



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
**Maulana Azad College**

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## Gender and Entrepreneurship Forum

### Introduction:

Maulana Azad College introduces Gender and Entrepreneurship Forum in association with Women's Empowerment Cell. The forum aimed to promote entrepreneurship among women, address the challenges they face, and provide a platform for networking and mentorship.

The **Gender and Entrepreneurship Forum** at Maulana Azad College, in collaboration with the Women's Empowerment Cell, aims to foster the growth of women in entrepreneurship. The forum will serve as an essential space to empower women by addressing barriers to success, creating awareness, and providing opportunities for learning and collaboration.

### Aims:

- To create awareness about the importance of Gender Entrepreneurship in economic development
- To discuss the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and identify solutions
- To provide a platform for entrepreneurs to share their experiences and success stories
- To facilitate networking and mentorship opportunities for aspiring women entrepreneurs

### Key Objectives:

- **Raising Awareness:** Educate on the significant role of gender-inclusive entrepreneurship in driving economic growth.
- **Identifying Challenges and Solutions:** Discuss the hurdles women face in starting and sustaining businesses, while exploring actionable solutions.
- **Sharing Experiences and Success Stories:** Create a space for women entrepreneurs to inspire and motivate others by sharing their journeys, challenges, and achievements.
- **Networking and Mentorship:** Facilitate connections between aspiring and established entrepreneurs to encourage support, guidance, and collaboration.

This forum promises to be a dynamic platform that not only raises awareness about gender disparities in entrepreneurship but also works toward creating an empowering ecosystem for women to thrive in business.

## Report on Gender and Entrepreneurship Forum at Maulana Azad College


### Introduction:

The Gender and Entrepreneurship Forum, held at Maulana Azad College in collaboration with the Empowerment Cell, aimed to empower and encourage women to explore the entrepreneurial landscape. This event sought to raise awareness about the importance of gender-inclusive entrepreneurship, address the challenges faced by entrepreneurs, and provide a platform for networking, mentorship, and sharing experiences.

### Activities:

#### Event Highlights:

- SRIJANEE: a programme conducted on Handicrafts and Food prepared by the students.
- Awareness Programme with Students
- Telling My Tale (Ajker Ami)
- LGBTQ- Where we find our space in the mainstream gender discourse: Through discussions by the panelists and performance.

  
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1. **Inaugural Address:** The forum commenced with a motivational inaugural address by Coordinator & Head of The Department of Sociology. The speaker emphasized the importance of gender equality in entrepreneurship and how empowering people can lead to the overall development of the economy.
2. **Panel Discussion:** A diverse panelists shared their journeys, challenges, and strategies for success. The discussion revolved around topics such as:
  - Overcoming gender bias in the business world.
  - Balancing personal life and business responsibilities.
  - Access to funding and resources for entrepreneurs.
  - Building resilience and confidence in the face of adversity.

#### **Challenges Identified:**

The forum also addressed the significant challenges faced by entrepreneurs, including:

- **Gender Stereotypes:** Many women, third gender entrepreneurs face societal expectations and biases that hinder their progress in the business world.
- **Access to Capital:** Women often face difficulties in securing financial support for their ventures, as they are sometimes perceived as less risk-tolerant than their male counterparts.
- **Balancing Family and Business:** People frequently bear the dual responsibility of managing home and business, which can lead to burnout and limited time for business growth.
- **Networking and Mentorship Gaps:** Limited access to professional networks and mentors often restricts entrepreneurs from receiving the guidance and support they need to scale their businesses.

#### **Key Takeaways:**


- **Empowerment through Education:** The forum emphasized the importance of education and skill development to excel in entrepreneurship.
- **Supportive Ecosystem:** Creating an inclusive and supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs was highlighted as crucial for fostering innovation and growth.
- **Role of Networking and Mentorship:** Networking and mentorship were recognized as powerful tools to overcome barriers and build successful businesses.

#### **Conclusion:**

The Gender and Entrepreneurship Forum at Maulana Azad College was an enlightening and empowering event that provided valuable insights, practical advice, and inspiration for aspiring women entrepreneurs. It succeeded in creating an inclusive platform for women to share their experiences, learn from each other and explore opportunities for growth and collaboration. By addressing challenges and promoting mentorship, the forum contributed significantly to advancing women's entrepreneurial aspirations and encouraging gender-inclusive economic development.

#### **Future Plan:**

- Continued efforts should be made to provide more platforms like this to access knowledge, mentorship, and resources.
- Educational programs focused on entrepreneurial skills should be expanded to encourage more women to pursue business ventures.
- The creation of an inclusive network of investors and mentors for women entrepreneurs is essential to bridge the funding gap.

  
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