

Minocher Patel, who heads Ecole Solitaire, another finishing school decided on this venture after he saw schools on similar lines when working abroad. Says Patel, "As a member of youth organisation, AISEC, I visited Germany on a 'Train the Trainers' programme where I came across the concept of personal grooming. After my MBA, when I began working in Dubai, I found that wealthy families often sent their daughters to finishing schools to equip them with social skills. After researching my course structure for a year in Switzerland, I decided to open my finishing school here in Pune." Patel feels one can't really look for professional qualifications when recruiting faculty to teach skills like table manners. "It is a way of life. But yes, I do have teachers trained in skills like dance and voice modulation."

Prakash Rohera, director, Redwood Edge, attributes his popularity as a corporate trainer to his background as business head of multinational banks.

## GROOMING GREENHORNS

### What it takes to be a trainer

- Gift of the gab
- Self confidence
- Resourcefulness
- Networking skills

He says, "To enhance the attitude of their employees, firms prefer people with good work experience. We know the requirements of employers as also the problems that employees face."

Qualifications notwithstanding though, the personality trainers seem to be much in demand if the rush of students is anything to go by. After all, who doesn't want to put the right foot forward at all times?

PREETI MUDLIAR



Minocher Patel