



Report on Exclusive talk on “Accelerate Action towards Gender Equality.”

Date: 8th March, 2025

Venue: Conference Hall, RVIM, Bangalore.

Time: 10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

Event : Panel Discussion

No. of Participants: 100

**Event Coordinators:
Dr.Sumera Aluru & Dr.Rashmi Shetty,**

Overview of the Event

The International Women's Day 2025 panel discussion, themed "Accelerate Action Towards Gender Equality," brought together six distinguished panelists representing diverse fields and expertise. Dr. Akkai Padmashali, an Indian transgender activist and Rajyotsava Prashasti Winner, joined Maya Chandra, a communication specialist and filmmaker, Manik Ajay Patwardhan, founder and president of Swakruta Charitable Trust, Bhargavi D Nayak, an advocate with HD Associates, Dr. Anupama K Malagi, professor and member of the Women's Cell at RV Institute of Management, and Ravitha Prabhakaran, founder of PAT, to deliberate on critical issues surrounding gender equality. The session was expertly moderated by Dr. Sumera Aluru, Associate Professor and member of the Women's Cell at RVIM.

The panel discussion centered on the International Women's Day campaign theme of "Accelerate Action," which calls for acknowledging and amplifying strategies that positively impact women's advancement across various domains including economic empowerment, leadership, education, healthcare, and social safety. The panelists drew upon their rich and diverse experiences to address barriers to gender equality, unconscious biases, policy gaps, and the crucial role of financial independence, technology, and cultural shifts in accelerating progress toward gender parity.

Event Details

The event commenced at 10:30 AM at RV Institute of Management on March 8, 2025, coinciding with International Women's Day celebrations. Dr. Sumera Aluru opened the session with an introduction that highlighted the significance of the day and the campaign theme, setting the stage for an insightful dialogue. The panel discussion was structured around seven key thematic areas that covered the current landscape of gender equality, policy and institutional changes, women in leadership and decision-making, economic empowerment and financial inclusion, the role of technology in bridging gender gaps, social and cultural shifts, and actionable steps for accelerating progress.

Each panelist was presented with specific questions aligned with their expertise: Ms. Maya Chandra addressed media representation and progress in gender equality; Ms. Bhargavi discussed gender-sensitive policies in education, healthcare, and workforce; Dr. Anupama Malagi explored challenges women face in leadership and strategies to break glass ceilings; Ms. Manik Patwardhan focused on financial independence and women entrepreneurs; and Ms. Ravita examined public safety for women and societal perceptions. The discussion was interactive and thought-provoking, allowing panelists to share practical insights, personal experiences, and evidence-based recommendations. The session concluded with collective calls to action directed at individuals, organizations, and policymakers, emphasizing the importance of sustained momentum in gender equality efforts.



Q & A Session

Following the structured panel discussion, an engaging question and answer session allowed participants to delve deeper into specific aspects of gender equality. Audience members raised pertinent questions about how to challenge unconscious biases in everyday situations, the effectiveness of current gender policies in Indian institutions, and practical strategies for women to navigate male-dominated industries. Several questions focused on the intersection of technology and gender equality, particularly regarding digital literacy programs for women in rural areas and how social media can be leveraged to amplify women's voices while countering stereotypes.

Participants also sought advice on mentorship programs for aspiring women leaders and inquired about successful case studies of organizations that have achieved significant progress in gender diversity. The panelists responded with concrete examples, personal anecdotes, and actionable recommendations, emphasizing that change requires both systemic policy reforms and individual commitment to calling out discrimination, celebrating women's achievements, and creating inclusive spaces in workplaces and communities.

Event Outcome

The International Women's Day panel discussion successfully achieved its objective of providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of gender equality challenges and the accelerated actions needed to address them. Attendees gained valuable insights into the persistent barriers that hinder women's advancement, including unconscious biases, inadequate policies, limited access to financial resources, and deeply entrenched cultural stereotypes. Through the diverse perspectives shared by the panelists, participants developed a nuanced appreciation for the intersectional approach required to forge gender equality, recognizing that progress demands simultaneous efforts across economic, social, political, and technological domains.

The discussion illuminated practical strategies that individuals and organizations can implement, from promoting financial literacy and entrepreneurship among women to designing gender-sensitive infrastructure and creating safer public spaces. Participants were particularly inspired by the panelists' emphasis on women's leadership in STEM fields, decision-making roles, and creative industries, understanding that representation matters in breaking down barriers for future generations.

Beyond awareness and knowledge acquisition, the event fostered a sense of collective responsibility and empowerment among attendees to become active contributors to gender equality in their respective spheres of influence. The calls to action resonated strongly, encouraging participants to challenge stereotypes in their daily interactions, advocate for policy reforms in their workplaces and communities, and mentor the next generation of women leaders.

The panel discussion reinforced that accelerating action toward gender equality is not solely a women's issue but a societal imperative requiring commitment from all genders. Participants left the session equipped with concrete tools for identifying and addressing discrimination, a deeper understanding of the importance of economic empowerment and financial inclusion for women, and renewed motivation to ensure that gender equality efforts maintain momentum over time. The event succeeded in creating a platform for dialogue that celebrated women's achievements while honestly addressing the work that



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remains, ultimately contributing to RV Institute of Management's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive educational environments and preparing students to be champions of gender equality in their professional and personal lives.

EVENT POSTER

RV Institute of Management®

International Women's Day

Presents

PANEL DISCUSSION

**ACCELERATE ACTION
TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY**

PANELLISTS

- Dr. Akkai Padmashali**
Indian Transgender Activist
Rajyotsava Prashasti Winner
- Maya Chandra**
Communication Specialist
& Filmmaker
- Manik Ajay Patwardhan**
Founder & President
Swakruta Charitable Trust
- Bhargavi D Nayak**
Advocate, HD Associates
- Ravitha Prabhakaran**
Founder, PAT
- Dr. Anupama K Malagi**
Professor & Member Women's Cell,
RV Institute of Management
- Dr. Sumera Aluru**
Associate Professor,
Member Women's Cell,
RV Institute of Management

Moderator

AT 10.30 AM

8 MARCH, 2025

RV INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

PHOTO GALLERY



Figure 1 Introduction to the Panel Discussion-by Dr.Rashmi Shetty



Figure 2 Eminent Panellists for the Discussion and Moderator



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Figure 3 Audience for Panel Discussion



Figure 4 Q & A Session

Event Coordinator/s



Dr. Purushottam Bung,
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