

BUSINESS PLAN PRESENTATION BY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The undersigned was invited by Acharya Institute of Management & Sciences, as a member of panel of judges to evaluate and rate 'Business Plan Presentations' made by the latest batch of 32 women entrepreneurs (mostly from Karnataka) selected under the Goldman Sachs 10000 women initiative. The event was held over 23rd and 24th August, 2013, at AIMS campus in Peenya.

"The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women initiative" is a five-year investment (by M/s. Goldman Sachs) to provide underserved **female entrepreneurs** around the world with a business and management education through a network of academic and nonprofit institutions which help develop locally relevant coursework and improve the quality and capacity of business education worldwide. The women selected for the program enroll in customized certificate programs which cover topics including marketing, accounting, writing business plans and accessing capital. Students are offered mentoring and post-graduate support by partner institutions, local businesses and the people of Goldman Sachs.

In India, the responsibility of conducting the management education programmes to selected women entrepreneurs has been handed over to Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, who in turn have turned to AIMS to organize the programme for the Karnataka Region.

For the undersigned, it was a highly enriching experience to hear firsthand about the initiative, risk and perseverance shown by women belonging to the less 'privileged' class. It also reinforced my firm opinion that an MBA degree today should contribute to influencing a person's mindset to look at 'own business' too, apart from looking for just a career-oriented job.