



## Press note

# Navrachana University felicitates initiatives empowering women on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The Felicitation Ceremony, **NuvSamman** included felicitation of initiatives by organizations/individuals who made a difference to the society by empowering other women. The following initiatives were felicitated by Ms. Tejal Amin, Chairperson, Navrachana Education Society

**SHE Team - Vadodara City Police** - for doing path breaking work to enhance women safety in the city and exemplary work done to support elderly and women during COVID times.

**MG Motors India Pvt. Ltd, Vadodara** - For promoting women in a male dominated industry and employing over 30% women at Halol manufacturing facility and also their initiative of Drive her back which has facilitated women professionals on sabbaticals or on a break to restart their careers. Director HR- Mr. Yeshwinder Patial received the felicitation on behalf of the organization.

The **Ujaas Mahila Bachat Dhiran Grahak Sahakari Mandali - Ujaas Women's savings and Credit Cooperative Society (UJAAS)** has grown into strong financial institution through micro finance activity as well as social support through the spaces and platforms it provides for empowerment of women. Asmitaben Shah & Manjulaben received the felicitation on behalf of UJAAS.

**Chetnaben Panchal from United Way of Baroda** who has worked extensively on the field for creating livelihood for rural women in Halol. She has played a pivotal role in connecting the women with micro finance opportunities through self help groups..

**Kalpna Mahadik from SAHAJ, Society for Health Alternatives**, for her exemplary work in skill development program at grassroots for girls and women

**Alpana Nayi from SAHAJ** for her exemplary work in initiatives for promoting education

**Shakuntala Parmar for SAHAJ** for her exemplary work initiatives related to reproductive health of women

Alpanaben, Kalpanaben and Shakuntalaben are the Field Officers and have been associated with SAHAJ for more than a decade. Their engagement with different groups in the communities they work with has resulted in

- Many girls from marginalized families pursuing higher education, some have completed their graduation
- Many girls got jobs instead of opting for work as 'domestic help' or 'construction workers'
- Young girls and women from bastis were introduced to health services for their reproductive health problems
- Organizing Women's collectives for identifying issues of community development and liaising with service providers for basic amenities for their bastis

Women's day was celebrated by the Women Development Cell at Navrachana University on 7th March 2022. The event was marked by various events which included, felicitation of women who made a difference with remarkable initiatives, panel discussion, interactive session with TIE, Vadodara, stories of women empowerment and a sale cum exhibition by various NGOs.

A panel discussion was organized, titled, "NUV Women Alumni at Workplace". The alumni Ms Nijal Modi-SEDA, Aayushi Prajapti-SET, Ritu Athwal-SLSE, Nishtha Adalja-SBL were invited for the discussion on the challenges at workplace. The alumni discussed about the influence of their respective families in choosing their profession and then location of their work. Alumni also touched upon topics relating to glass ceiling faced by women at workplace & made some valuable suggestions for aspiring professionals who look forward to start their careers.

Navrachana University under the aegis of Women Development Cell launched a Centre for Women. This centre shall focus on empowerment of women through activities like workshops, case studies, research and advocacy.

An Interactive session on various aspects of business/start up named "Navrachana Empowers Entrepreneurial voices" was organized with TIE Vadodara. It had the representation of TIE members like Ms. Ragini Shah, Mr. Ashish Bhavsar and Ms. Shweta Upadhyay. The student led start-ups in ideation stage interacted with TIE Vadodara Chapter to understand market requirements and to make their start up journey easier.

This was followed by the Inauguration of a Women's common room at the University. An exhibition cum sale was arranged with the participation of various women led NGOs like Churni, Sahaj, Atapi Seva Foundation and Vatsalya foundation.

Stories on the theme "#Break the bias- Men empowering women" written by students, faculties & administration staff of the University identifying men who supported them in their journey were displayed. The stories display was in line with the theme of International Women's Day 2022, "#Break the bias - Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

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