Empowering Women Across the Globe: Advocacy, Education, and Leadership Development

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SYMPOSIUM
Empowering Women Across the Globe: Advocacy, Education, and Leadership Development

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Abstract:
Empowering and developing women has become a popular topic of discussion in the literature and for all kinds of organizations (public, private, social sector) around the world. This includes dialogue concerning the inclusion of more women’s voices in local, regional, country, and worldwide roles and issues. Although progress has been made to have more women in leadership positions from the grassroots to CEO levels, the work has just begun. Developing more women of influence requires work in three areas: advocacy, education, and leadership development. The aim of this symposium is to share research findings and insights in these three areas in order to assist in moving the dialogue forward regarding future research and practice. For example, with advocacy one of the most challenging types of leadership today involves influencing societies toward social change. Often social change involves a wide variety of stakeholders (e.g., government leaders, legislators, higher and public educational system employees, religious leaders and members, business owners and employees, families and private citizens). Within management, organization development and change has provided models that deliver a social change framework. The importance of educating girls and women in various countries has been the topic of a number of influential books and articles, and new findings will be shared that emphasize the value of education in developing leadership competencies in women. Finally, a few highlights from a series of women and leadership research studies will highlight important keys to developing more women of influence. The symposium will also provide opportunity for engaging dialogue as well.

Dr. Madsen has done extensive research on the lifetime development of high profile women leaders in various countries and has recently done in-depth research on the role of a college education on assisting women develop leadership abilities. She has published two books and a host of scholarly and trade articles on her work. She presents widely and recently spoke to the NGO Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York (March) and also in Geneva (last summer).

Keywords: women and leadership, education, empowerment, social change, advocacy