

CBSE Class –VII
Social Science
NCERT Solution
Chapter 5 (Political Science)
Women Change the World

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

Ans: Stereotypes, about what women can or cannot do affect women's right to equality by forcing the society to give them certain roles and not allow them to take up other roles. This is unequal treatment because the choice of the woman is not considered and she is not free to do what she wants. This leads to fewer opportunities and rigid expectations from women in society and hampers innovation.

For example, if women are not allowed to take up technical roles due to the stereotype that women can not handle technical things, then there will be fewer women scientists and hence, the lack of innovation.

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

Ans :Learning the alphabet was important to women like Rashundari Devi, Ramabai and Rokeya because women were forbidden education as it was considered dangerous for their moral development and family life. By learning how to read and write, these women achieved a degree of independence.

Through her own writing, Rashsundari Devi gave the world an opportunity to read about women's lives in those days. Ramabai 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. Rokeya started a school for girls in Kolkata in 1910.

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. On reading the information, we realize that girls from poor families drop out of school because their parents are unwilling to send them to school because of lack of money for transportation and education costs. There are no toilets for girls in some schools. Also, in many poor rural areas, there are no proper schools and teachers who teach on a regular basis. Hence, many poor girls drop out of schools.

Q.4: Can you describe two methods of struggle that the women's movement used to raise issues? If you had to organise 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: Two methods of struggle that the women's movement used to raise issues are by raising awareness and protesting. Women's movements raise awareness on women's rights issues. They spread their message through street plays, songs and public meetings. Women's movements protest when violations against women happen or when a law or policy works against their interest.

I would choose the method of raising awareness as it will ensure that I will be able to put across my point of view effectively.