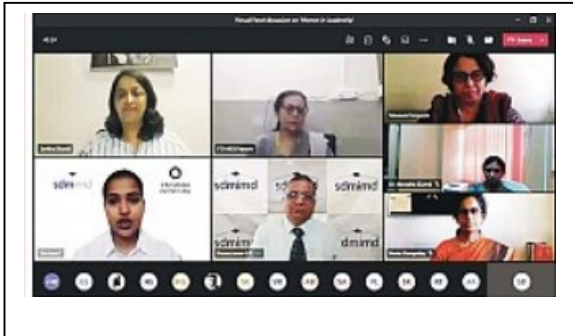


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International Women's Day:
SDMIMD holds virtual panel
discussion on 'Women in
Leadership'

CHAMUNDI HILL ROAD

Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD) organised a virtual panel discussion on "Women in Leadership," on March 8 on the occasion of International Women's Day. Dr Neetu Ganapathy, moderator for the session, explained how the pandemic devastated the world and the central role that women play in society and the disproportionate burden that they bear.

The SDMIMD director Dr N R Parasuraman, mentioned the efforts taken at SDMIMD to encourage girl students which includes making a conscious attempt to enroll more girl students each year in addition to providing them with scholarships.

The panel comprising four women leaders from diverse backgrounds - Dr B R Mamatha, joint director general, ATI; Dr Arti Behl, consultant psychiatrist, Apollo BGS Hospitals; Savitha Mallappa, director, Process Outsourcing Services Pvt Ltd and Dr Mousumi Sengupta, professor, SDMIMD, discussed various issues such as the panelist's leadership journey, the role their family played, difference in leadership styles between men and women, the role 'emotional intelligence' plays in decision making and the barriers to women in leadership.

During the discussion, Dr Mamatha stressed that leadership is a trait ingrained in every woman.

She shared her experience of how women have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Dr Arti Behl underlined the importance of women who are more expressive when compared to men and this can be their strength.

Savitha Mallappa pointed out that a significant barrier to women in leadership is women having to leave their work for family related reasons and their inability to return to work thereafter. Dr Mousumi Sengupta explained the sticky floor concept and how it can impact women's progress. An interaction programme between the panelists and the audience consisting mainly of students from SDMIMD

was also held.

All the panelists agreed that capability and not gender should be the deciding factor when choosing a person for a leadership role. They stated that gender equality is extremely important for a society to grow. They emphasised the need for an ecosystem to help women balance the multiple roles they play in life.

Dr Neetu Ganapathy concluded the session by thanking the panelists and saying that both men and women should work shoulder to shoulder and collaborate to make the workplace a more equitable one, stated a press release from Dr Sunil M V, assistant professor and chairperson - Learning Resources, SDMIMD.

- NGB