

DIDIBAHINI SAMAJ VICTORIA

WOMEN DIALOGUE DIGITAL FORUM “Women Entrepreneurs and their challenges”



The poster features a central graphic of five stylized female silhouettes in various colors (pink, purple, green, blue, black) carrying briefcases. The text is arranged around this central graphic. At the top left is the Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria logo. Below it, the title 'Women Entrepreneurs and Their challenges' is written in pink and purple. Underneath the title is 'WOMEN DIALOGUE DIGITAL FORUM'. The host is Anjana Nepal. The panelists are Ambica Shrestha (President of Dwanika's Group of Hotel and Resorts), Darshana Shrestha (Vice president of FWEAN), Pamfa Dhamala (Managing Director of Langton Trekking), and Ranju Wagle Thapa (CEO of Sydney City College of Management). Sanjita Neupane is listed as the Director of Bunji Community Services. At the bottom, the date is 8th August, 2021, and the time is 6-7 PM AEST Sydney. There are logos for ENenepal, Facebook Live, and a Zoom meeting link with ID 819 9788 821 and passcode 214368.

Host

Anjana Nepal

Panelist

Ambica Shrestha
President: Dwanika's Group of Hotel and Resorts

Darshana Shrestha
Vice president (FWEAN)

Pamfa Dhamala
Managing Director, Langton Trekking

Ranju Wagle Thapa
CEO Sydney City College of Management

Sanjita Neupane
Director: Bunji Community Services

DATE: 8TH AUGUST, 2021

TIME: 6-7 PM AEST SYDNEY

ENenepal

f LIVE

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 819 9788 821
Passcode: 214368

A report prepared by Anita Bhandari

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria's (DBSV) Women dialogue digital forum is a forum for all women to share their ideas, skills, experiences and challenges. The forum aims to open up new pathways to celebrate women's success and empowerment journey via experience sharing.

At present, more women are coming out from the habitual and gender-specific jobs and undertaking into the world of business, medical, politics, science and many more. DBSV for change envisioned this digital forum as a platform to discuss women's lived experiences and challenges and also to praise women for their incredible journey. Hence, with ongoing dedication and commitment to promote equality and build a platform especially for women, DBSV has been successfully organising a women dialogue digital forum every two months.

After completing two sessions of the women dialogue digital forum on the occasion of Women's Day and Mother's Day, this time DBSV organised another digital forum with a motivating theme "Women Entrepreneurs and their Challenges". The session was held on the 8th of August, 2021 to highlight the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and to share panel speaker's valuable insights to inspire the initiation of women-owned and women-led enterprises. The forum was organised and facilitated via a digital platform, Zoom. The digital platform brought together six women entrepreneurs (panel speakers) from Nepal and Australia:

1. Ambica Shrestha, President: Dwarika's Group of Hotel and Resorts
2. Darshana Shrestha, Vice-President (FWEAN)
3. Pamfa Dhamal, Managing Director, Langton Trekking
4. Ranju Wagle Thapa, CEO Sydney City College of Management
5. Sangita Neupane, Director: Bunji Community Services
6. Sudhira Shah, Photographer/Author

During the session, the panel speakers concentrated on the root causes of challenges confronted by women entrepreneurs, more specifically in our patriarchal society and how it affects women entrepreneurs. Panel speakers shared their insights, knowledge and discussed how women entrepreneurs are constrained by inadequate education, business experience, limited networks especially business-related and negative attitudes towards the business owned by women. Moreover, the panel speakers also facilitated a discussion on various cultural and social factors which makes it more difficult for women to start and run enterprises, for instance, expectations

and demands of the traditional reproductive roles. The forum's discussions also shared the need for good practices regarding initiatives to enhance women's participation in the business world and to enhance the competitiveness of women-owned and women-led businesses.

The digital forum was successfully facilitated by Anjana Nepal, program coordinator of DBSV. Technically, the session was coordinated by Benju Gnawali. At the beginning of the session, DBSV's president Dr Jamuna Parajuli delivered a welcome speech and took the opportunity to deliberate DBSV's objectives, accomplishments and highlighted DBSV's ongoing and future projects. The event was broadcasted live via DBSV's Facebook and was also followed by more than 300 viewers

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The women dialogue digital forum "Women Entrepreneurs and their challenges" carried the following key objectives:

- To discuss and ascertain the challenges and constraints faced by women entrepreneurs in starting, leading and running their businesses.
- To discuss and counter root causes of gender-based discrimination, prevailing stereotypes and how it affects women entrepreneur's participation and potential.
- The session also aimed to recommend different measures and motivate women to take their initiations and dedication to the next level, to find opportunities and to improve productivity for better growth, personally and professionally.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Overall, the program was very well-organized, thoughtful, informative, and inspiring. The program was reflected as an excellent platform that offered women a unique opportunity to share their ideas and experiences. Thus, the forum was conceived as a platform to explore and share insights on the access of women and to give voice to women to contribute to break prevailing stereotypes with their incredible stories. The panel speakers shared that they feel privileged to be honoured and to be part of the session. Upon reflection, it was a great experience that truly brought everyone together and it meant a lot to each who participated in the session. Viewers and participants witnessed experience and insights on how women entrepreneurs are promoting women's empowerment for inclusive society and nation. As noted, and discussed by the panel speakers, in the emerging complex world, women have a

vital role to play in different dimensions and to ensure that women are not left behind under any circumstances or at any cost.

CONCLUSION

The women dialogue digital forum revealed the specific problems and challenges encountered by women entrepreneurs and highlighted critical ways that hamper the growth of women entrepreneurs. A large number of women around the world led and run their businesses these days. However, the journey was not easy for these women including our panel speakers to succeed in business. They faced a lot of problems and overcome several barriers and discriminations to become successful in their endeavours. But the success stories of women entrepreneurs shows that we can succeed despite all barriers and challenges.