

Guest Lecture on Social Sector Entrepreneurship in Collaboration with She Power



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LAW SCHOOL

Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies

ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad

Guest Lecture
on

Social Sector Entrepreneurship

31st July 2026 | 11:30 AM

Introductory Remarks



Prof. (Dr.) P. Ravisekhararaju
Director,
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Speaker



Ms. Apoorva Srivastava
General Secretary,
She Power

The Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies, ICFAI Law School, IFHE Hyderabad, organised a guest lecture on “Social Sector Entrepreneurship” by Ms. Alpana Bharathi and Ms. Apoorva Srivastava, Founders of SHE POWER, as distinguished speakers. The programme was organised with the objective of introducing students to the concept of social sector entrepreneurship and highlighting the role of

entrepreneurship as a means of addressing social challenges and promoting inclusive development.

The session provided students with an opportunity to understand entrepreneurship beyond the conventional objective of profit generation. The speakers discussed the concept of social entrepreneurship as an approach that combines innovation, sustainability, and enterprise with the objective of addressing social and community concerns. The lecture highlighted how entrepreneurial initiatives can be designed to create measurable social impact while developing financially and institutionally sustainable models.

Ms. Alpana Bharathi and Ms. Apoorva Srivastava shared their experiences and perspectives as founders of SHE POWER, providing participants with practical insights into the process of identifying social problems, developing solutions, mobilising resources, and creating initiatives capable of generating sustainable impact. Their interaction enabled students to appreciate the opportunities as well as challenges involved in building organisations with a strong social purpose. A significant focus of the lecture was on women's empowerment and gender-responsive entrepreneurship. The speakers discussed the importance of creating opportunities for women to participate meaningfully in economic and entrepreneurial activities. The session encouraged students to consider entrepreneurship not merely as an economic activity but also as a potential instrument for enhancing agency, financial independence, leadership, and participation in decision-making.

The lecture also explored the relationship between social sector entrepreneurship and social change. Participants were encouraged to identify social issues that could be addressed through innovative and sustainable interventions. The discussion demonstrated how entrepreneurs, civil society organisations, educational institutions, and other stakeholders can work together to develop solutions to challenges relating to education, livelihood, gender equality, access to opportunities, and community development.

The speakers emphasised the importance of innovation, problem identification, stakeholder engagement, sustainability, and impact assessment in social entrepreneurship. Students were encouraged to approach social problems through a solution-oriented perspective and to consider how entrepreneurial thinking can

complement legal, governmental, and institutional mechanisms for social development.

The programme was particularly relevant to students of law because social sector entrepreneurship frequently operates within a framework of rights, regulation, governance, public policy, and institutional accountability. The session provided an interdisciplinary perspective connecting entrepreneurship with gender studies, human rights, social justice, and sustainable development. It encouraged students to recognise the potential role of legal professionals not only as practitioners but also as facilitators of social innovation and institutional change. The interaction with the founders of SHE POWER also provided students with an opportunity to learn from practical experiences in the social sector. Rather than limiting the discussion to theoretical concepts, the speakers highlighted the importance of understanding the needs of communities, developing context-specific interventions, building partnerships, and sustaining social initiatives over time.

From the perspective of the Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies, the programme contributed to the Centre's objective of promoting awareness about gender equality, women's empowerment, economic participation, and inclusive development. It broadened the discourse on gender by introducing students to entrepreneurship as a potential avenue for empowerment and social transformation.

Key Learning Outcomes

The guest lecture contributed to the following learning outcomes:

- Understanding the concept and significance of social sector entrepreneurship.
- Appreciating the distinction between conventional entrepreneurship and social-impact-oriented enterprise.
- Developing awareness of the role of entrepreneurship in addressing social and gender-related challenges.
- Understanding the importance of innovation, sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and impact assessment.
- Appreciating entrepreneurship as a potential avenue for women's economic empowerment and leadership.
- Developing an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between law, entrepreneurship, gender, human rights, and social development.

- Encouraging students to think creatively about solutions to contemporary social problems.
- Providing exposure to practical experiences of establishing and operating an organisation with a social purpose.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

The programme also contributed to the objectives of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- **SDG 5 – Gender Equality:** by promoting discussion on women's empowerment, participation, and leadership.
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** by highlighting entrepreneurship, livelihood opportunities, and economic participation.
- **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities:** through emphasis on inclusive opportunities and social-sector interventions.
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** by promoting collaboration between academic institutions and social-sector organisations.

