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Seminar Encourages British Asian Women To Raise Success Bars

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President of the Forum, Prabhakar Kaza welcomed the audience and explained that the main objective of the Forum

A special seminar held in one of the Committee rooms of the British Parliament on 5th July emphasised that there's a need to improve the aspiration levels of Indian women so that in any field of endeavor they should focus on success and raising the bar.

The two-hour seminar consisted of professional Asian women from diverse fields like journalism, law and Public Relations- as panel speakers and attracted over 75 multi-ethnic members who participated enthusiastically.



The President of the Forum, Prabhakar Kaza welcomed the audience (largely women from all communities) and explained that the main objective of the Forum, was to serve as a watch-dog monitoring the reports of Indian events by British Media and contest the reports which seemed prejudicial or tendentious.

Krishan Ralleigh, the General Secretary of the Forum, elaborating on the theme of the seminar, pointed out that the prejudices inherent in the stories in visual, audio and print media in the last thirty years or so and the embellishments over the period of time.



Furthermore, Ashanti Omkar, the first speaker and a well-known TV presenter said that stereotypes are very strong, but the Indian women in UK are breaking the stereotypes. They are making their mark in all sectors of the economy.

Solicitor Ritu Sethi in her talk delineated the route to empowerment for Indian women living in Britain.

Rachanaa Jain emphasised the need for self-realization and gradual fulfillment of one's dreams as a goal of life.



TV broadcaster Meenkashi Ravi gave a theoretical foundation to reporting events along with the clarification that they come with their own filters, which does give a slant to the report. In her point of view due to historical connections with the sub-continent reports revolving around Indian women in the British Media are relatively more susceptible.

TV journalist Radhika Iyer spoke about the representation of the average Indian woman and referred the Big Brother treatment to Shilpa Shetty as a seminal moment in the consideration of the current Indian woman. “While Bollywood does dominate the British thinking, the 21st Century Indian woman is seen as an independent, aspiring and outgoing person”, she stressed the point.



Barrister Purna Lau Sian added a pinch of legal conceptualization to the discussions and implored the way certain public enquiries in the UK have been catalysts to secure a better stature for women and contributed to social safeguards.

Renowned journalist and broadcaster Loveena Tandon sharing her experience told that for women TV may seem alluring as it gives immense public exposure, it does have its downsides one of which is that it's a 24/7 job. But this hasn't deterred the Asian women and they are getting past these hurdles and chalking out successful careers, regardless.



Author Rachanaa Jain stressed upon the need for women to polish their vocational skills and explore diverse fields to push themselves to their full potential.

The seminar was hosted by Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow East and anchored by Simi Arora, concluded with a vivacious Q & A session. The social and economic achievements of the British Asian women were also highlighted by various speakers on the panel.



