

T1 Why Aren't There More Women in Power? – Various Theses

Read the following theses and note down what you think about them.

Sheryl Sandberg, an American technology executive, activist, and author, who has been the chief operating officer of Facebook since August 2013

- [...] the most important career decision women make is whom they decide to marry.
- Women need to get more comfortable with power
- Women need to take more responsibility for their success
- It's hard to visualize someone as a leader, if she is always waiting to be told what to do.

Jane Wurwand, creator and head of Dermalogica, a skin care line

- Empathy is considered a right-brain quality – “feminine,” for lack of a better word. And this quality is not widely trusted in business these days. In attempt to tough out our current economic crisis, many people are responding with the wrong half of their brains.
- Men have built generations of success upon the process of deflecting emotion from the workplace. This is because business in the industrial age was built upon the steely, military-industrial model. But the factories have closed. [...] Information, interactivity and communication are the most viable products we have to offer, and the rigid model of the past century will never work again.

Maria Bartimoro, an American television journalist (CNBC Television), magazine columnist and author of three books

- Women, myself included, want many balls in the air. So when we leave to start families, oftentimes the men jump ahead in terms of hierarchy.
- Women tend to be satisfied with the status quo. They won't push. Men are aggressive. They'll say they want a raise. Women are more satisfied: they'll say, let's keep it as is; let's not make waves.

Claire Grupp, co-founded Gruppo, Levey & Co. in 1992, a leading American advisory firm

- [...] women's biological reproductive “window” shuts down at the most critically productive years for career building. So if society wants to reproduce itself, women have to do it. And they have to do it before they are 40.
- Until genetic scientists figure out how to effectively freeze eggs so that they are as good as sperm that is made fresh every day, this will not change. The great neutralizer will be when both men and women can preserve their option for biological reproduction on the exact same time frame. Then women will be able to compete on a level playing field, become leaders in their professions by the age of 50, and then have their babies.
- Think about what birth control did for the women's movement. Think about what reproductive control would do for women's career liberation.

Sayu Bhojwani, an immigrant rights and social justice advocate

- Explanations and excuses for this appalling gap in leadership abound, some of which are not only inaccurate but also help perpetuate the gap.
- The most pervasive and damaging of these are that women voluntarily opt out of the work force, women don't help advance other women, and women lack ambition.

Jean Oelwang, the CEO of Virgin Unite, the entrepreneurial foundation of the Virgin Group

- I believe that women haven't been assuming more leadership positions in the world today because the systems we've created often do not place the right value on the strengths that women can bring to the table.
- By the very nature of their role in society, women have evolved certain values that have not yet been fully celebrated within systems that focus on short term financial profits above all else.

(for further information see (www.businessinsider.com/the-great-debate-why-arent-there-more-women-in-positions-of-power-2012-3))