StorytelHER Record 03 - Women are born Entrepreneur



“The greatest good you can do for another does not just share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.” ― Benjamin Disraeli

Sharing this vision and the will to impact the communities, the protagonist of the StorytelHER Record 03, Haimanti Paul Sarker has co-founded a Non-Profit Organisation, Ishva Foundation, which aims to uplift the lesser-privileged children from urban communities by providing them education, resources and ample opportunities to reach their highest potential.

Haimanti believes that redefining the metrics of success in social impact is key for increasing the power and the place of women social entrepreneurs.

However, the status of women in social entrepreneurship importantly disrupts many patterns of gender inequality, as the sector has proven itself uniquely capable of empowering women leaders in its own field, and of changing the lives and welfare of all women still, there is a long way to go as Women comprise only four percent of Fortune 500 CEOs, and 33 percent of all companies globally do not have any females in senior management as stated in the Forbes Diversity Report 2019.

On asking about her journey so far, Haimanti shared,

“I have started back in 2015 with an idea of impacting the urban slum children in and around the city of Hyderabad. The driving force behind this initiative was the realization that the urban slum families are so engrossed in maintaining a proper earning that their high potential children are lacking opportunities because of less exposure at both academics and co-curricular fronts.”

Even though the cause was noble, starting and validating any new initiative demands a lot of effort, time and energy. On that, Haimanti explained,

“ Initially, we had mixed responses. We had smooth sailing at some places but had to face a lot of friction at others but that was natural as you cannot expect everyone to understand and support your cause. You need to believe in your thought process, remember the motivation behind your move and just keep going with whatever comes your way.”

In this world full of choices, finding your calling may be hard. In this regard, Haimanti shared her vision by saying,

“To choose a particular career path is definitely difficult so it’s better to break the process into small modules and approach each module sequentially. The key is to identify your strengths through experimentation and swot analysis. Once you get an idea, connect with like-minded people and find your path to move forward.”

On asking about the reason for having less workforce of Women in industry, Haimanti said,

Women are born entrepreneurs!

“Since childhood, we have mastered the art of multitasking and we do it with equal ease at both home and at work but the matter of fact is, the industrial world demands us to be a risk-taker and throughout my experience, I have noticed that risk-taking is not something that comes naturally to a woman. Not many women are open to get into new things and experiment with their lives that eventually hinders their growth.

My suggestion to everyone is, unless and until you decide to get out of your comfort zone, nothing is ever going to happen. There will definitely be things that might be a threat or challenge to you but you should trust the process and give it a shot.”

On finding a support system to help us keep going, Haimanti explained,

“I think the best way to support yourself is to explore your interests and do things that are new to you or things that make you feel productive and happy. It might not be the hardcore technical skills but anything that works out for you to be satisfied at the end of the day.”

On asking about the personal and professional life balance, Haimanti shared,

“Definitely, a large number of challenges will be coming your way is a working woman and I think it is a global issue and though the situation is getting better day by day, there’s a long way to go to achieve equality. In my opinion, for managing both the personal and professional life, it is advisable that one creates her own support system, which enables her growth. Key is to set your priorities clearly and discuss it with your immediate family to develop an ecosystem that can make you progress and help you to be happy in whatever choices you’ve made.”

On failure management, Haimanti said,

“There is no such thing as failure management. In 25 years of my working experience, I have failed at many things that I thought would work out for me and it was hard dealing with such feelings but every time I fail, I see that as a challenge to improve myself and I try to come back with double the effort, grit, and perseverance by believing that the next project is going to be different and I’m really going to work in a way that will stand out.”

On asking about what piece of advice she will be giving to the youth, Haimanti shared,

“ While focusing on ourselves has become mainstream nowadays, take a moment to realize your responsibility towards giving back to society. Invest some time in the communities and try to use your privilege to provide charity of knowledge, social service, technology or anything that will be beneficial for the people who are not as privileged as you.

Always remember that what you will be giving to society will definitely be coming back to you multifold.

So, set your priorities, trust the process, make hard work, grit, and perseverance your best companions, have proper communication with your immediate connections and invest quality time for self-development.

You will definitely fail at some points because it is a part of the process but you just have to find that entrepreneur in yourself who is ready to take all the risks and keep going because that’s what makes you reach great heights!

About Haimanti Paul Sarkar

Haimanti works as a social entrepreneur supporting education & holistic growth of lesser-privileged urban children through co-founding a non-profit organization, Ishva Foundation.

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If you have any queries or know any leading personalities of tech whom I can interview and share the experiences, contact me at iamanjalisharmaa@gmail(dot)com.

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