

SPEECH

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ភាពជាអ្នកដឹកនាំស្រ្តី
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
JOURNEY OF BECOMING

ADB

YOUNG WOMAN LEADER HAVE TO BE CHANGE MAKER

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Ignite

Hello young ladies! I want to ask you one question. Have you ever dreamt about being a great leader? I think that most of you are going to say yes. And yes, we can. But this journey is not easy. We must have a real capacity, take action, and cherish self-improvement. With these, I believe that if we have a dream, we can make it happen.

Well, my name is Meng Sreylin. I am a year-four student [at a university] and I am a co-founder of my own business called Smart Farm Assistance. Today I want to tell you

about my inspiration, to tell you guys about how I can be a leader in my business and how I can overcome all the challenges.

In 2015, in the morning and in a small room, there was one woman lying down on a tiny bed. Her name was Veng Pisey. She is my mother. She got sick and she had to recover. Immediately she couldn't breathe, and she passed away. I became very lost. It was terrible. I didn't know how I can continue my life without her. I didn't know how to challenge myself. I didn't know who I am and what was my life's purpose about. So, I need her. A phrase that my mom always told me before she passed away was that "Sreylin, you must be a strong leader. You have to be a strong sister and a good daughter, have high education, seek a scholarship to study abroad and become an awesome woman in this world.

I was awake. I'm very grateful to her words. I can find me, and I know about my dream, and what my big dream is about. I want to be a young woman entrepreneur, to be a change maker. So, I started my business when I was a year-one student and then I made my team. I think that as a leader we have to do something to pay back our community. I'm very passionate about smart farming. I want to see the farming done with new technologies for improved products.

We encountered a lot of obstacles due to the lack of experience. I myself also faced a lot of problems. I didn't know how to face those problems. Sometimes I cry a lot along the roads. I felt like I failed many times. But I kept telling myself that I'll never give up. I have to move forward. This thinking changed me and made my dream come true.

This is my journey that I want to share with you. My last message to you, young ladies. I want you to think about your big dream that you want to achieve in your life. You are going to ask me how. So, my word that I want to give you is "Willingness". That is, you are willing to learn, and willing to take action, to cherish self-improvement, and to face all the obstacles.

I believe that you are stronger than you think. So please fly. Fly as high as you can. If you don't fly now, you will never know how far you can go. If you fly, you are going to see how beautiful the sky is. And be grateful to all the things that happen to you even if it's happiness, sadness, or failure. All these things shape you into the best version of yourself.

Please change your mindset and take action towards your dream. I always tell myself that I don't want to be a normal person, so I have to be a warrior ready for the race. Thank you.