



Maverick Collective is aiming to redefine what it means to be a philanthropist in today's world, with its members investing a minimum of USD1m to deliver solutions for girls and women in the developing world. (Keystone)

Innovation in philanthropy

Indrani Goradia on ending gender-based violence

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Indrani Goradia, founding member of the Maverick Collective and Founder of Indrani's Light Foundation, spends her life fighting for global solutions to gender violence.

"We are teaching girls how to be resilient, to learn about boundaries and about shame and guilt and how to handle these emotions," said Goradia.

Goradia said she had been trying previously to work with shelters to get them on board with her initiatives working with women and girls in education on domestic violence, and she said that shelters would turn her away and would ask why she didn't want to get paid.

"I thought it was really odd, because here I am, coming in for free, and you're worried about how I make my money?" said Goradia. "They ultimately did not, for lack of a better word, 'hire' me."

Then Goradia was introduced to the then-nascent Maverick Collective, of which she was the first founding member.

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girls and women in the developing world, but also with a large emphasis on donating time and expertise – not just throwing money at a problem.

It was created by Population Services International (PSI), a global health non-profit working with 9000 staff in 65 countries on issues affecting women and girl's health. It is co-chaired by HRH the Crown Princess Mette-Maritt of Norway and Melinda Gates.

The group was launched in an effort to allow experienced advocates and strategic philanthropists to use their intellectual and financial resources to enact change.

"My son said to me, 'Mom, this is like a start-up, maybe it will work, maybe it won't work,'" said Goradia. "But I knew that by partnering with PSI, I would have the global reach that I needed that I couldn't get on my own. They have offices in 68 countries and almost 10,000 employees."

Goradia is rolling out her program in India, and wants to do so throughout the whole sub-continent. She also is working in Trinidad.

"Through this Maverick Collective, I realized what we really need to do is get the research," said Goradia. "If you really look at the research in regard to how many non-profits there are throughout the world and the large amount of money wasted, you'd be astounded. But with the Maverick Collective, we know exactly how the money is being spent. We take a holistic approach to helping women in India."

She just joined the board of a new non-profit called "Think Equal." The non-profit focuses on classes in empathy and compassion into schools, from age 3 to 14.

"The statistics for abused women is one in three, but I think it's more like one in two, because there are very few women I met who haven't had abuse happen in her life," said Goradia. "The classes we teach, the first class is how to set boundaries. We are primed to accept violence as children. But if you are taught from a young age that this is unacceptable, for both girls and boys, then it's harder for that to creep in or ever take place."

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