

Chapter 5 - Women Change the World

(NOTES )

In this chapter, you understand how some occupations are seen to be more suitable for men than women. Women Change the World you will also know how women struggled for their equality. Getting an education was and still is, one way through which women can create new opportunities. This chapter will briefly trace the different types of efforts made by the women's movement to challenge discrimination in more recent years.

Fewer Opportunities and Rigid Expectations

There are many stereotypes that exist in society such as girls and women are not capable of dealing with technical things. Due to these stereotypes, many girls do not get the same support that boys get.

Learning for change

Going to school is an extremely important part of a child's life. In the 19th century, many new ideas about education and learning emerged. Schools became more common and communities that had never learnt reading and writing started sending their children to school. But there was a lot of opposition to educating girls.

Rashundari Devi was a housewife from a rich landlord's family. At that time, it was believed that if a woman 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.

Schooling and education today

Today, both boys and girls attend school in large numbers. Yet there are still some differences between the education of boys and girls. India has a census every 10 years, which counts the whole population of the country. It also gathers detailed information about the people living in India – their age, schooling, what work they do, and so on.

There are several reasons why children from Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim communities leave school. Some of them are:

In rural and poor areas, there are neither proper schools nor teachers.

Schools are often far away from people's homes and there is no transport like buses or vans available for girls. So, parents are not willing to send their girls to school.

Many families are poor and unable to bear the cost of educating all their children. In this situation, boys get preference.

Many children face discrimination from their teacher and classmates.

SUBJECT TEACHER      MUKESH KUMAR