

Chapter 5

Women Change the World

Q.1 How do you think stereotypes, about what women can or cannot affect women's right to equality?

Ans.: Stereotypes, about what women can affect women's right to equality by limiting their roles in a society.

The examples of such stereotypes are:

- 1) Girls are not allowed to choose their own career and job.
- 2) They are considered inferior to men.
- 3) Girls are assigned the household chores.
- 4) They are married at very early ages and not sent for higher education or jobs.
- 5) In most families, boys are given more preference than girls.
- 6) Girls are always pushed to a settlement just because they do not have a masculine gender.

Q.2 List one reason why learning the alphabet was so important to women like Rashundari Devi, Ramabai and Rokeya.

Ans.: There was a time when women's access to education was restricted. Women were not allowed to read, write and learn. In the background of this, learning the alphabet by women like Rashundari Devi, Ramabai and Rokeya was important as they not only became literate but independent too. No doubt, in the world of stereotypes education gives equal standing to women in a society.

Q.3 “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.

Ans.: This statement is not true.

According to the given text we realize that girls from poor families drop out of school not because they are not interested but lack of willingness on the part of parents to send them school. There are various reasons for this attitude, like lack of money for transportation and education costs. Also there are instances when children are not willing to go to school because they face discrimination.

Q.4 Can you describe two methods of struggle that the women’s movement 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?

Ans.: The two methods of struggle that the women’s movement used to raise issues are by protesting and showing solidarity. Women’s movements protest when violations against women happen or when a law or policy works against their interest. The women’s movement is also about showing solidarity with other social movements and causes. The women’s movement also tries to raise public awareness about issues related women’s related.