

BMW Foundation Global Table, Udaipur
22-25 November 2018

Executive Summary



Objective

The BMW Foundation Global Table in Udaipur created a space for leaders from around the world to come together and to unlock a process of rethinking and recombining different perspectives on female leadership for resilient societies, becoming aware of oneself's mindset and exploring opportunities for personal and common engagement.

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Discussion

The discussions in plenary and in three break-out groups were based on a curiosity to learn about the different experiences on female leadership brought by the participants to the table and on a common experience of realities of female leadership in India. The last one was made through conversations with Indian women entrepreneurs during a site visit to the project Dharma Life. It was a starting point for participants to share reflections on their own conceptions of female leadership and opened up a process of questioning and reframing different notions of women in leadership.

During the discussion, participants agreed on the importance to have feminism, represented not only by women but also by men, at the table – at all tables. In order to develop gender-sensitive policies, business models, initiatives or measurements, we need integrated approaches. We need approaches that shape measurements in such ways that they do not add any unintended burden to certain groups of a society, e.g. on women, or women in especially vulnerable settings.

Participants discussed such feminist perspectives with regard to the three specific topics safer cities and urban planning, impact investment and climate resilience during the breakout sessions:

- One main topic in the discussion about safer cities and urban planning was the call for “shared responsibility” to create an understanding for the fact that safe cities for women are safe cities for all! To get closer to this idea, participants discussed the need to work towards change in different areas, e.g.: legal & infrastructure, culture and governance.
- The discussion on impact investment started with the broader observation that we see a shift: as the social sector embraces impact investing, it does not only introduce innovative financial models but also seems to endorse a culture where giving without expecting a financial return has no place. The participants however agreed that conventional philanthropy is still in need and that gender lens investment has to be sensitive on this topic. Being a

new field, there is not much research yet on the patterns of philanthropy and impact investments made by women leaders. Looking at the areas to which investment in women is directed, the last few years have seen a focus on empowering women and girls in middle-income countries. While this is a big step forward more funds need to be made available for women and girls in fragile environments and conflict areas.

- Talking about female leadership for climate resilience, participants first of all highlighted the necessity to have a feminist discussion on the topic of climate resilience. Participants pointed out that instead of asking what can be done to strengthen climate resilience in one project and searching for models to foster female leadership in another program, more integrated approaches are needed.

How can we engage men for gender-equality? How to reach women in the most vulnerable communities? How can we create enabling environments for women? - were some of the questions that have been repeatedly raised during the days and will be driving forces to continue working on the issues discussed.

Ideas for Action

1. To create a **platform for resource mobilization with gender focus**.
2. To **share topic-related ideas and best practices** also after the Global Table, for example by participants giving their publications and knowledge to the [Living Library of Wise Practices](#) created by the Women Transforming Cities International Society co-chaired by one of the participants.



Participants included leaders from EU Commission, Ministry of Status of Women Canada, Ashoka University and Siemens AG, as well as from social enterprises, impact investment organizations, civil society, universities, government and business from 10 different countries. They all participated in their personal capacity.

Testimonials

"I had such an incredible learning experience at the Udaipur Global Table. I was moved by the community you exposed us to. I truly cannot wait to apply all that I learned in my own work at the Jimbere Fund."

Sandra Uwiringiyimana, Founder, Jimbre Fund

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