

Story of a woman, striving for empowerment of women, in the Finance domain: Mukul Kulkarni!

In the last few decades, women have emerged from behind the four walls of their homes to become earning members of society. Their socioeconomic conditions have significantly improved since then. Women constitute half of the world's population and female participation is critical to boosting the economic potential of any nation. Based on the past experience, it brings a transformation. Their involvement in family finances can be the first step in the process. Therefore, a prominent financial consultant in Nashik is working towards empowerment of women in this particular domain. Mukul Pravin Kulkarni, Director, Explore Investments, is one such woman, who has not only set a standard in the field with her contribution but has also served as an inspiration for many women. Let's find out more about her organization, services and advice for women's empowerment in finance.

About Explore investments:

'Explore Investments' is an organization that was established in April 1994 and promoted by Mukul Pravin Kulkarni. Since its inception, Explore Investments has been providing wealth management services and has been one of the leading distribution houses in Nashik, dealing with various investment products with a focus on mutual fund investments. Moreover, since financial planning is their core competency, they do not only give advice, but also make a significant contribution in raising awareness about it. In general, the group believes that a financial plan is a comprehensive assessment of an individual's current and future income, asset value, and withdrawal plan based on current known variables. Thus, the wide range of products it provides to the clients are well researched, reinforced by contemporary service delivery methods. Their customized solutions are aimed at meeting the unique requirements of each client, thus ensuring value additions of the highest order.

Expertise about Mutual Fund Investment

Most experts agree that duration management and risk management are of utmost importance when making investment decisions, especially in mutual funds. Similarly, Explore Investments believes that a prudent risk management approach will automatically result in superior returns if duration and risks are properly managed. Hence, With the client's investment preferences and tenure in mind, the team recommends the right kind of products. A variety of parameters are considered while researching and evaluating these prod-

ucts, including risk, liquidity consistency of performance, fund size, style of fund management, etc. Since the organization's advice is unbiased and in accordance with the best interests of its clients, it assists you in selecting the best product.

Also, their service deliverables and information support keep you informed on market conditions and developments, which assist in making informed decisions on when to invest or disinvest. It monitors and tracks your portfolio performance continuously based on market conditions. Therefore, Explore Investments' custom solutions tailored to the specific requirements of its clients add value to them.

Highlights of Explore Investments:

- 25 Plus years of Experience
- 15 Plus Mutual Fund Houses
- 3000 plus Satisfied clientele



Mukul Kulkarni

About Mukul Kulkarni

A graduate in science, Mukul is an AMFI-certified investment consultant with 25 years of experience in investment advisory services. In her role as a director at Explore Investment, she is a major driving force behind the organization's success. Furthermore, her daughter Revati Kulkarni who is MBA Finance and certified financial planner has recently joined the firm, firm, due to which the organization's expertise and deep knowledge base in the field is further strengthened.

Mukul's opinion on current state of financial literacy of women

Mukul opines that "In most cases, women do not participate in discussions of family finances. In general, it is often observed that a woman's finances

Perception	Reality
• Men are better investors than women	Women are disciplined and stick to a plan rather than approach investing like trading
• Women are less confident in managing investments	Not being overconfident leads to women being more patient in volatile markets
• Women are less willing to seek professional help	Women are more likely to seek professional help resulting in lower financial mistakes

are handled by her husband, brother, or father. The common reason for this is stereotype prejudice and a myth that women aren't good at math. Due to this typical situation, in case of an unfortunate incident in the house, it becomes difficult for her to manage the money matters due to lack of knowledge and information. In the midst of such a traumatic situation, she does not know whom to turn to for financial support.

Thus, in order to avoid all of this, a woman must be well-informed about domestic finances, including bank locker details, health insurance, term insurance, investment details, etc. As well, she should know whom to contact if any difficult condition arises for apt advice"

Why financial planning is necessary for a woman

- Generally, a woman lives longer than a man. Thus, she should plan preciously for her financial independence throughout her life.
- Generally, a woman is paid less than a man due to gender discrimination at many places. Thus, she should cautiously respond to the situation.
- Generally, a woman faces career breaks due to pregnancy or family priorities. Thus, she must plan her finances in such a way that such breaks would not hamper her financial independence.
- Generally retirement planning is focused on men of the family. However, a working woman must plan for her retirement as well.

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Team of Explore Investments

An illustration on periodic contribution

Targeted Amount (Rs.)	Monthly Investment to be done					
	For 5 years time		For 10 years time		For 18 years time	
	10%	12%	10%	12%	10%	12%
10,00,000	12,807	12,123	4,841	4,304	1,651	1,306
20,00,000	25,614	24,246	9,683	8,608	3,303	2,613
50,00,000	64,035	60,616	24,207	21,520	8,257	6,532
75,00,000	96,052	90,924	36,310	32,280	12,385	9,798

Services Provided by Explore Investments :

- Mutual Fund Distribution
- Loan Syndication
- Insurance
- NRI Services