

POVERTY: DESPAIR and HOPE

In a thought-provoking seminar on societal transformation, two distinguished speakers, Nirupama Sekhri and Sunil Jaglan, shared their compelling journeys and perspectives on critical issues facing our communities.

Nirupama Sekhri: A Voice for Freedom and Empowerment

Nirupama Sekhri, an advocate for freedom and societal well-being, began her discourse by emphasizing the intrinsic value of freedom—a treasure that demands protection and cherishing. She underlined the notion that a secure home is the foundation of individual and collective security, emphasizing the role of sound management in establishing this security.

Connecting the dots between personal and societal well-being, Sekhri stressed the importance of realizing the intricate linkages between management and one's immediate environment, as well as its broader implications for society as a whole. She argued passionately for the necessity of reservations in government jobs, asserting that such affirmative action is crucial for creating opportunities and breaking down barriers.

Sekhri's call for women empowerment resonated powerfully in her address. She highlighted the pivotal role of women in societal progress and emphasized that to become a dedicated societal worker, one must harbor a deep passion for the cause. In her words, empowerment is not just a buzzword; it is a fundamental necessity for fostering a society that thrives on equality and justice.

Sunil Jaglan: Transforming Communities, One Initiative at a Time

Sunil Jaglan, a symbol of resilience and change, shared his remarkable journey from a determined individual to a sarpanch challenging bureaucratic hurdles. His narrative took a poignant turn when he became the father of a daughter, realizing the stark gender disparities in his village's sex ratio—the lowest in Haryana, a state already grappling with this issue.

Jaglan's transformative journey commenced with the initiation of the "Beti Bachao" campaign, a pioneering effort to combat female foeticide in his village. The establishment of India's first women gram sabha on June 18, 2012, marked a historic step in the fight for the girl child, earning Jaglan accolades and national recognition.

A significant aspect of Jaglan's work lies in his commitment to reinvesting award money into women-centric initiatives, reaching an impressive 30%. Notably, his efforts garnered

attention from the then-President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, who contributed 50 lakhs for the welfare of Jaglan's village. Beyond his immediate community, Jaglan adopted 142 villages through his NGO, extending his commitment to social development.

In addressing women's health, Jaglan's initiatives included distributing sanitary pads, medicines, and essential support, alongside promoting awareness through a period chart. The impact of his work was captured in the national award-winning documentary "Son Rise," showcasing the transformative power of Jaglan's "Selfie with Daughter" campaign.

Moreover, Jaglan's emphasis on maintaining civility within communities, manifested through fines for using slangs, reflects his dedication to creating an environment of respect and dignity. With over 100 campaigns, 75 of which were women-centric, Sunil Jaglan stands as a beacon of change, illustrating the profound impact that one individual can have on a community and beyond.

Together, the stories of Nirupama Sekhri and Sunil Jaglan weave a narrative of hope, empowerment, and social transformation—testaments to the potential for positive change within the fabric of our society.

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) Seminar Report

Speaker: Mr. Sankalp Vijayvargiya

Topic: How Tribal Women Navigate Empowerment: A Journey of Resilience and Progress

Date: Wednesday, February 07, 2024



The seminar explored the multifaceted journey of tribal women in India towards empowerment, highlighting the critical role of organizations like the SANKALP INDIA FOUNDATION RAJASTHAN. The discussion began by outlining the five key components that define women's empowerment: sense of self-worth, right to choice, access to resources, control over their lives, and the ability to influence social change.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by tribal women, including gender discrimination, poverty, and harmful traditions, the seminar delved into various efforts underway to empower them. Government policies like NRLM, TSP, and VDVY aim to provide economic and social support. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) offer a platform for collective action, skill development, and access to information and services. Additionally, NGOs play a vital role in areas like education, healthcare, legal awareness, and cultural preservation.

SANKALP INDIA FOUNDATION RAJASTHAN, established in 2017, showcased their ongoing projects specifically targeting tribal communities. Their work with the Saharia tribe emphasizes preserving their culture while addressing their needs through food drives, information sessions, and chess-based cognitive development programs. Day care centers for elders and chess training for neo-literate women and children are further examples of their diverse efforts.

The seminar concluded by emphasizing the crucial role of organizations like SANKALP in empowering tribal women and other marginalized communities. Their work contributes significantly to improving their lives, fostering a more just and equitable society, and preserving their unique cultural heritage. The interactive discussion encouraged participants to reflect on their own roles and responsibilities in supporting this journey of empowerment.

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) Seminar Report

Date: 8th march, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Manju Rani and Ms. Nirupama Sekhri

Topic: Social Startup in Public Health and Education Sector



The Center for Sustainable Development hosted a seminar on the pressing topic of "Social Startup in Public Health and Education Sector." The seminar aimed to shed light on the critical issues surrounding access to healthcare and education, particularly focusing on the role of social startups in addressing substantial inequalities in these sectors. The distinguished guests for the event were Dr. Manju Rani, Adviser (Research and Innovation) at the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, and Ms. Nirupama Sekhri, Social worker in policy reforms.

