

# Women Change the World

**Q1. How do you think stereotypes, about what women can or cannot do, affect women's right to equality?**

**Answer:** Women are considered inferior to men. There is a belief that women do not have a technical mind and therefore cannot be scientific. It is thought that women are good only in certain jobs such as teaching and nursing. These stereotypes about women's ability or inability to do some work badly affect women's right to equality. It is for this reason that women are not paid lower wages than their male counterparts.

**Q2. List one reason why learning the alphabet was so important for women like Rashundari Devi, Ramabai and Rokeya.**

**Answer:** It was from learning the alphabet that women like Rashundari Devi, Ramabai and Rokeya were able to write letters, stories and autobiographies that describe their own struggle against inequality prevailing in society.

**Q3. "Poor girls drop out of school because they are not interested in getting an education". Re-read the last paragraph on page 62 and explain why this statement is not true.**

**Answer:** Poor girls do not leave school because they wish so but because they are compelled to do so, due to several reasons. In rural and poor areas of the country, there are no proper schools. There is also a dearth of teachers who can teach on a regular basis. If a school is not close to people's homes, and there is no transport facility, parents do not show their willingness to send their girls to school.

**Q4. Can you describe two methods of struggle that the women movements used to raise issues? If you had to organize a struggle against stereotypes, about what women can or cannot do, what method would you employ from the ones that you have read about? Why would you choose this particular method?**

**Answer:** The women's movement used several methods to raise issues. Three of them are:

**(a) Campaigning:** It is an important part of the women's movement as it fights discrimination and violence related to women. New laws have also been passed in campaigns. A notable example is a law passed in 2006 that gives legal protection to women who have been victims of domestic violence. A similar campaign in the late 90s led to a law that protected women from sexual harassment at the workplace.

**(b) Protesting:** Public protests and demonstrations are powerful tools to draw attention to injustice. I will employ this method so that many stereotypes about what women can or cannot do have gone away. Awareness can only gain pressure that people themselves cannot, because people must believe in themselves that some negative stereotypes are a hindrance to a progressive society.

**(c) Boycott:** The boycott of establishments that discriminate against women can be effective in eliminating discrimination and stereotypes. I will take the example of Fairness Cream campaign advertisements. Such advertisements enforce the stereotype that only women with fair skin will succeed in life. This will only lead to the development of an inferiority complex in women. Thus a boycott of such products will house the message that such advertisements are not accepted by the general public and should be canceled.