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Women employees a necessity: experts



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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Madhu Poomalil, Managing Director of D.E Shaw India, Karuna Gopal of Future Cities, Ananda Shankar of Advanced Micro Devices, Kiranmayi Pendyala, NHRD Executive Council Member, at a seminar organised by CII in Hyderabad on Friday.—
Photo: G. Ramakrishna

Seminar on 'Woman-An Anchor of Life' held atTech-Mahindra

Women's presence in private corporate and government sectors is now a necessity and not a matter of tokenism, said women achievers who came together for a seminar on 'Woman-An anchor of life: New possibilities and New Horizons' held at Tech-Mahindra campus here on Friday.

The seminar was hosted by CII's Indian Women Network and Society for Cyberabad Security Council. Speaking at the event, Vanita Datla, Chairperson, CII Telangana said, "women emerge achievers despite their having to juggle several roles. Women multitask and achieve stunning results in their fields".

Suchitra Ella, chairperson, Bharat Biotech International Ltd., said modern women were an asset to the workplace as they contributed to a good work culture which was competitive and inclusive.

The meet which had the presence of close to a 100 female and male participants, also had a panel discussion and art performances.

During the panel discussion, Madhu Poomalil, Managing Director, D.E Shaw India, said thousands of women were rising in ranks in the corporate sector.

“There is no option to reject women from the work force as having women employees now is a business imperative,” Mr. Poomalil said. Karuna Gopal of Future Cities said women overcame several hurdles to do what they wanted to do.

“I started working for just one hour as I had to take care of my son who is autistic. But I never had to choose between him and my career. It was always about having both,” she said.

The IT world had been rather female-friendly, said Bharani Kumar Aroll, secretary of SCSC. Out of the four lakh employees working in the IT industry, 35 per cent were women.

“That means close to 1.4 lakh are women employees. We have come a long way from where we were a decade ago,” Mr. Aroll said.

Ananda Shankar, classical dancer, said, “It is possible to make time and follow your passion. When I first joined the South Central Railways I had to break through a wall of sniggering men. But I did what I had to do even while not giving up my dance,” Ms. Shankar said as she spoke of fighting cancer for eight years during her dancing career.

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