



CORONA Plateau Mauritius

From the Chair ...

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

www.coronaplateau.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY 17th May @ 10 am

Our May meeting will focus on friendship and crafting. Mandy and Lyndsay will show us how to transform our 'branded' carrier bags into beautiful gift bags.



If you have craft ideas you would like to share with members do get in touch with your committee.

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Wednesday 29th May @ 10 am

Have you already visited Plaisance Mall in Rose Belle? Why not join us for a day of friendship and shopping. This new mall is all on one level with an interesting range of shops and eateries. Get more details of this outing from Kamini.

Wednesday 12th June @ 3.30pm

Afternoon tea at Paradieso.

Wednesday 31st July

Day out at Tamarind Beach. Lunch at Tamarind Veranda Beach Hut.

JUNE MEETING

FRIDAY 21ST June @ 10 am

Impress your friends and family and learn how to carve art from fruit and vegetables.

Birthday wishes to all members who celebrate their special day in May.

It's a **w**oman's world ...

Let me start by congratulating the 31 ladies who are now fully paid-up 2019 Corona members. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings and events throughout the year. For those ladies who have not yet paid their 2019 dues, please see Rosemarie soonest.



A big thank you to all members who answered our call for Easter Eggs. These were shared between Anushka's facility, and the children of CEDEM and Esperance.

I am sure the 25 members who attended our April meeting will agree that we could not have wished for a more passionate or articulate speaker. Anushka Virahsawmy shared statistics that surprised many of us. She pointed out the imbalance of women in positions of power in Mauritius, noted the political reluctance to protect women and brought up some cases of child molestation and child marriages. Anushka finished by telling us about her new shelter for abandoned and distressed young women Safe Haven Halfway Home (**SHHH**).

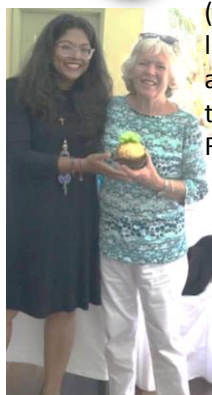


OUR RAFFLE

Home made cakes are always very popular as raffle prizes but there is no reason to restrict our raffle to cakes. Going forward, we encourage you to donate other items for the raffle.



At our April meeting we raffled wine (donated by Majoe) and chocolate (donated by Jane). Our lucky winners were Sara and Mary respectively and the raffle raised a total of Rs 2125.



COFFEE MORNINGS

Our April coffee morning at Paul in SoFlo was attended by 11 ladies who all enjoyed the ambience and the company. Quite a few decided to order direct from menu and not go for the special deal Sara had negotiated. Unfortunately others confirmed attendance but did not show-up. The result was that Corona was forced to meet a shortfall in the bill. *We had booked for 12 but only 8 partook.* As a result the committee are looking into changing from coffee mornings to afternoon tea. **LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS IDEA.**



Emilie,
Margaret
& Marilyn

At our April meeting we shared a cake to celebrate those members who marked their birthday in March and April.



Join our
WHATSAPP
group and help
us stay in touch
with you.
Text your number
to Sara or Kamini

Honey Dew Slush

A delicious way to beat the heat.
Easy to make and so refreshing.
Honey dew melon - 2 Cups
chopped

Lime juice - 2 tsp or more
Honey to taste

Mint - 2 tsp chopped

1. Blend all ingredients together.
2. Freeze for a few hours
3. To serve, crush the slush into glasses.
4. Decorate with mint.



WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY sourced from 2017 government reports

WOMEN IN MAURITIUS

The statistics Anushka quoted may have shocked some of us but they generated lots of interest. I decided therefore to pull together some official numbers to share with members.

EDUCATION

Mauritius has achieved gender parity in primary, secondary and tertiary enrolments, indicating that there is no preferential treatment of sons in access to education.

- At the end of primary, girls generally perform better than boys. In 2017, the pass rate for girls was nearly 86% against 77% for boys.
- At secondary level, less likely to drop out, 5% against 7% for boys. Girls generally perform better than boys at HSC examinations.
- More women than men are enrolled in tertiary institutions. In 2016, women enrolled in public, private and overseas tertiary institutions numbered 27,365, representing 57% of the student population which stood at 48,089.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

In 2017, the active Mauritian population (aged 16 years and above) stood at 586,900 with 356,600 men and 230,300 women. Around 46% of women of working age were in the labour force compared to 74% of men. Despite women being better educated, they are under-represented in the labour force and twice as likely to be unemployed.

Unemployment : Unemployed women numbered 24,600 in 2017 compared to 17,200 men.

- Despite being fewer in the labour force (39%), women make up nearly 59% of the total unemployed. Female unemployment rate stood at 10.7% in 2017, much higher than the rate of 4.8% for male.
- Around 54% of unemployed women possessed a School Certificate or above against 45% among males. Similarly, a higher proportion of unemployed women (21%) attained tertiary level education as compared to unemployed men (17%).

Employment : In the occupational category of managers, professionals and associate professionals, women earn on average 73 per cent of what men earn. In less lucrative occupations, women earn less than half of what men earn.

- Across all occupational groups, women on average earn less than men.

- Women were more likely than men to be employees (85.2% of the female workforce) as compared to 75.9% for the male workforce.
- Women were also less likely than men to work for themselves. 22.9% of working men were employers or own accounts workers compared to only 11.2% for women.

Leadership : Women are largely under-represented in decision making at higher spheres of society.

- Women represent only 7% of the boards of directors of the Top 50 Companies in Mauritius. The number of female parliamentarians is 8 out of a total of 70 (11%)
- According to the 2017 Global Gender-Gap Index (GGI), Mauritius stood at 112 out of 144 countries worldwide. Comparisons-GGI 2017: Iceland 1, France 11, Seychelles 15, South Africa 19, Madagascar 80, India 108, Yemen 144.
- While the 2016 SADC Gender Barometer finds that no member state has equal pay for men and women Mauritius is disappointingly low (42% or women earn less than half of men in similar roles). Tanzania is the only country where women's earnings come close; their earnings are 93% of men's.

SOCIETAL

The Mauritian Government has enacted much legislation with the aim of creating equal rights and protecting women from violence. Despite these attempts to level the playing field, Mauritius remains a highly patriarchal society. The Mauritian Civil Code provides both spouses with the same rights and obligations however, gender stereotypes prevail.

- In terms of early marriage, the United Nations reports that 10% of Mauritian girls between 15 and 19 years of age were married, divorced or widowed, compared to 1% of boys in the same age range.
- The legal age for marriage is 18, unless parental consent is given to marry earlier. However, the Civil Status Act provides for the celebration of religious marriages with civil effect, thus providing the Muslim community the option of availing themselves of personal laws.

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