

#ItsAGirlThing - A conversation on India's girls leading the future

ENGLISH

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Introduction to the event

I hope everyone's had a great week and are all pumped up for an evening of inspiration and motivation!

Welcome to CRY's celebration of all things girls! #ItsAGirlThing - A conversation on India's girls leading the future.

I'm Veronica and I am part of CRY's Volunteer Action team. Veronica to add a bit of self introduction here.

You may have heard of CRY and if you haven't, your parents would definitely have - cause we've been around for 42 years now. Child Rights and You or as we coolly shortened it - CRY, is called such because our founder saw the organization as constantly raising our voice for the rights of children across the country. And if I may say so, we've done well. Over the last 4 decades, we have impacted the lives of over 3 million children across 19 states in India.

We are India's most trusted NGO, and work tirelessly to ensure happier and healthier childhoods for India's underprivileged children. We address children's critical needs by working with parents, teachers, Anganwadi workers, communities, district and state level governments as well as the children themselves.

Icebreaker - photos and a hint

We are so excited to host this event on the heels of the upcoming National Girl Child Day on Jan 24th. This discussion is our attempt to start a conversation on the potential that the girls in our country harbour and how we can tap into your amazing abilities. And do we have an exciting lineup for you today!

Before we begin, I'd like to request everyone to please keep your videos off and yourselves on mute so that we can have a less distracted experience. Also, I'd recommend that you switch your video layout to active speaker view.

Please welcome our student moderator - Neha Jain, a 16 year old student of Salwan Public School, New Delhi and a CRY volunteer! A civil services aspirant, Neha wants to be able to serve her country and create positive change in society. Neha, all yours!

Neha: Hello everyone! I hope you're all ready for this evening.

And now, to introduce you all to our incredible panelists!

From leading action against child marriage to spreading awareness on child rights issues, Komal has done so much at such a young age. She aspires to become a teacher and her mantra is to make sure that all the girls in her community get educated. Komal, would you like to wave to our audience?

Our very own 'Mumbai ki Rani' is a woman of many talents! Known as a bold and fearless entertainer, Malishka makes herself heard by everyone, from the common man to the authorities. Malishka, please flash us your signature smile and give us a quirky greeting!

A bold and dynamic leader, Radha drives multiple programs in the fields of education, healthcare, women empowerment and heritage, with the aim to drive employment and transform lives in India. Welcome Radha, please greet the audience!

An international speaker, writer and advisor on issues of diversity, gender and women in leadership, Sutapa is the former DGP of Uttar Pradesh - the first highest-ranking woman I.P.S. officer in the state. Sutapa, say hello to everyone!

A 17-year-old juggling between HSE board studies and preparing for NEET, Tasbiha aspires to become a doctor and vows to leave no stone unturned in serving her country! Tasbiha, please give us a smile and a hello!

One of the most prominent film critics in India and a CRY champion, Sucharita is a staunch believer in giving back to society and fiercely believes in a realistic portrayal of women to nudge society towards gender equality.

Sucharita is so excited to join and is facing some issues and will be a bit delayed. But being the awesome person that she is, she's actually sent in her responses to some of the questions via video and we'll be playing them during the discussion till the time she's able to join us!

I think as girls, all of us face challenges of varying degrees. For me, one of the biggest challenges growing up was <insert personal anecdote from Neha>

Section 1 - Challenges that girls face on the path to chasing their dreams

1. Let's start off with a question for everyone in the panel. Growing up, what has been the biggest challenge you've faced as a girl with ambitious dreams? How did you deal with it? **Malishka and Tasbiha**
2. **Sutapa**, during your first posting in UP, you found yourself in a largely male dominated setting, which was dacoit prone and communally sensitive. What gender stereotypes did you face and how did you tackle them?
3. **Tasbiha**, growing up in rural India and then coming to Mumbai, how different did it seem to you in the terms of resources, exposure, mobility and culture?
4. **Komal**, as a leader of the CRY children's group in <location?>, you have been playing a significant role against gender based violence. What kind of discrimination have you seen the girls in your community face? What did you do about it?
5. **Radha**, one more question for you. For a woman, the corporate world can be a challenging space – a glass ceiling for instance very much exists. So what advice would you give to girls who eventually want to enter the corporate world?
6. **Malishka**, you've been really vocal about the challenges you faced as a girl and a woman. How did you muster the courage to tackle them head on?
7. **Sucharita**, you pursued many dreams from being a film critic to digital content creator to becoming a writer. As a girl, how did you get the courage to keep pursuing your passion and how did you overcome instances of gender based prejudices in the pursuit of your dreams?

