMBA is a big career investment in time and money but the payoff may be huge as witnessed by the career success of many EMBA alumni.

**Professional Network** — it is often said that it is not just what you know but also who you know that is important for career success. The EMBA programmes have always put a big emphasis upon networking with both current students and alumni. Notably, online EMBA's are looking to take this a step further through networking across countries and time zones. This is likely to substantially increase the size and power of a person's professional network.

**Generalist** – Covid-19 has emphasised the importance of leaders and managers approaching business issues from a holistic point of view in order to generate creative and do-able solutions. Doing an EMBA is ideal for this sort of capability building as students approach problems from many different perspectives

such as Accounting, Finance, HR, Marketing, Strategy and other perspectives.

**Leadership** – It is true that entrepreneurs such as Richard Branson (Virgin Group)



do not have an EMBA. However, it is also true from the testimonials of thousands of successful EMBA alumni that they might not have made it to the top, and certainly would not be as effective, without doing an EMBA and continually practising the art of management. An EMBA is aimed to help persons to transition from being a manager to becoming an effective leader.

**Learning for life** – EMBA candidates appreciate that their learning does not end after the course. Rather, they continue to learn throughout life whether through self learning or professional development courses.

*(The author is Dean EMBA at SP Jain School of Global Management)*