

Daughters coming of age

At an event organized in New Delhi, by the Young Ficci Ladies Organisation, Ramesh Suri, founder of Subros Limited said that being the group's managing director, his daughter Shradha was handling the business much better than him. The event had a panel comprising industry leaders and their daughters who had joined their father's businesses.

Kishore Biyani, CEO of the Future group noted that women are good at the finer issues that are important to businesses. He remarked that women seem to be using the right side of their brain more than the left side. Mr. Biyani shared that his daughter, Ashni has made contributions to the 'art side' of his business.

However Sangita Reddy, daughter of Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman of Apollo Hospitals, rejected gender stereotyping and gave the example of her sister, who was a chief financial officer. Sangita recalled that people used to say "poor Dr. Reddy has four daughters" and the determined daughters wanted them to say "lucky Dr. Reddy, he has four daughters."

Replying to a question on daughters joining family business, Ramesh Suri said that confusion comes when there are both sons and daughters in the family and one has to decide about what share to give and to whom. Mr. Biyani admitted that acceptance of women in a leadership role remains an issue. He advised that women in business families should be smart and contest for the 'throne.'

Other than succession issues faced by daughters, the discussion also covered matters like coping with marriage and kids, equity distribution and compensation packages.

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