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To succeed, stay open to learning

Chetna Mehra



Usha Sriram, founder of ACEER Health with Bala V. Balachandran, founding Dean of the Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai.

To succeed in the current uncertain environment, today's employees need to be open to continuous learning and adaptive of the continuously changing environment, according to Renuka Ramnath, Founder, Managing Director & CEO of Multiples Alternate Asset Management.

Ramnath was addressing students at the Chennai-based Great Lakes Institute of Management during the institute's annual event called Successful Women In Management (SWIM).

"Fresh employees now have to go through much more demanding situations in an organisation. Working cycles are shortening, designation is no longer an edge and no job is assured for a lifetime. So, you are going to face much more uncertainty," said Ramnath during her address through video conference. "To succeed in such an environment you have to be a student all your life, and keep on evolving."

"Ultimately, it boils down to listening to the market and continuously adapting your strategies to meet what the market needs," she added.

Nirmala Menon, Founder & CEO of Interweave Consulting, who was also present at the event, spoke about the basic underlying differences between men and women and how organisations can leverage these differences to become better. "Men and women are equal but different, thus, we should respond to differential policies and deal in different ways with men and women," said Menon.

Menon strongly advocated balanced leadership and urged that more women should be there on companies' boards in order to bring a balanced perspective to the business. She added that men tend to be higher risk takers and women could be more risk averse, thus, an equal number of men and women on company boards can help in taking better business decisions.

The founder of ACEER Health, Usha Sriram, also addressed the students, "Women are naturally talented at multi-tasking, they are more tolerant and possess good people skills".

"Today women have taken up various roles and their lives are more stressful than ever, they should not neglect their health while performing these responsibilities," she said.

Health issues

Sriram said the number of women who work outside the home has increased tremendously over the years. Their lifestyles have also changed. Their sedentary lifestyle is impacting their health in a big way.

She stressed on joining hands to improve the literacy rate among girl children.

Great Lakes also organised a pre-event activity for SWIM under which students from across the country were invited to participate in a video-making and an article-writing competition with SWIM as a theme. The institute received responses from leading management institutions including IIMs, Narsee Monjee, SIBM, XIMB among others.

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