



HOW ONLINE FACILITATION HAS HELPED WOMEN MEET THEIR PROFESSIONAL GOALS

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I have primarily been an educator and worked in the traditional brick and mortar institutions and organisations. I occasionally started doing remote projects in 2011. In 2016, I left a stable government job and chose to work fully remotely in favour of flexibility. Since then I have worked on several research, academic and support assignments. Remote working has worked very well for me. I have been able to pursue my hobbies, help my 11-year-old in studies, and do volunteering work, while remotely working full-time. In 2018, I became a LINC Fellow and since then, I have online-facilitated three units (subjects) for Australian Universities. I can easily say that overall, the online facilitation has been the best remote job I have undertaken so far. This is because the job is intellectually stimulating, provides international exposure, is recurring and because the LINC team has been fantastic. I have recommended this job to many women and friends.

Here are a few scenarios in which online facilitation may be a great opportunity, especially for women:

- If you are a qualified woman who is already working independently or part-time and is looking for additional opportunities, you may want to consider online facilitation. For example, if you are an LIC agent, online retailer, professional dancer, yoga teacher, tutor, visiting teacher, YouTuber, start-up entrepreneur, Ph.D. scholar, consultant, etc. and have 15-20 hours per week to spare, this could be the right opportunity for you.
- If you are a woman who is unable to take a stable job because you have to frequently travel or change your place of residence. For example, if your husband is in the Army or you are often required to visit your ageing parents, online facilitation may be the solution. This job is 100 percent remote and you can do it from anywhere in India, as long as you have a stable internet connection

and a quiet place to work from.

- The flexibility of online facilitation is especially attractive to women who are trying to find a balance between work, family and personal demands. For example, if you are a stay-at-home mom who is qualified and holds professional degrees, or a woman who has taken a career break, it could be daunting for not being able to work and earn. You might feel you are under-utilising your professional skills and earning potential. A job such as online facilitation may be great for your self-esteem and maintaining continuity in your career.
- When you are in that stage of the lifecycle where you have ample time left with yourself and nothing useful to do, life may seem to get monotonous and sometimes depressing. For example, if your kids have left for college, you may be looking for ways to engage yourself in something productive. It can be a good idea to put your time, knowledge and skills to good use by engaging in online facilitation.

Online facilitation offers great advantages. Apart from the advantages of flexibility and remote working, the role provides an opportunity to work in an international environment, further learn and grow academically, interact with students from all over the world, improve professional communication, develop cross-cultural skills and stay relevant in the face of the evolving higher education landscape. Furthermore, since online facilitation is highly personalised, when online facilitators see that they have been instrumental in a student's success, it gives a great sense of fulfillment. With LINC, there is a special advantage that they provide training and support at every stage and really want you to excel in this role.

However, truth be told, this is not any run-of-the-mill remote

job. Online facilitation will require sound academic knowledge, sincere efforts, and openness to learning. If you are up for it, you will do very well at this job and love it as well. ■