

Press Release

Manipal Academy of BFSI and Axis Bank Launch Women-Exclusive Young Bankers Cohort to Advance Gender Inclusion in Banking

Bengaluru, 16th December 2024 - Manipal Academy of BFSI (MABFSI), India's leading learning solution provider for the BFSI sector, recently announced its partnership with Axis Bank for the launch of the **Axis Bank Young Bankers Program Women's-Only Cohort**. The diversity cohort was officially inaugurated at the **MABFSI campus in Bengaluru** by **Rajkamal Vempati, President & Head - Human Resources at Axis Bank**, reaffirming the Bank's dedication to building a diverse and inclusive workforce.

The Young Bankers Program, a collaboration between Axis Bank and Manipal Academy of BFSI, has successfully trained over 16,000 graduates over the past 12 years. With the introduction of the new women-only cohort, female participation has seen a significant increase. The program now includes 700 women, improving the gender ratio from 31% to 38% for FY 24-25, marking a notable advancement compared to previous cohorts. To measure the success of the cohorts, MABFSI and Axis Bank implement continuous assessments and specific interventions. Additionally, the learning experience is enhanced through workshops on gender sensitization, stress management, and career development, ensuring graduates transition smoothly to the workforce.

Aatash Shah, Senior Vice President & Head - Business, Manipal Academy of BFSI said, *"We are delighted to continue our partnership with Axis Bank to empower young women with the skills needed to excel in the banking sector. This program is designed to ensure that graduates are not only prepared but also equipped to thrive in their banking careers."*

Rajkamal Vempati, President & Head of Human Resources at Axis Bank, stated, *"At Axis Bank, we are dedicated to ensuring that women remain in the workforce and develop into well-rounded bankers. Our diversity batch in the Axis Bank Young Bankers program includes a talented group of women, with 24% being married and 44% over the age of 25. Over the years, we have successfully integrated numerous young women who have brought fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to our operations. Looking ahead, we are committed to continuing our investment in talent by providing comprehensive training programs, mentorship opportunities, and a supportive work environment."*

The **Axis Bank Young Bankers Program** is a comprehensive one-year course that includes four months of classroom training at the MABFSI campus in Bengaluru, covering banking fundamentals, a three-month internship at Axis Bank branches across India, and five months of on-the-job training. Graduates who complete the program receive a Post Graduate Diploma in Banking Services from Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), equipping them with industry-relevant knowledge and skills. Axis Bank, in collaboration with MABFSI, aims to achieve 50% diversity in the upcoming batches.