Awareness and Capacity Building Programme

on

Rise and Lead:

Young Women Pioneering Technology, Business and Public Life

SPONSORED BY

National Commission For Women, New Delhi, India

ORGANIZED BY

Centre For Women's Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (C. G.)

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Report on Awareness and Capacity Building Programme on "Rise and Lead: Young Women Pioneering Technology, Business and Public Life" on May 2, 2024.

Concept Theme:

National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, hosted a **Awareness and Capacity Building Programme on "Rise and Lead: Young Women Pioneering Technology, Business and Public Life" on May 2, 2024**. The programfocused on empowering young women in #technology# business# public life. Ms. Mamta Kumari,Member, NCW, New Delhi was the chief guest of the program. The program was chaired by Prof Sachidanand Shukla, honorable Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.Sessions covered new technology trends and opportunities in sectors like AI, Drone tech, as well as leadership roles for women in public life and corporate decision-making. Subject matter experts provided insights for young girls aspiring to excel in these sectors.

About the program:

The aim of the program 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 program intend to generate awareness about leadership opportunities,decision-making processes, and preparing them for emerging futuristic technological advancements.

Objective of the Program :

1. **Igniting Minds:** To spark interest and enthusiasm among young girls in colleges/universitys 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.

Insights:

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, women have been making significant strides in fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), drone technology, and leadership roles. These trailblazing women are not only breaking barriers but also reshaping the future of these industries.In the realm of AI, womenlike Fei-Fei Li, a renowned computer scientist and AI expert, have been at the forefront of research and innovation. Li's work in computer vision and machine learning has paved the way for advancements in AI applications across various sectors, from healthcare to autonomous vehicles.

Similarly, in the field of drone technology, women like Dr. Catherine Ball have been instrumental in pushing the boundaries of what is possible. As a leading expert in drones and their applications, Dr. Ball has played a key role in shaping the future of aerial robotics and their use in industries such as agriculture, environmental conservation, and disaster response.

Moreover, women are increasingly taking on leadership roles in tech companies, driving innovation and fostering diversity in the workplace. Leaders like Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, and Ginni Rometty, former CEO of IBM, have demonstrated the power of female leadership in shaping the direction of some of the world's most influential tech companies.

In India, women have been at the forefront of pioneering technology and AI advancements. Leading figures like Shweta Rajpal Kohli, Anima Anandkumar, and Nivruti Rai have made significant contributions to the field, inspiring others and driving innovation in the industry. Their work has helped put India on the map for cutting-edge technology and AI developments.

Inaugural Session:

As we celebrate these women pioneers in technology, their contributions are not only shaping the present but also laying the foundation for a more inclusive and innovative future. By championing diversity and breaking down barriers, these women are inspiring the next generation of female leaders to pursue their passions and make their mark in the world of technology. Hence this program was jointly organized by Centre for Women's Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur and National Commission for Women, New Delhi. The program was inaugurated by lighting lamp and offering prayer to goddess Saraswati which was followed by kulgeet of the university. The event started with floral welcome of the dignitaries.

Welcome address was given by Prof. Reeta Venugopal, Director, Center For Women's Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur. In her opening remarks she talked about the role of higher education institutions in awareness and capacity building of the young generation . She shared about the courses offered and role of the center for encouraging for leadership roles in various dimensions. She discussed about areas such as gender education, science & technology, sports, leadership roles, community studies where women should be encouraged to excel.

Prof Sachidanand Shukla, honorable Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur presided over the program. He said that he would encourage a healthy atmosphere in the university for leadership development. He announced to open a master's course in Womans Studies in the coming session. He stressed on giving equal opportunities for all in the institute. Besides this he also ensured that people of other gender would be very soon appointed as security personnel in the university . this will be definitely a step forward in making a gender free environment in the university campus.

Chief guest Mrs. Mamta Kumari , Member, National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi encouraged the young women to empower themselves and take steps for self employment. She said that in our country women account for 50 % of the total population hence their roles, duties, and responsibility towards the progress of the nation is crucial.She encouraged youth to avail the govt policies and work for self employment. She works on social issues such as child marriages, human trafficking in metropolitans. She said earlier, women of rural and tribal areas were confined to do house hold chores and framing . They did not come out of their areas to work in cities . But now the scenario has changed and women from remote areas are seeking education and are competing for jobs in both govt and in sectors. She herself has set an example being a women of tribal/rural area who is at present working in the national commission for women.She also added that Dr. Ambedkar worked for equality for women. Women are now engaged inleadership roles . They have become independent. During pre-independence times Mahatma Gandhi promoted elementaryeducation for everybody which included both practical and theoretical works . She further said that the present generation is progressive, and this is due to the foundation that the previous generation has laid. She encouraged the young women to learn to meet challenges in life.