Neha: Reaction line to segue into next question

8. For the six of you, in 5 seconds, tell us what you do for fun or what do you do that gives you joy? Tag each of the panelists

Section 2 - Enabling India's girls to harness their power and potential

Now I want us to talk a bit about our potential and what we can do to harness it. I've been lucky enough to be given so many opportunities and seen strong women who I could look up to as role models (To be modified as per Neha's experience)

9. **Radha**, how much of your experiences as a teenager helped shape your dreams? At that age, how did you recognize where your potential lies?
10. A shy, studious girl who grew up in a conservative Bengali family in Patna, **Sutapa**, you were the only woman in the country that year to become an IPS officer. You have mentioned how tough it was for you. How did you push yourself to reach your goal? What advice would you have for the girls here who may find themselves in a similar situation?
11. **Tasbiha**, how did the attitude of your relatives/community change when they saw you and your sister confidently pursuing higher studies? Has it had a positive influence on young girls in your neighborhood?
12. **Sucharita**, why do you think young girls should voice their stories in a society which constantly asks them to be silent?
13. **Komal**, you aspire to educate every girl. Why do you think education is important for girls and how can it make their life better?
14. **Malishka**, you've said that grabbing people's attention is really difficult. How do you ensure that you are heard and how do you think that girls today can ensure that their opinions are heard and considered?
15. We talk about the potential that girls have to change the world. How do you all think girls can move beyond just believing in this idea and take concrete steps towards reaching their own potential? **Radha and Komal**

In case Malishka has to leave:

We just got to know that Malishka has to leave a bit early and while we're very sorry to see you go, thank you so so much for being a part of today's discussion. Your presence today was really special! If any of you have questions for Malishka, please be sure to send it to us and we'll make sure that we get you a response

Sucharita's entry

Hey everyone, Sucharita is here! Sucharita, would you like to say hi to everyone?

Section 3 - Rapid fire round (Buffer segment - only if we have the time) (5:30 PM Sharp)

Okay, how about some fun questions now because I'm sure everyone would love to get to know you awesome ladies better! I'll ask the question and I want each one of you to say the first thing that comes to your mind.

It's a rapid fire round so let's keep it really quick and the rule is that once you answer, you immediately tag one of the other panelists. *Neha to step in if there's a problem with flow.*

1. What would be the title of a movie if it was created based on your life?
2. If you had to change your name, what would your new one be?
3. If you could have a superpower, what would it be?
4. If you could meet one person from history, who would it be?
5. What's the best thing about being female?

Section 4 - Q&A round

And now we're going to give the audience the floor. I'm sure all of you have tons of things that you'd want to ask each of our panelists but unfortunately, due to time constraints, we may not be able to answer all of them.

So type in your questions in the chat box and we'll try to have as many as we can answered.

In the meantime, a couple of our girls from CRY projects across India have sent in some questions for the panelists so we'll be playing the first one of the lot now.

In case we're out of time:

We have time for one last question but then as much as I hate to say it, it looks like we'll have to wrap up after that.

Closing (to be done by Veronica)

We, at CRY are so grateful to each of our amazing panelists and our lovely moderator, Neha who took out the time to be with us today! Each one of you brought in such a different perspective to the discussion and without even one of you, this evening wouldn't have been the same.

And to you, the beautiful audience who listened and engaged, you are changemakers and we hope you know that you're all champions for girls!

This is just the beginning of the conversation. We hope you all found this discussion as insightful and invigorating as we did and if you did, the next step is to talk about the things that were brought up today in your personal spaces. At the dinner table, when hanging out with your friends or wherever. Because, change can happen only when all of us are making noise about the things that we experience.

If you were inspired by today's stories, be sure to follow us on social media where you can see many more stories like that of Kavita who bowled us over with her determination to smash patriarchy and become a cricketer and so many more! And be sure to Tweet, Instagram and post on Facebook about your experience today with the hashtag #ItsAGirlThing

Here's to girls! Because it's a girl thing to change the world!

HINDI

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Do the 'where all are we logging in from' activity to get audience engaged. Play Bachpan ki dhun in the background.

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Introduction

Good evening, everyone, I hope everyone's had a great week. And I hope aap bhi utne hi excited hongey jitni ki mein hoon for an evening filled with a lot of inspiration and motivation!

On behalf of CRY, mein aapka Welcome karna chahti hoon to CRY's celebration - #ItsAGirlThing - A conversation on India's girls leading the future.

Mera naam Veronica hai aur mein CRY ke saath pichle 7 saalo se kaam kar rahi hoon. Let me give you a brief introduction of CRY and what it does.

