

Conference Rise and Lead: Young Women Pioneering Technology, Business and Public Life, 2024

With
National Commission for Women, New Delhi



2.1 Aim of the Seminar

The aim of the seminars is to empower young girls by providing them with insights into opportunities in technology, public life, and corporate decision-making. Through capacity-building sessions, the seminars intend to generate awareness about leadership opportunities, decision-making processes, and preparing them for emerging futuristic technological advancements.

2.2 Objectives

1. Igniting Minds: To spark interest and enthusiasm among young girls in colleges across each State and UT regarding the domains of technology, public life, and corporate decision-making.
2. Capacity Building and Awareness Generation: To enhance the participants' awareness of leadership opportunities and decision-making processes, preparing them to embrace upcoming technological advancements and excel in technology, public life, and corporate sectors.
3. Leadership Insight: To provide leadership insights to participants through sessions conducted by domain experts in technology, public life, and corporate decision-making.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS OF THE SEMINAR- “RISE AND LEAD: YOUNG WOMEN PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS AND PUBLIC LIFE”

3.0 Glimpses from the Inaugural Ceremony







3.1 Technical Session -1

“Tech Horizons: Navigating Emerging Opportunities in AI, Drone Technology”

Speaker: Dr. Ramesh Kanneganti, Director - Center for Human Security Studies



Mr. Ramesh Kanneganti highlighted the significance of the Seminar's theme. He recalled the initiative in 2021 to establish a center for AI in human security. He discussed the necessity of merging traditional and non-traditional security measures for comprehensive security solutions. He emphasized the importance of understanding how technology intersects with human security and law. He delved into the socio-economic and political contexts, particularly regarding how girls and women are adapting to technologies, especially AI and questioned

the extent to which they are making their mark in this emerging field and outlined AI's potential as both

beneficial and challenging. He discussed the evolution of AI and categorized it into three parts: artificial narrow interference, artificial general interference (projected by 2040), and artificial super interference (anticipated beyond 2040). He highlighted the resilience of women and encouraged adopting a positive attitude towards setbacks. He raised concerns about the safety of women entering the metaverse and the evolution of relevant policies. Mr. Kanneganti emphasized the importance of addressing challenges such as biased datasets which can lead to biased outcomes. He compared workforce statistics by stating the substantial gap between the US and India and outlined the need for efforts to achieve similar gender representation. Further, he questioned India's position in the geopolitics of AI and its investments in related aspects. He advised the students to broaden their intellectual horizons, understand India's geopolitics, and grasp the implications of emerging technologies and associated laws. Sir recommended exploring human-centered AI initiatives and spoke about institutions like the Georgia Institute of Technology. He shared his experiences, particularly in Israel. He shared a video regarding a scheme launched by the Indian government called "Drone Didi" and opened the forum for questions and gave an insight on the same. He concluded the session by expressing that Freedom of want, freedom of speech, and freedom of security are the three important things for

achieving human security and stated that to build a stronger India



3.2 Technical Session – 2

“Women in Decision Making: Women Leading in Public Life”

Speaker: Ms. Chandrima Roy, Indian Railways Traffic Service (IRTS), former Principal Chief Operations Manager (PCOM) of Metro Railway



Ms. Chandrima Roy stated that in the discourse on gender equality and women's empowerment men must not be portrayed as wrongdoers. Each human being who is a part of democracy should have a say in the decision making. She shared personal experiences from her 30-year career in railways and underlined the care required in decision-making within government service. She highlighted traditional household dynamics where women often play a pivotal role in decision-making and excel in conflict resolution. She referred to an article from the Harvard Business Review detailing neurological differences in decision-making. As per this article, the Male brain contains six times more grey matter than women and the female brain contains ten times more white matter than men. She touched upon the latest women's reservation bill and stated that it involves a lot of work to be implemented. The optimistic view is that the implementation will be in 2029. The bill intends to reserve the seats in parliament for women but that intention is not being backed up by the actions. She also addressed obstacles hindering women's inclusion such as patriarchal societal norms and women's lack of self-confidence and urged for a shift in mind set and increased female participation in public life. She discussed the prevalent notion of danger hindering women's participation in public life, especially in politics, due to security concerns. Furthermore, she highlighted the role of women in the police sector and emphasized the importance of their inclusion in public life to address

various issues. She concluded her speech by encouraging young girls to be confident and courageous in decision-making including the ability to acknowledge and rectify mistakes. She also urged young men to involve women in the decision-making process.



EVIDENCE

The Architecture of Justice

ANALYSIS




Kicker: Exhibit o8 Shaping the Technological Future

Event:	'Rise and Lead' Seminar (In Collaboration with the National Commission for Women)
Date:	3 rd May 2024

A high-profile seminar exploring opportunities in AI, Drone Technology, and corporate decision-making. Featured domain experts like Dr. Ramesh Kanneganti and Ms. Chandrima Roy (IRTS).

Structural Impact: Positioned young women not as passive observers of technological advancement, but as pioneering architects of AI and public life. Fostered critical capacity-building for leadership roles in emerging, male-dominated sectors.



3.3 Technical Session – 3

“Women in Corporate Arena”

Speaker: Ms. Suvarna Singh is the Director of Engineering for Engineering Productivity at Workspace.



Ms. Suvarna spoke about her schooling and profession. She commenced her speech with a story from her tenure at Microsoft where she faced challenges in using certain features in Microsoft Excel. Despite initial obstacles, she successfully learned to use the features after realizing their importance to customers. She highlighted the significance of customer empathy in problem-solving and product development. She underscored the importance of considering the end-user experience in the development process and stated that customer-centric approaches lead to more successful outcomes. She shared a second story about her experience as a mother of

two small children during which her self-esteem was low and she thought of quitting her job due to career difficulties. She eventually decided to take a break and later resumed her career facing new challenges when changing companies. She highlighted the importance of stepping out of one's comfort zone and taking risks for personal and professional growth. She discussed the value of embracing change and learning opportunities and stated that growth often comes from pushing oneself beyond familiar boundaries. In the third story, she shared her journey as she moved into a managerial position during a company reorganization. Feeling unsure about how to proceed, she was approached by someone from outside her organization about a job offer which prompted her to think about pursuing the same role within her current organization. Upon her friend's suggestion, she revealed the external opportunity which ultimately resulted in her being offered the role within her organization. She highlighted the importance of proactively seeking opportunities rather than waiting for them to come. She stressed the value of taking initiative and being proactive in seeking career opportunities.



