

Strong Women Leads

It is rightly said by Margaret Wheatley “Leadership is a series of behaviours rather than a role for heroes.” To take into account on International Women’s Day we come forward with leaders of the hospitality industry.

• **Vedika Sharma**

We can't think of a better way to celebrate March 8th, International Women's Day, than to highlight the wisdom of some remarkable emerging female leaders. Here are quotes from women in leadership who lead by example, make a difference, and help others succeed.



Amruda Nair, Founder, Araiya Hospitality

While women leaders have had great success in the hospitality industry particularly in Asia, the representation of women in middle management has been an issue across industries. The challenge is often maintaining networks and keeping up with technological changes in the industry after a gap. For both men and women with families, hotel operations pose a challenge as there is a requirement to not only work evening and night shifts but also over weekends and holidays as that is when hotels are the busiest.

Earlier in my career, my willingness to travel helped broaden my perspective and gave me the opportunity to learn how to operate in multiple jurisdictions and geographies. For women coming back to work after a few years off, keeping up with trends, technology and most importantly networks is key. I believe career planning with a mentor can help mitigate the challenges of assimilating back into the workforce. There are also opportunities in the hotel industry beyond traditional property roles in specialisations such as revenue management, asset management and consultancy roles in investment sales and advisory that can offer options.

Here we focused on the most challenging part of being a woman in the hospitality industry and the message of our women leaders for the women who are at the start of their hospitality careers and aspire to reach a senior position.

“Get inspired to channel your inner warrior princess”

Khyati Minglani, Marketing Head, South Avenue, Indore

The most challenging part about being a woman entrepreneur is finding the right balance between my personal and professional life. Being a wife, a mother, and a businesswoman at the same time comes with its own set of challenges and it is important to strike the right balance. I make sure to fulfil my duties as a mother and wife, along with fulfilling my professional commitments.

My only advice to all the women out there would be to follow their passions and make their dreams into reality. The hospitality industry can be very demanding and hence you need to be ready for the challenges. Try to work on a priority basis and balance your personal and professional life. Mark your career goals and plan a strategy to achieve them. As an entrepreneur, I myself set my priority list every night before going to bed so that I know what my day would be like. That really helps in keeping my mind in the right place and increasing my efficiency.

