

THE FUTURE IS SHE Q

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Janvi Rathi, a young and ambitious woman, was elated to grab a high-paying job at a multinational compa-

about his marriage. That's when it hit me that things are different for daughters. The debate surround-When I asked, 'What's ing women's roles is the rush?', they said that in our community, progress, invisible and daughters marry deeplyentrenchedbarny. The MBA graduate was excited to step into before sons. It was only riers persist.

The MBA graduate before sons. It was only riers persist.

Dr Malini Saba, a psy-

time-bound goals?

CHOOSE YOUR PATH age-old and despite

social rights activist, philanthropist, and global advocate for women and girls, states, "Women are still expected to conform to outdated expectations. These timelines are unrealistic because they do not acknowl-

but no one was talking expected to meet these chologist, human and edge individuality. Not every woman wants the same things in life, and that's perfectly fine. Progress shouldn't be measured by adherence to an outdated script but by the ability to choose freely. Women should not be bound by societal deadlines—they should be free to define their suc-

cess, at their own pace." On how she dealt with societal pressure, she shares. "I focused on my goals-whether in business, philanthropy, or personal life." She feels that women must create their own opportunities instead of seeking validation from

outdated norms. IT STARTS WITH YOU Change in mindsets will change the world for women. Shweta Powar, an entrepreneur, expresses, "Women should establish their priorities and have the courage to stand up for themselves. Moreover, change begins at home. I always tell my daughter to live a financially independent life and that marriage is a matter of choice. A woman is settled in the true sense when she is capable enough to make her own decisions. If such progressive thoughts are ingrained in today's generation, then society's mindset will

Instead of disparaging other women, we must uplift each other. Gagandeep Kaur, a communication and marketing strategist, concludes, "Stop asking your friends, 'When will you settle down' or 'Why haven't you had kids yet'. Instead, ask them, 'Are you happy' or 'What excites you about life right now'. Because that's what matters. Every woman deserves the right to create her own story-without fear, judgment, or a ticking clock."

change gradually."





that I convinced them the professional world. However, six months later, her parents called to inform her that they had shared her profile with a matrimonial ting married!" agency and asked her to be prepared to meet prospective grooms. The 23-year-old recalls, "I didn't expect this because my par-

ents have always

encouraged my brother

and me to focus on our

studies and careers.

What angered me was

that my brother is five

years older than me,

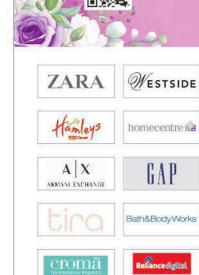
that I needed a few years to settle into my career before I could even think about get-

Like Rathi, many women are pressured into meeting such milestones within set timeframes. As soon as they enter their 20s or 30s, they field questions like 'When are you getting married' or 'When are you planning to have a child'. This makes one wonder, are all women

The societal expectation of marriage in one's 20s and motherhood by 30 reveals a fundamental lack of nding that women's desires and life

Why it matters: The imposition of age-normative psychological well-being, professional development financial security, and personal aspirations. Addressing these would contribute to greater gender







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