

FEMINA

*Be
unstoppable*

What Does
**The Urban
Indian
Homemaker
Want?**

**ON A
PLATTER**

*Party
Appetisers
FTW*

**2020
Reimagined**

ENERGY-
EFFICIENT WAYS
OF PICKING
APPLIANCES



**Smashing
STEREOTYPES**

Dr Malini Saba on powering through
in male bastions

‘Woman of the Moment’

DR MALINI SABA, Founder & Chairman, Saba Group, is working to make a difference through her philanthropic endeavours. In a candid chat, she talks about causes close to her heart, empowering women, and breaking stereotypes



Founder and helmswoman of Saba Group, a company that employs over 5,000 people, operates in over 20 countries and comprises 15 companies across 10 verticals, Dr Malini Saba has helped millions of underserved women and children with her philanthropic efforts. Read on to know more about how she's effecting change across the world, her passions, and more.

You're one of the first self-made billionaire women. What is your advice to women on pursuing their passions?

I understand the plight of women in a male-dominated world. I want women across the globe to never take no for an answer. They should believe in what they do and take control and ownership of their professional paths by expressing themselves clearly. They need to be advocates for their own interests. I would say to them: Be an iron fist in a velvet glove and never lose your femininity. Life is a journey we must learn to savour, cherish, and embrace with gratitude.

During my life, I have met the best minds and the worst, dealt with frauds and cons, been fooled and bullied, and been sexually harassed and assaulted. Yet I am standing tall to inspire others.

You launched Anannke Foundation with the aim to help at least one billion people. Tell us about it.

Anannke Foundation is an advocate for those who are being marginalised, and focuses on healthcare, education, and advancement of human rights. We arrange global food drives, fund scholarships, build schools and provide healthcare facilities.

What have been some break moments in your career?

I allowed the wrong people to join me as partners. People are good and fluffing hot air that they have experience and talent only to find out they have no clue. One sole advice I would give, choose your partners well—make sure you do a police check on teams you hire and be yourself when you are talking about your company.

You hire only women to create a new culture in male-dominated spaces. What changes do you think need to be brought about?



Since April 2020 Dr Malini Saba has supported her local partners with 10,000 kg of rice every month amid the COVID-19 crisis

Equality is the answer in every aspect. Women should get maternity leave, so should men get paternity leave. Sexual harassment laws need to be tightened.

Tell us about the challenges you faced when breaking gender stereotypes.

I think most of us face the same hurdles—getting the respect in an all-boys club without exchanging favours, holding your own and standing firm for your values, and creating your own unique style.

Tell us how you unwind.

I love horror movies, ones with ghosts—I binge-watch them! It might sound weird, but these movies are so brain-numbing that they’re the best thing to watch after a stressful week.

What do you like to indulge in?

I love Indian and Italian food. Travel is important to me; I love beautiful places and 5-star hotels. When it comes to designer apparel, I am loyal to Louis Vuitton and Ritu Kumar.

If you could change one thing about the world overnight, what would it be?

That there would be enough food in the world and no one would go hungry ever.

Tell us one thing you’re willing to change about yourself or are working on?

I love everything about myself; after all, it took me 40 years to get here! I’ve been in situations where I’ve had no money, home, or food, but



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How does Saba Entertainment Group work to bring out women’s stories?

We have to be each other’s champions and heroes, and support each other. Media plays an important role for the development of society, which is why when it comes to Saba Entertainment Group, we produce, partner, or invest in empowering, multicultural, and women-centric content in television, film, and music, sports, media, apps, and multimedia.

We’re on the brink of the New Year. What will 2021 be like for Malini?

I can’t wait for 2021! I think it will be similar to 2020—I’ll be launching new business verticals, I’m prepared for it, but I’m also going to chill and move with the flow. Be happy and understand that there is a bigger plan for us all and we have to wait to see how it all unfolds. **F**