

Facilitators insist on Gender Equality as Covenant celebrates International Women's Day

Women are now an important part of the comprehensive business environment, and their continuous involvement has become imperative for sustainable economic growth and social progress.

This was the thrust of the lead presentation at the 2020 International Women's Day symposium organized by the Covenant University Community Development Impact Initiative Committee, with the theme 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Right'.

The Keynote Speaker and Head, Department of Business Management, Covenant, Professor Chinoye Love Moses, while delivering a paper titled '*Entrepreneurial Skills for Women and Financial Dominion*' said that, though women were playing key roles in the society, their entrepreneurial ability and skills had not been properly harnessed in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 1 of ending all forms of poverty, and Goal 5 of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and the girl child.

Professor Love Moses noted that entrepreneurial skill was a milestone of women empowerment because it enabled them to respond to the challenges, confront their traditional roles, and change their lives.

Another speaker at the symposium, Ms. Nathalie Sundelin, who spoke on the topic '*Entrepreneurship and Digital Technology*', charged women to embrace the reality of the digital world, noting that the playing field was in the digital space. According to the MD/CEO of Wissen Global Consult, the world had become a digital place that operated upon the precepts of digital literacy, which needed understanding and adaptability to avoid going into extinction.

She noted that certain obstacles that had continually affected the successful take off of entrepreneurial initiatives across the world remained the same. These, she said, included lack of confidence, male dominated field, envy, adapting, work balance, and stereotypes. She, however, noted that these obstacles were surmountable through knowledge acquisition, decentralization of every business field, subscribing to mentorship programmes, development of skills and time management, running business from home, and building a team spiritedness to counter seeming stereotypes.

The Chair, Covenant University Community Development Impact Initiative Committee, Dr. Tayo George, said that 48 years after the commencement of celebrating women globally, the achievements and successes of women in all fields of human endeavours could not be understated. This, she said, had necessitated the need to identify gaps in ways through which equality could be entrenched with a view to ensuring improved engagement of the women folks.

Earlier on in his welcome remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Akan Williams said that as part of efforts to promote gender equality and women's rights, which aligned with this year's theme, Covenant University was working on a gender policy that when approved would guide all activities relating to gender mainstreaming for the University.

"Covenant University in her quest to become one of the top ten Universities in the world by the year 2022 has fully aligned with SDG 5 in promoting gender equality through various gender sensitive and friendly programmes, and with massive support given to female faculty and staff of the University," said the Vice-Chancellor.



Covenant women cutting the 2020 World Women's Day Anniversary Cake

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