

AN INTERVIEW

"Age quod agis — do what
you're good at. I am, no matter
the obstacles I experienced."

SIHAM BENHAMMOU

Co-founder EduKids


She
#DIDIT

Focus on what's in my head. Not on it.

As a speech therapist, education has always been of great interest to her. She got that confirmed after trying out an economics degree that was not to her liking. Her time had come to make an impact, especially when she found out that there were few to none multilingual speech therapists. Her job is not only satisfying for her, but the children and parents too are beyond happy. That which once was an obstacle is now a strength. A child receives the right assistance, and Siham receives a smile from ear to ear.

However, this sparkling description of her life now is not how it all began. Her internships were not always all smiles. Hardworking Siham has not only been subject to ridicule remarks because of her cultural background but also because of being a woman. Sometimes she felt that nobody understood her, and even her headscarf sometimes 'scared off' supervisors. **A 'sometimes experience' ended up having an emotional impact on her life. As if her headscarf changed her talents and capacities.**

But hey, difficult roads always lead to beautiful destinations. The hate and criticism sparked an entrepreneurial spirit in her. After graduating she felt the need to start something herself with the goal to spare future interns of what she had to go through.



“I want to lead by example to my daughters. Show them that it's possible to become anything you want, nothing should ever stand in their way. Ever.”

– SIHAM BENHAMMOU

I have daughters who look up to me.

And look at her today! The parents from all walks of life feel relieved when they meet her. She guides Belgian, Jewish, Moroccan, Turkish, Pakistani, Afghan, and Palestinian children. Color and religion don't matter to her, yet diversity matters. And that is exactly what she tries to pass on to the students. Siham her hope is not lost, she still believes. All the while restoring faith with others.

As a womanpreneur Siham is convinced that standing firm, being strong, being critical, and believing in yourself are key elements to growing. This way she can set an example for her daughters, convincing them that they can become anything they have in mind. There is nothing that should ever stand in a woman's way. It may not always be easy for us out there, but that should not withhold our talents.

Her go-to advice for upcoming womenpreneurs is to empower others, network, broaden your horizons, work in silence, believe, and make sure that you have a supportive environment. The latter is essential to keep your head up, be proud and achieve your dreams. Let's go!

SIHAM'S 3 GOLDEN RULES

Expand your network, get to know people. Figure out how you can add value, and how others can help you.

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Empower each other. Support one another, don't be someone who is afraid to help or applaud for someone else.

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Knowledge is power! Don't start without knowing how, explore. Figure out your talents and how you can become the best version of yourself!