

**National Level Panel Discussion on
Gender Equality in Job Opportunities and Leadership Roles: The Indian Scenario**

Date: 20th July, 2020, Friday

Time: 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Venue: ZOOM

Introduction

Gender Sensitization, Gender Equality has been an important issue in India since almost last hundred years. Today, in 21st century also the situation has not changed especially the developing country like India. It becomes more serious when it comes to 'Job Opportunities' and 'Leadership Roles' at the work place. Mahatma Night Degree College of Arts and Commerce, Chembur thought of having a Panel Discussion at National Level with the esteemed social activists as Panelists for the session.

Objectives

To discuss gender equality in job opportunities and leadership roles in the Indian scenario.

About the Activity

The Panel Discussion is the initiative of the Women Development Cell of Mahatma Night Degree College of Arts and Commerce in association with Soroptimist Welfare Association. The discussion was held on ZOOM platform on 20th July, 2020, Monday. The discussion began with the opening remarks by the programme convener Dr. Anaya A. Markandeya. Principal Dr. Padma Rangan addressed the gathering and introduced Mahatma Education Society and Mahatma Night Degree College of Arts and Commerce. Ms. Yvette Lee, the President of Soroptimist Welfare Association introduced the organization in brief. The Discussion was moderated by WDC in-charge Dr. Lata Krishnan.

The discussion was graced by the esteemed panelists, social activists, Dr. Armida Fernandez and Ms. Jyoti Mhapsekar. Dr. Armida Fernandez has established SNEHA (Society for National Education and Health Action). The organization is committed to mother and new born health nutrition, empowerment, health of adolescents and prevention of violence against women and children. Dr. Armida was asked questions on attitudinal

barrier on the role of society and family conditioning. Dr. Armida shared her experiences in working with the marginalized and vulnerable communities on the aspect of skill building and preparing them a confident to enter the job market.

Ms. Jyoti Mhapsekar, Founder of Stree Mukti Sanghatana, who has been an actively involved in every policy making with regards to women, put her views and experiences on opportunities and preferences given to women in the organizations while filling up the vacancies. She also threw light on the reality about the women's position and preference given to them when it comes to leadership roles to be performed. At the end of the Discussion, both the Panelists expressed their views and suggestions for bringing about the change in the scenario.

Dr. Daphne Pillai, Co-founder and Chairperson of Management Board Mahatma Education Society and Founder of Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur was present to encourage and motivate the budding organizers and social activists willing to contribute to the society. Dr. Daphne Pillai shared her own experience and explained how the issue of gender equality was then and is still important to talk on for betterment and improvement in current scenario.

Outcome

After the formal Panel discussion many participants raised their questions and also put forward their views and experiences with regards to Gender Equality. Total 263 participants were participated all over India like, Ahmedabad, Punjab, Bangalore. Two participants from Kuwait were also registered and benefitted from the Discussion.