A Self-Made Business Woman

By Malvika Chopra

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Dr Malini Saba exemplifies the concept of using business to serve humanity, she is a selfmade businesswoman, an ardent philanthropist, Fitness enthusiast, Traveler, Human & Social rights activist and a global advocate for women and girls. Dr Saba is the founder & Chairman of 'Saba Group Holdings' who has helped millions of underserved women and children in South and Southeast Asia, South America, Africa and the U.S. to gain access to life-saving medical, educational services and achieves economic stability.

With an aim and vision to help one billion people around the world, she has helped them to have access to basic healthcare amenities, education facilities and opportunities to help them in breaking the cycle of poverty and educate people on human right issues. She believed that we take necessities of life for granted if given to underserved people will empower them and improve their and their children's lives to a great extent.

Dr Saba was born and brought up in Malaysia to a modest family who instilled a very strong work ethic in her that helped her to succeed in business while working for underserved. As a child, Dr Saba has been considerate for less fortunate and she would bring clothes and books to shelters and spend time with the people. She was backed by her parents who emphasized and motivated her to follow the compassion and make the world better for them.

In 2002, Dr Saba launched the 'Saba Family Foundations' to serve as the umbrella organization for all of her philanthropic efforts and activities. The foundation's focus is on healthcare, education and human rights. The organization has undertaken numerous projects in the respective fields including partnering with Stanford Medical Center to train physicians from developing countries; disseminating preventive health information on HIV/AIDS, immunizations, gastric and reproductive health; providing vocational education for women in Togo, West Africa; and supporting human rights issues around the world. She worked with President Clinton on many global initiatives and was jointly featured in multiple newspapers and magazines.

Dr Saba received the Kalpana Chawla 2005 award for 'Outstanding Woman Of The Year' from the friends of Indian community of Los Angeles, the Mother Theresa award in 2004 from the friends of Indian community of Los Angeles, the 2007 Ambassador Of Peace award from the federation of peace in London, the 2001 Entrepreneur Of The Year - Business Women's Network Washington D.C., and the 2005 Philanthropist Of The Year award by 'Pratham' an NGO promoting education.

Dr Saba has continued her path to build her businesses, while continuing to mentor, teach and fund local initiatives. The 'Saba Family Foundations' also educates assists and runs campaigns on how to report cyberbullying, physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying and workplace bullying. In its 17 years of journey, the foundation partnered with Aman Movement that invests in Social Value, Humanity Crew (1-year project) that addresses bullying of refugee children residing in Athens, Greece and UNICEF Australia that aims to improve the safety and well-being of children in school in Australia.

Taken a leap forward, in 2017, Dr Saba founded 'UpCara'; a Sanskrit term means to access and serve. UpCara is a nonprofit organization within the Saba Family Foundation to provide access to preventative healthcare and human rights for at-risk women who have dealt with aforesaid issues, with a concentration on older women's health concerns.

With 'Samskara' - An education Arm of 'Saba Family Foundations', her mission is to provide underserved girls with access to education. SFF believes in harnessing the local partners and volunteers energy for educational and development-related efforts. Scholarship programs for school girls and funding for college preparation in developing nations is an initiative under education by SFF.

Dr Saba regularly donates funds towards building schools in Africa, India and South-East Asia. They also fund scholarships and have previously funded over one million students. Furthermore, the operations of the foundation focus on funding organizations that work with children and young adults.

Saba Industries finances Dr Saba's philanthropic works which is a group of commodities companies that she founded in Asia. Saba Industries trades in Rice, wheat, cashew nuts, has a strong foothold in palm land, operates Gold mines, ship breaking, ethical iron ore, Tin and Last but not the least, has a strong base in the Hospitality sector. The company adheres to environmental guidelines, best business & sustainable practices and employs 3,750 local workers.

'Saba Group Holdings' has recently forayed into Entertainment Sector with a launch of 'Saba Studio' whose mission is to develop, create, source and invest in international and economically viable feature film, TV and immersive experiences. It produce's short form content projects that could be released theatrically, video on demand (VOD), subscription (SVOD) with intent to present socially relevant, entertaining and empowering content. 'Saba Studios' lately collaborated with 'Moonheart Entertainment' and 'Belize International Film Market'.

An avid writer, successful businesswoman and brilliant researcher, she wants to work relentlessly to provide access to women and children through the life span, not only for preventive health but social and economic gain. She continues to speak in global forums and intends to impact policies globally across governments. Dr Saba also devoted her time in writing "The Abbreviated Cook," a compilation of quick and easy recipes offers a twist on traditional South and Southeast Asian dishes.

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