Dr. Manju Rani initiated the discussion by highlighting the significant disparities in access to healthcare and education worldwide. She emphasized the alarming reality where millions of people, particularly in developing countries, face barriers in obtaining essential healthcare services and quality education. These inequalities, she argued, perpetuate cycles of poverty and hinder sustainable development efforts.

Dr. Rani further elucidated the economic importance of the health sector and the prevalent market failures within it. Despite the immense economic value of healthcare, market inefficiencies often result in limited access to services, especially for marginalized communities. This not only undermines public health outcomes but also hinders economic progress on a broader scale.

Ms. Nirupama Sekhri brought attention to the recent growth in the healthcare industry, particularly in the context of technological advancements and innovation. She underscored the emergence of startups as key players in driving innovation and addressing unmet needs within the healthcare sector. However, she also cautioned against overlooking the social impact of these startups and urged for greater focus on addressing systemic inequalities.

A critical question posed during the seminar was whether current startups adequately address market failures and health inequalities. Both speakers emphasized the need for a paradigm shift in the approach of startups, emphasizing social impact alongside financial sustainability. They stressed the importance of designing interventions that prioritize underserved populations and promote equitable access to healthcare and education services.

The discussion delved into strategies for addressing social inequalities in healthcare, including patient networking, training of local healthcare workers, and active involvement of startups in addressing community-specific health challenges. Dr. Sahai shared insights from her experience at the Bright Orange Foundation, where community engagement and grassroots initiatives play a pivotal role in addressing healthcare disparities.

One notable aspect of the seminar was the emphasis on the role of youth in addressing social challenges in healthcare and education. Both speakers highlighted the potential of young entrepreneurs and innovators in driving positive change through social startups. They underscored

the importance of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth and providing platforms for them to contribute meaningfully to social development efforts.

In conclusion, the seminar provided valuable insights into the complex interplay between social startups, public health, and education. It underscored the urgent need for innovative solutions that address systemic inequalities and promote inclusive development. Moving forward, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, empowering youth, and prioritizing social impact will be essential in creating a more equitable and sustainable future for all. The discussions and perspectives shared during the seminar serve as a catalyst for further exploration and action in advancing social entrepreneurship in the public health and education sectors.

In a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, Prof. Shalini Taneja extended potted plants to each guest, symbolizing growth and sustainability, resonating deeply with the seminar's overarching theme. The event, graced by the presence of Dr. Subir Verma, Director of Fore School of Management, was further enriched as he shared his insightful views on the topic. The conclusion of the seminar was marked by a warm call to action, inviting all stakeholders to join hands in actively contributing to the ongoing journey towards a more sustainable future in hospitality management.

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) Seminar Report

Date: January 25th, 2024

Speaker: Mr. Tapan Mukherjee

Topic: Hospitality Management in Times of Crisis: A social approach



The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) organized a seminar on January 25th, 2024, featuring Mr. Tapan Mukherjee, founder & Chef consultant at Tapan Mukherjee & Co. The seminar focused on the critical theme of Hospitality Management in Times of Crisis, shedding light on various aspects of sustainable development within the hospitality and food industry.

Mr. Mukherjee, whose venture is incubated by the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), emphasized the importance of embracing sustainable practices in businesses. He highlighted the significance of sustainable packaging and the need for governmental support in promoting millet consumption, showcasing the pivotal role of both consumers and policymakers in driving positive change.

During his address, Mr. Mukherjee underscored the versatility of millets, a healthier choice and alternative to wheat, as advertised and advocated for, by India during G20 2023, stating that products derived from them should align with their inherent properties and not just added for virtue signaling or as marketing tools for inflating product price. He urged businesses to draw inspiration from traditional millet-based dishes while innovating modern products, ensuring a seamless transition toward healthier options.

Moreover, He emphasized the responsibility of consumers in advocating for healthier choices and holding companies accountable for providing sustainable alternatives. He also stressed the role of governments in implementing regulations and policies to encourage food companies to prioritize sustainability.

The seminar also highlighted the substantial social responsibility borne by all stakeholders in the hospitality and food industry for fostering both personal and societal health on a broader scale. Mr. Mukherjee reiterated the importance of research and development (R&D) in driving sustainable development, emphasizing the need for continuous innovation.

Furthermore, the seminar emphasized the power of customer demand in motivating companies to adopt sustainable practices. Mr. Mukherjee emphasized the duty of citizens in opting for healthier options and actively voicing their opinions to promote positive change. Mr. Mukherjee engaged the audience in a dynamic dialogue and also posed thought-provoking questions to the audience, prompting reflection on critical issues surrounding sustainability in their food choices and awareness regarding the same.

In conclusion, the seminar provided valuable insights into the integration of sustainability within the hospitality and food industry. Mr. Mukherjee's comprehensive presentation underscored the

multifaceted approach required from businesses, consumers, and governments to navigate crises while fostering sustainable development.

As a token of appreciation, Prof. Shalini Taneja gifted Mr. Mukherjee a plant symbolizing growth and sustainability, reflecting the seminar's overarching theme. The event concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to actively contribute to the ongoing journey towards a more sustainable future in hospitality management.