

WOMEN CHANGE THE WORLD (Learning for change)

Class VII. Civics.

Stereotypes in our society and how they are affecting us.

- **In a society all children face pressure from the world around them.**
- **This could be demands from the adults or teaching by our own friends.**
- **Stereotypes like boys don't cry or the girls should behave gently, Pressurize us to act according to the social norms or to fit within the box.**

Education as a inclusive option.

- **In the past the skill of reading and writing was known to only a few.**
- **Most children learnt the work their families or elders did. For girls the situation was worse.**
- **Daughters were not allowed to learn the alphabet.**
- **Even in skillworks, their contribution was only seen as supportive.**

Change in society.

- **In the 19th century, many new ideas about education and learning emerged. Schools and education became more common.**
- **But there was a lot of opposition to educating girls even then.**
- **Women struggled to learn to read and write.**

Pandita Ramabai

- **Pandita Ramabai never went to school but learnt to read and write from her parents.**
- **She was given the title pandita, because she could read and write Sanskrit; a remarkable achievement as a woman then were not allowed such knowledge.**
- **She went on to set up a mission in Khedgaon near Pune in 1898, where widows and poor women were encouraged not only to become literate but to be independent. They were taught a variety of skills.**
- **Ramabai's mission is still active today.**

Rashsundari Devi

- **Rashsundari Devi was the first women author who wrote her autobiography.**
- **Her book titled 'Amar Jiban' is the first known autobiography written by an Indian woman.**
- **At that time, it was believed that if a women learnt to read and write, she would bring bad luck to her husband and become a widow. Despite this, she taught herself how to read and write in secret, well after her marriage.**

Rokeya sakhawat Hossain

Rokeya sakhawat Hossain was born into a rich family.

- She knew how to read and write Urdu but she was stopped from learning Bangla in English.
- In those days English was seen as a language that would expose girls to the new ideas, which people thought were not correct for them.
- Rokeya learnt to read and write Bengali and English and went on to become a writer.
- She wrote a remarkable story title Sultana screen in 1905.
- She dreamt of women flying planes and cars even before girls were being allowed to go to school. This was the way in which education and learning has changed her own life.
- In 1910 she started a school for girls in Kolkata, and to this day the school is still functioning.

Homework

- **Discuss how the women like pandita Ramabai and Rashsundari Devi broke the stereotypes.**
- **How the social stereotypes affect us?**
- **Read the topic.**