She discussed about the various govt schemes for the entrepreneurship and shared the helpline no (7827170170) of NCW for assistance and help.

The National Commission for Women recognizes the importance of empowering young girls and women to excel in diverse fields, including technology, public life, and corporate decision-making. With the rapidly evolving landscape of technology and the emergence of diverse new employment opportunities, there is an increasing need for diverse voices in leadership roles. Therefore, it is imperative that we equip our young women with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in these areas.

To further this cause, the NCW proposes to organize seminars in the capital cities of each State and Union Territory. These seminars will specifically target college-going girls, aiming to ignite their minds and foster leadership capabilities. By doing so, we hope to inspire a new generation of women leaders who are well-equipped to tackle the challenges of the future and drive societal progress.

Prof. Kavita Thakurof SoS in Electronics and Photonics and member of Institution Innovation Council (IIC) at PRSU shared that University is going to organize an "Ideathon ", to encourage the

students to participate and to build startups.She shared that the innovation cell of university is inviting students , alumni and even their family to share their innovative ideas to work on . She explained about the work plans of the innovation IDEATHON to work in team of 4 or individual and get registered . The university will assist the best innovative ideas and will provide aid of

₹10,000 to work on the project and later IIC will aid an amount of ₹5,00,000.She also mentioned the university organizes such programmes round the year for the all- round development of the students.

With this the inaugural ceremony ended and it was followed by the technical sessions which had three sections

Technical Session	
First Technical Session	Emerging Technology Trends and Opportunities for Women in AI and Drone Technology
Second Technical Session	Women in Corporate
Thrid Technical Session	Women Leading in Public Life

First Technical Session

First technical session was about Emerging Technology Trends and Opportunities for Women in AI and Drone Technology.Prof. Tripti Swarnkar of Department of Computer Application, National Institute of Technology (NIT),Raipur (C.G.) was the speaker of this session .Her work centers around Machine learning, Omics data analysis and Medical image analysis. She discussed about the wide range of applications across of machine learning and its use across various industry such as health care, disease diagnosis, monitoring of patients,financial fraud detection,algorithmic Trading etc. She explained howmachine learning models can analyze medical images (like X-rays, MRIs, CT scans) to assist in diagnosing diseases such as cancer, pneumonia, and diabetic retinopathy.

She further explained that Machine Learning algorithms can help identify potential drug candidates by analyzing molecular structures and predicting their interactions with biological targets. ML has applications in analyze patient data to predict health risks and personalize treatment plans, such as predicting the likelihood of readmission or the onset of specific conditions.It is also useful in fraud Detection: as Machine learning algorithms can detect fraudulent activities in credit card transactions, insurance claims, and banking transactions by identifying patterns indicative of fraud. Algorithmic Trading can be enhanced by machine learning. ML models analyze market data to identify profitable trading opportunities and optimize trading strategies.

Second Technical Session

The second technical session was dedicated to women in corporate .Mrs. Kshama Sengar , Branch Manager, State Bank of India, PRSU branch was the speaker of the session. She said even though things are looking brighter, Indian women in the corporate landscape still face numerous challenges. Gender bias and discrimination continue to hinder women-owned businesses from accessing funding, new markets and growth opportunities. In India, only 6 percent of funding goes to companies founded or co-founded by women. Cultural norms and societal expectations often place disproportionate burdens on women, making it difficult for them to balance business responsibilities with familial and societal obligations. Moreover, female entrepreneurs frequently encounter barriers such as limited access to women-centric networks, mentorship, and support services. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from policymakers, industry leaders and society in general to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women entrepreneurs to succeed. She shared her journey of reaching the banking sector as a branch manager and encouraged the young aspiring women to work on their goals.