CRY pichle 43 saalo se bhaarat me child rights ke liye dedicatedly kaam kar raha hai. You will be amazed to know that CRY ke founder Rippan Kapur ne 1979 me sirf 50 rupees me yeh organisation shuru ki thi aur vo bhi apne ghar ke dining table par apne 6 doston ke sath. Hum CRY main aap jaise superheroes ke saath kam karte hain aur isiliye toh hum Child Rights and 'You' hain.

Hamare is 4 decades ki journey me hum ab tak desh ke takreeban 3 million baccho tak apni pahuch bana chuke hai.

Hamari is journey ka ek bahut important part hai humare bacchon ki inspiring kahaniyan. Khas tor par humari ladkiyon ki kahaniyan jinhone hume sikhaya ki ek gender discriminative society me bhi agar unhe sahi mahol aur mauka diya jaye to veh kuch bhi achieve kar sakti hain.

Chahe vo Tamil Nadu ki Muthumanoranjini ki kahani ho jo with CRY's help has gone to college with a scholarship and is studying to become an aeronautical engineer and even achieved first rank in her first year. Ya fir Delhi ke Shahbaad Dairy jaise difficult area se aane wali Kavita ki kahani who became a part of Indian Women's Cricket Team (Under 19, T – 20) despite facing so many difficulties, ya fir vo Maharashtra ki Asha ki kahani ho jinhone child marriage ki jagah education ko choose kiya and became first ever woman police officer from her village in Latur.

In bacchiyon ki journey me CRY ne kadam kadam par inka sath diya.

These are the stories that inspire us to continue our work!

Ice Breaker

Aj hamare panel me shaamil saari amazing superwomen aur hamari CRY ki betiyon mein kuch cheeze common hai. Pehla ki vehe kaafi ziddi hai. Agar unhone kuch karne ki than li toh vo caste, class, gender, religion sab ke barriers ko tod sakti hai. Zaroorat hai to bus resources aur opportunities har beti tak pahuchane ki - phir toh hamare desh ki betiyan apni kismat khud likehenge.

On that note, mein aaj ka hamara event kickstart karna chahungi. Hamara aaj ka discussion ek attempt hai to start a conversation on the potential that the girls in our country have and how we can tap into your amazing abilities.

Aur aaj ke panellists ka lineup kaafi exciting hai!

Before we begin, mein aap sabhi se request karna chahungi ki aap apne videos ko on aur apne audios ko mute pe rakhe. Aur apne zoom ke view option pe aap gallery mode pe nahi - active speaker mode on rakhe.

I would now like to invite our student moderator for the evening- Neha Jain. Neha ek 16 years ki Dilli ki young student hai jo abhi apne school mein pre board exams de rahi hai. Neha ka sapna hai ki vehe ek din civil service mein ghuse aur hamare desh mein ke bohot positive change laye. So excited to have you lead the discussion today, Neha. Over to you!

Closing (to be done by Veronica)

Whew! What an evening this was.

On behalf of CRY mein aaj ki hamare amazing panelists and hamari pyaari moderator ka tahe dil se shuriyada karna chahungi. Aap sabne aaj hamare discussion mein bohot interesting and unique perspective diya hai and without even one of you, this evening wouldn't have been the same.

And a big big big thank you to you, our beautiful audience. you listened, you engaged and you learnt with us. Aap sab change makers ho and I hope you know ki aap sab champions for girls ho!

The evening may be over but this is not the end. This is just the beginning of the conversation. CRY mein hum sabki yehi aasha hai ki aaj ye hamare ye conversations yaha khatam na ho - hum ye conversation aagey badhaye. Apne family gatehiring mein - apne schools, apne dinner tables mein. Kyuki change tabhi aayega jab hum chuppi todengey - jab hum shor machayenge aur ladkiyo ke adhikaar haq se maangege.

Agar aaj ki stories se aap inspire hue hai - toh aap definately humey hamare social media handles - instagram, twitter, facebook youtube mein follow keejiyega. Vaha aapko bohot saari amazing young, resilient girls ki real life stories experience karne ko milenge - girls, who are looking at patriarchy in the eye and smashing it.

Aap apne aaj ke experience ko Twitter, Instagram aur FB mein jab post kare toh hashtag #ItsAGirlThing ke saath kare.

Here's to all of the amazing amazing young girls - jo kitaabey padna jaanti hai - kitabo ke panno se pankh banana jaanti hai aur apni kismat khud likhna jaanti hai!

Because boss, it's a girl thing to change the world!