

Woman Directorship: A step towards gender neutral boards

By

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“The angel of the Family is Woman. Mother, wife, or sister, Woman is the caress of life, the soothing sweetness of affection shed over its toils, a reflection for the individual of the loving providence which watches over Humanity. In her there is treasure enough of consoling tenderness to allay every pain. Moreover for every one of us she is the initiator of the future. The mother's first kiss teaches the child love; the first holy kiss of the woman he loves teaches man hope and faith in life; and love and faith create a desire for perfection and the power of reaching towards it step by step; create the future, in short, of which the living symbol is the child, link between us and the generations to come. Through her the Family, with its divine mystery of reproduction, points to Eternity.” So opined Giuseppe Mazzini almost one and half a century back; the truth of the quote cannot be questioned till date, perhaps, never ever as long as the sun shines upon the earth.

Woman often feel belittled when introduced as a mother and homemaker. Little do we realize that just being a mother gives you the job profile of a timekeeper, a chef, a maid, a waitress, a watchman, a teacher, a nurse, a referee, an arbitrator, a security guard, a photographer, a beautician, a counselor, a driver, a personal assistant and a 24x7 on-call caretaker for life.... And this job is devoid of any paid holidays, sick pay, overtime pay or days off. No wonder Goddess Durga is shown as an embodiment of prowess and capability, but the real world often undermines the role of a woman who is just a mother and a homemaker.

In today's corporate world 'women empowerment' is the buzz word. With the introduction of the concept of Women Director in the Companies Act 2013, the movement has actually been accelerated.

One of the most significant concepts and provisions introduced by the new Companies Act, 2013 is the mandatory inclusion of at least one woman director in the Board of every prescribed class of companies in India. This is a truly revolutionary step initiated by the legislature for ensuring gender neutral nature of Board in the corporate world and seeks to recognize the important role of women in promoting economic welfare of the country.