Third Technical Session

The Third technical session was dedicated to women in Public life. There were two speakers in this session . Mrs. Tulika Pandey , agro entrepreneur of Chhattisgarh was the first speaker of this session. As a progressive women farmer Tulika Pandey scripted her own story for transforming herself as an agro-entrepreneur—experiencing the need to promote use of agricultural machinery which can be affordable to the farmers. She has designing, modified and improvised modern agriculture machines and made it available to the farmers.Tulika initially got the agricultural machinery parts manufactured in Punjab and then assembled the machinery, including cultivator, thresher and rotavators, are then supplied to the dealers. The venture took off giving her inspiration to go for setting up a local manufacturing unit. She had always felt that agriculture machinery must be affordable to the farmers.She said that farmers of Chhattisgarh lag behind their counterparts in other states in orientation of successful farming. Working on the idea of trading of improvised agriculture machinery, she had also worked in coordination with the scientists of Punjab Agriculture University to add sensible innovation in existing machinery products.Tulika is now working on post-harvest machines so that by installing those machines in each village farmers can process their pulses and grains at their doorsteps instead of going to far-off mills.

A shift in societal mindset is urgently needed. We must learn to respect all forms of work, no matter how small. There is a prevalent misconception that employment is synonymous with government jobs, disregarding other forms of work. This mentality must change; we must acknowledge that all work is valuable and every enterprise deserves respect. Only then can we initiate a transformation in society.

Today, our country is the world's fifth-largest economy, and we are on the brink of becoming the third largest. The youth will play a crucial role in this transition, as millions of people enter the youth category each month. For the next 20 years, India will remain a youth-driven economy. The youth's involvement is vital for the country's survival and prosperity. By adopting self-employment, the youth can help propel our economy to become the largest globally. Emphasized respect for all forms of work and the importance of youth in driving the economy.

With determination and the right mindset, any goal is achievable. Additionally, using indigenous goods in our daily lives will further bolster the economy. Here are five important principles to remember during student life:

1. Start earning early. Earn while you learn.

2. Dont be a job seeker be a job provider.

3. consistency, Hard work & courage are the key to success.

4. Think Big, Think New, Think out of the box.

5. Nation first , Swadeshi must.

Monali Krishna Guha, Cyber security Forensics and Law Expert was the second speaker of the third technical session. She works as a Guest Faculty in State Police Chhattisgarh Govt.and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Police Training Academy Chhattisgarh.Till date she has given cyber

security training to more than 16 Lakh people across India. She stressed that there is a urgent need of practical Cyber security training to women senior citizens and Youth. She said that the cyber criminals leave no space or put any gender or age bar before committing cyber crimes. Though it is good that investigation agencies are growing well and working over the past cyber crimes cases but there is an urgent need of practical Cyber security training to protect themselves form the cyber hackers. She trained the participants to protect their mobile phones, social media and bank transaction details from being hacked. She said it is important to delete OTPs and public numbers should not be given in banks. Permissions should not be given to different apps such as camera, microphone, location etc. She also talked about the spiritual teachings of lord Krishna and how to implement those teachings into our lives for better living.

After every technical session the participants had open discussions with the subject experts.

- Encouraged young women to empower themselves and highlighted the significant contributions of women in national progress.
- Shared her own journey from a rural background to a national commission member.

- Focus on applications of machine learning in healthcare, fraud detection, and algorithmic trading.
- Highlighted the potential of AI and drone technology in various industries.
- Addressed challenges faced by women in the corporate sector, including gender bias and access to funding.
- Shared personal journey and encouraged women to pursue their goals despite societal challenges.
- Shared her journey in transforming agricultural practices through affordable machinery.
- Emphasized respect for all forms of work and the importance of youth in driving the economy.
- Shared personal journey and encouraged women to pursue their goals despite societal challenges.
- The program raised awareness about the opportunities and challenges for women in technology, business, and public life.
- Addressed barriers such as gender bias, lack of funding, and societal expectations.
- Provided practical training on cybersecurity for women, seniors, and youth.
- Stressed the importance of protecting personal information and being cautious with digital permissions.

Outputs of Programme

- Raised awareness about the opportunities and challenges for women in technology, business, and public life.
- Highlighted the importance of self-empowerment and leveraging government policies.
- Encouraged young women to pursue leadership roles and innovate in their respective fields.
- Emphasized the importance of consistency, hard work, and thinking outside the box to achieve success.
- Encouraged young women to take initiative and utilize available resources to overcome challenges.

Glimpses of program

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