Living & Working with Lady Corona: A Higher Education Perspective

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2022, the University of Fiji hosted a Panel Discussion titled "Living and Working with Lady Corona: A Higher Education Perspective" at the Samabula Campus.

Mr Kiniviliame Keteca, Senior Lecturer at the JDP School of Law, moderated the session, which began with remarks from Professor Mohammed Aziz of the JDP School of Law. The panelists were Ms. Varsha Bano of JDP School of Law, Ms. Archana Reddy of School of Business and Economics, Ms Nanise Caginimua Raloga of School of Humanities and Arts and Ms Kesaia Ledua Tuikoro, Law Researcher and Library Assistant.

Transit to virtual teaching environments was one of the experiences that came to the fore, as was managing various duties as a teacher, counsellor, wife, mother, and friend. An important feature was how the panelists incorporated their family and social support networks into their teaching roles, with a collaborative approach used inside the house to ensure that lectures and evaluations were conducted with little interruption or disruption.

One of the panelists expressed an exploratory spirit, seeing the chance to upskill oneself, learning the programs and gadgets for e.g. zoom and google meet, in order to provide appropriate assistance and resources. What is fundamental and commonplace to many members of Generation Z was foreign and distant, and the need to self-teach was inevitable.

Ms. Reddy said that Lady Corona brought many things with her, one of which was time. While deadlines loomed, finding the time to write and publish a book was a joyful accomplishment. The novel's thread of sharing the experience of studying in a distant place was also released at the festival.

Lady Corona's major gift was flexibility, which was repeated by all panelists, who were able to respond positively to shifting events. Expectations from their managers, changes in regulatory norms, economic obligations, and empathy for their pupils and peers all asked that they adjust to change. This reaction was delightfully present in the panel, as they identified with the versatility and evolving nature of their roles, as education service providers and home providers.