

Is the glass ceiling for women not self-sustained?

What is the glass ceiling? Is there such a thing? And if it does exist, is it possible to break through? How? Are these discussions a way to theoretically produce an answer that will satisfy the target audience?

We ask the question: "Are there equal chances and opportunities when it comes to male / female relationships?" Referring to our Constitutional rights, we as Europeans say resoundingly YES! How is it that women continue to suffer from 'the glass ceiling syndrome' that is apparently being preserved by men? Is it really being preserved by men?

My organization, The King Movement Foundation/DutchVersity, has developed what we call the Hi5 principle. The Hi5 is a tool of empowerment that provides individuals with a completely new concept to inform, motivate, empower and inspire people by making them aware. By using the Hi5, we help stimulate the individual to use "Your hand as your compass in life to follow your dream; find your PASSION, to stay FOCUSED on your goals, to keep your OVERVIEW, to maintain your RELIABILITY and to build your KNOWLEDGE".

If you use the *Hi5* principle as your starting point, you will recognize the many wonderful differences in all factors that make men and women who they are.

Be positive and know what your PASSION is. Yes, that's easier said than done. Radiating positivity and being positive are two different things. Radiating positivity is what women in general are good at, more likely because people come to expect that from them. Being positive and knowing what your passion is may appear to be difficult. But why should it?

Is it because women do not have one FOCUS? Is it because women are characterized as being more emotional than men? The answer is in the fact that women constantly attempt to juggle too many things at once. Women view these things as separate but important enough to take priority in their lives. For example, being a good (house) wife, taking care of the family, work, social involvement, school and so on? Do women really see these things as priorities? Or are they simply victims of a standard which has been constantly conveyed by the society they live in? What is the big difference between men and women? Do men in general have one goal, dating back to prehistoric times, to support their families? If the latter is true, is their focus then connected to an automatic chain reaction such as: making a career - earning enough money to maintain a family - resulting in a capability to meet all needs? It seems that men have quite the rational reason to remain focused. But thus draws the question of whether the true difference between men and women is that women are too emotionally motivated to have one focus?

The absence of staying focused on your goal makes it difficult to envision 'the route to a successful career.' Subsequently, this increases the chances of going astray and you will therefore lose the OVERVIEW of your situation. How do women deal with obstacles? Do

they immediately concede because of the notion of the 'glass ceiling'? Is it because they have become a slave to their own mind? Is it because men are naturally accustomed to survival, thus inevitably preparing them to recognize and evade the many perils which often present themselves in the walk of life?

Do women ascribe too much to the notion of RELIABILITY? Or have men found a better balance by being reliable to themselves and their environment on one hand and true to the unwritten rules of society and business on the other?

Perhaps in the end it all breaks down to one thing, KNOWLEDGE. How is it possible that more than 50% of the European population is women, yet a male-dominated society prevails? Is it because of the men alone that this has occurred? Even after all of these years, the discrepancy persists between men and women and the earned income of each for equivalent job functions. Do we as women know this? If so, why don't we do something about it? Are we really less knowledgeable than men? Are we less capable of completing the tasks set forth in a reasonable business environment?

If the glass ceiling does exist, are there any women above it – talented women such as Angela Merkel, Neelie Kroes, Cynthia Carroll, Sheila Bair, Anne Lauvergeon, Indra Nooyi, Christine Lagerde, Ho Ching, Ellen Kullma, Afsane Bassir-Pour and so on. Are they only above this ceiling because they possess the stronger/ masculine type of personality?

I believe what makes these ladies equivalent to the men on top is their PASSION to stay FOCUSED; they were able to preserve their OVERVIEW on life without losing their RELIABILITY. By approaching their lives in this way, they ensured that at all times, their level of KNOWLEDGE was efficient and adequate to perform above the 'glass ceiling'.

You are probably wondering why there are so many questions and possible answers. I think of myself as a social entrepreneur; one who combines innovation, creativity, perseverance, global thinking and a 'can do' attitude to recognizing social issues. Utilizing these tools, I have combined my entrepreneurial principles and passions to establish and manage my organization in the attempt to make effective social changes in the market. In the wake of these successful methods of social change, I have founded and act as the current Director of The King Movement Foundation/DutchVersity. Together, they strive to build and maintain respect and dignity for human rights. As a result, my organization is proud to announce that we are the first and only official partner of The Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, Georgia-USA. With this great honor comes great responsibility. By possessing the exclusive rights to do so, we have committed ourselves to initiating The King Movement throughout Europe. The mission of my organization is to 'Connect by Opportunities'; not only by talking, but particularly by acting and making notable changes in the market so as to revolutionize the way in which people interact with each other. We intend to capitalize socially on our 'Hi5' concept by teaching people that the power to change resides in the palm of their hand! A concept that uses empowerment to inform, motivate and inspire people by making them aware that "Your hand is your compass towards reaching your dream."