



Women in Leadership

Raja Al Gurg & Voice of Women

Research Paper

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How can Raja Al Gurg enhance women's voices to empower them to become leaders?

The notion of women's voices revolves around the importance of allowing women to express themselves and articulate their opinions, ideas and strategies in our society by giving them the recognition they need and deserve to make a difference. By including women more in leading operations, this allows them to prosper, and having their participation account for something leads to other women believing they could do the same and eventually, women from all around the nation will declare their voices and express themselves. One leader that is a strong advocate for women's rights and their empowerment is Raja Al Gurg. There are many reasons to her success and many things that make her the remarkable woman she is today. Such as her many rankings, her involvement in not only her father's enterprise, but also being the President of the Dubai Women's council and The first Emirati woman on the board of directors at HSBC bank and possesses many other engagements to her name as well. All which provide women of the country with a strong role model to look up to and embolden them to prosper and flourish in their communities.

It's very crucial that a leader engages not only in their field of work, but also with members of its society. As a woman, you will always have to speak louder in order for your voice to be heard, but once you express your message and it is heeded, you give every other woman who was too afraid, the courage to speak out, and give them a voice. Paving the road for other women and supporting them through their course is essential in improving societal standards and views of them. There are other sources that accredit these ideas, one of those books,(Worden,2012), mentions how the prosperity of women doesn't come from men, but it

starts with women helping one another. It tells the story of how women all over the Middle East have started overcoming major challenges the moment they started supporting and educating one another. Another activist of this concept stresses the importance of support women in political leadership needed in order to succeed, especially from their fellow women. (Kornblut, 2009) uses an example of a Political campaign in which a woman lost due to the lack of women voting. She later emphasizes the point of women being in positions of power doesn't gain support from men, and so it is our duty to push them further and bring them to success so that we one day, have that same chance. In the Global Women Economic Forum that was hosted in Dubai, in the month of October 2017, Raja Al Gurg was a guest speaker and addressed this very point and stated that obstacles are always a part of your road to success. Surmounting an obstacle is a test of your character. Although you may think that overcoming this is something you may have to do on your own, you will always need the support of those who have surpassed this before you, and those who simply want to see you succeed, and this support should come from all the women fighting the same battles. Furthermore, according to one of the booths that were present in the forum, such as APCO, I was informed that the president and chief executive, Margery Kraus contributes to the education of young women in developing countries. This shows us that women of all rankings and backgrounds come together to build, empower and develop one another. All these remarkable women share the desire to encourage, educate and provide others like them with the necessary resources they require, and they know that by doing this, it will bring forth the greatest advancement our society has seen.

In an interview she had (Clarke,2014), Raja Al Gurg promotes her belief in this matter and she asserts that the empowerment of women plays a big role in the Middle East, and by inspiring, motivating and driving them to be productive, that in turn makes a huge impact on the

economic shift of the Middle East. When you present women with the tools they need to improve themselves, in return they can change the world. She affirms that the voices of women in the Middle East are heard and their ideas and suggestions are not only being taken into consideration but are also used. Nowadays, women hold higher authority in the labor workforce and their presence and engagement is becoming more frequent and this has led to developments in business strategies, and an overall increase in organizational efficiency.

Raja uses her experience to encourage and inspire female entrepreneurs, despite the many obstacles she has faced in her journey, she took all those hardships as a chance to improve herself and try even harder. In this book, there is a direct quote from her that explains her perception of this matter. (Forster, 2017) “At first I never thought I wanted to go into business. But when I took a role in my father’s company, I had to prove that I could be successful regardless of the fact that I am a woman or chosen by my father. It is crucial that all women push their own boundaries and have the will to succeed.” She provides us with the necessary understating of the importance of pushing through any difficulties we may face as women, to succeed and achieve our goals.

In another book she specifies how to project a confident attitude that is an essential skill you must hone to become a powerful woman in leadership. (Blalock, 2013) She demonstrates how not only is it a determinant that will most likely help you succeed, but it also has a great influence on how others discern your presence. According to Raja, for woman to have her voice heard she must be confident, value herself, and must set her goals and aim to attain them no matter what. Also working on your attitude, gaining more experiencing and developing your

knowledge are very important aspects in leadership. However that is not always easy to do, by stepping outside your comfort zone and demonstrating the courage it takes to present yourself, you can guarantee that your voice will be heard.

Finally, being such an iconic female leader doesn't mean that life is only all about business, after all some women are wives and mothers and have familial responsibilities to deal with. With such obligations it can be easy for women to get devoured and lose their streaks of achievement, but Raja highlights how women, are just as capable as men are in the competing workforces while still managing to run their families. By having a dedication to hard work, you can build your own personal brand and that will result in a successful career. In a case like Raja's where she has her children working with her in the family business, it often can blur the line between personal and business. (Nagraj, 2015) In an interview with gulf business, she addresses this situation and explains that she manages to get to work early to finish any pressing matters before anyone can interrupt her, and when it comes to maintaining a balance between being a mother and being a leader, She explains that work is done within the workplace and at home she doesn't allow business talk. By developing a work-life balance and drawing a line, women can find themselves conquering many fields of work, they only need to develop the will to continue working hard and to look for sources of positive support in order to keep doing what they do while maintaining their relationships.

In conclusion, it is very crucial to have leading female exemplars in society, because they start as a voice for the female community and then this ultimately opens door to many young

women to bring about their ideas, creativity and innovation into their communities. Also, to put aside their fear of inferiority, and to start speaking for themselves and make their voices not only be heard but also account for something. This in turn, allows the country to reach its maximum production potential. Women have the possibility of achieving great things with the help of the support and chances to improve themselves. For this reason, having a successful woman such as Raja is important, because it is women like her that give us the direction, hope, and courage we need to prosper to become successful leaders.

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