

# Knowledge *Ex*

# 40 UNDER FORTY 2020

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT  
PROFESSIONALS IN INDIA

Presenting Partner

Membership Partner



**Farzana Wadia** - Director, IAIA

## GRIT: THE POWER OF PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE

Farzana has over 11 years of experience in financial services, private equity and investment banking. Farzana rose to the ranks of Senior Principal & Investment Team member at Gaja Capital, within a span of 6 years (having started as an analyst). She was the first & only woman in the core investment team at Gaja Capital. In 2018, Farzana joined the senior leadership team at India Alternatives as Director. Farzana is an all India rank holding Chartered Accountant and a gold medalist Commerce graduate from Mumbai University. She is a mentor at Katalyst, a not-for-profit organization which endeavors to achieve economic emancipation for talented girls from marginalized communities.

### Success mantra

Find your passion and live it!

### Inspiration

I like spending time with my mentees at Katalyst, a not-for-profit organization which endeavors to achieve economic emancipation for talented girls from marginalized communities. They end up energizing and inspiring me a lot. They have helped me believe that nothing is impossible if you set yourself to achieve it

### Pillars of strength

My Family

### A superhero who could be you

Wonder Woman

### Hobbies & interests

Running marathons, listening to music, singing and dancing

### Mentor

My dad. Life lessons are best learnt from those with the highest integrity, logic and from those who love you the most (they allow you to experience everything and hold your hand when you are about to fall). Fortunately for me, it's my dad

### Biggest career misstep

My hesitation to move away from my comfort zone

### Lessons learnt from this misstep

Break out and go follow that dream! You only start 'really living' when you break the shackles of the comfort zone

### The cause you are supporting

Katalyst, a not-for-profit organization which endeavors to achieve economic emancipation for talented girls from marginalized communities.

### Ultimate career goal

Working in Private equity, I believe I have already found my true calling.

### 5 member dream team in the alternative investment Space

My team at India Alternatives of course!

### Role model in the Indian Alternative investments Sector

I like Neelesh Surana's style of investing (growth oriented companies with high ROCEs and cash flows, attractive valuations and good governance) with a track record of consistently outperforming the market

*"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have"*

- Thomas Jefferson



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