

7th International Skills Forum

Anticipating and Preparing for Emerging Skills and Jobs

12-14 December 2017
Asian Development Bank
Manila, Philippines

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SHIFTING POWER

Women Entrepreneurs' Leadership

Jane Sloane

Director of Women's Empowerment Program

The Asia Foundation

THE OPPORTUNITY

- Women comprise 10.2% of directors
- Remain persistently underrepresented on boards
- South Asia:
 - 1,000 years to close the economic gender gap
 - Women 38% less likely to own a mobile phone than men
- Women's economic participation could increase AP GDB by \$50 billion+ with the right enabling policies and programs

To shift power and resources: access to network and technology.





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STRATEGY 1: NETWORKS

- Peer-to-peer learning: exposure tours
- Women's business centers: day-to-day high-quality business support
- Expand collateral-free loan opportunities
- Connect women working in both the formal and informal economies
- Networks advocating for change



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STRATEGY 2: TECHNOLOGY

- B2B web portals: provide regional market access
- Online forums: build capacity
- Mobile banking platforms that are women-friendly and accessible
- Connect women to business hotlines, business directory, and e-commerce platforms to buy and sell products



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STRATEGY 3: FORUMS & PLATFORMS

- Develop market access programs for new entrepreneurs
- Raise visibility of women and facilitate participation in key forums at local and national levels
- Influence policies and laws to create an enabling environment and challenge inequality



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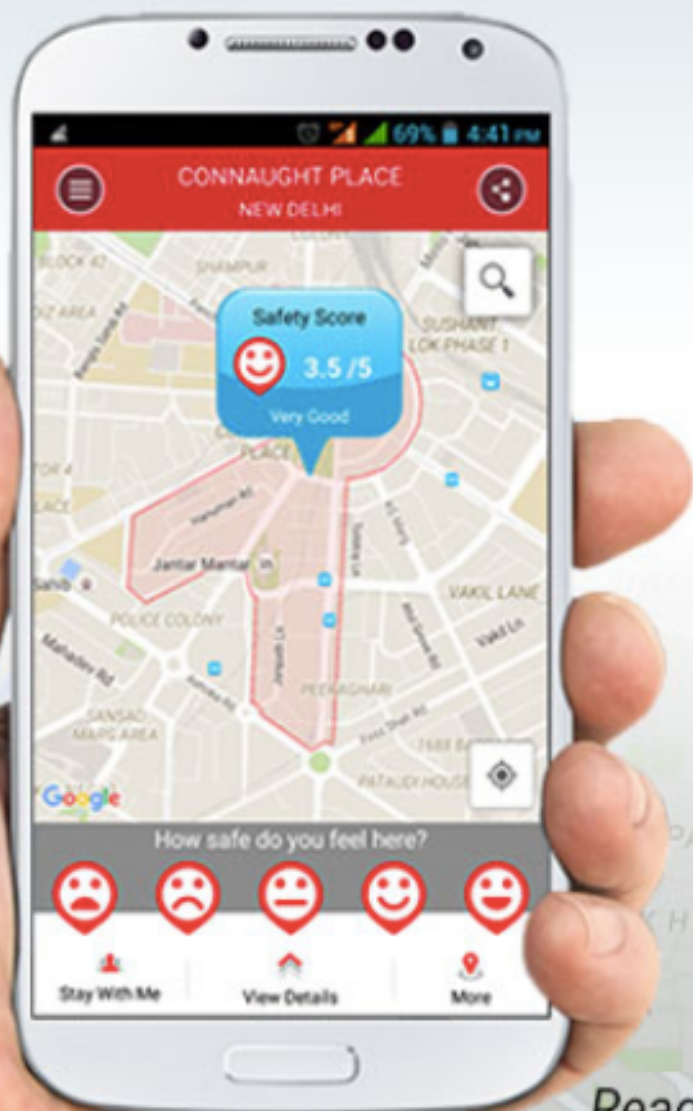
CASE STUDY



Safetipin, India

Founded by
Dr. Kalpana Viswanath

- Free app that uses data to make cities more inclusive, safe and free from violence for women and others
- Women's key perceptions of safety: lighting, openness, visibility, people, security, walk path, public transport, gender usage, feeling
- Partnered with Uber (India) – data collection
- Expanding to Cambodia



Read more...



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THE POWER OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS' COLLECTIVE ACTION

Investing in the power of women's leadership, and their use of networks and technology, is critical, to support women to be influential, impactful and transformative in their entrepreneurship and aspirations.