



Class 7th Political Science

Chapter 5 Women Change the World

INTRODUCTION



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KALPANA CHAWLA



GAYATRI DEVI



SONIA GANDHI



ARUNDHATI ROY



JAYALALITHA



MEDHA PATKAR



MANEKA GANDHI



SUSHMITA SEN



AISHWARYA RAI



MALLIKA SARABHAI



BACHENDRI PAL



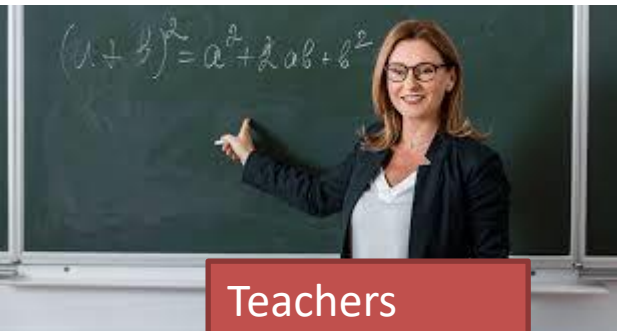
SANIA MIRZA

- These are all images of famous Indian women personalities.
- All these women were honored for their contribution to different fields.
- In medieval and modern India, women made distinguished contributions as leaders, fighters, scholars, writers, social workers, artistes and diplomats.
- There were many women reformers who worked for the betterment and upliftment of their gender.

But, did all these women enjoy equal opportunities? Was it easy for these women to make a place for themselves in a male-dominated society? Let's understand some of the challenges faced by women in seeking equality.

Stereotypes and Restricted Opportunities

- Women get less job opportunities than men.
- There is a common belief that women are better only in certain jobs-teaching, nursing and craft-making.





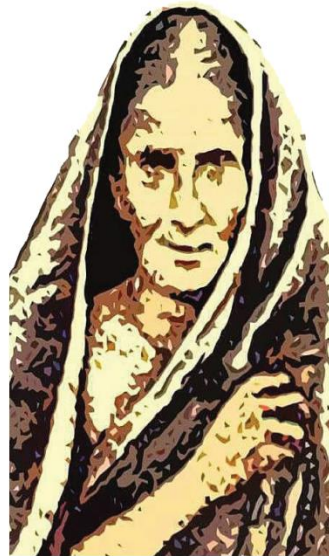
- Number of women employed in technical jobs is less than that of men.
- This is because society thinks that girls and women are not capable of dealing with technical jobs.
- Due to stereotypes, encouragement given to girls to become doctors or engineers not as much as that to boys.
- Often after school, girls are encouraged to view marriage as their main aim in life

Learning for Change

- ☐ In the past, only boys were allowed to read and write.
- ☐ Girls were not allowed even to read the alphabet.
- ☐ They were not even taught skills like pottery, carpentry, weaving and crafts.

During the nineteenth century, many new ideas about education and learning emerged. Despite opposition to girls' education many women and men made efforts to open schools for girls. Let's find out about some pioneers of women's education.

Rashsundari Devi



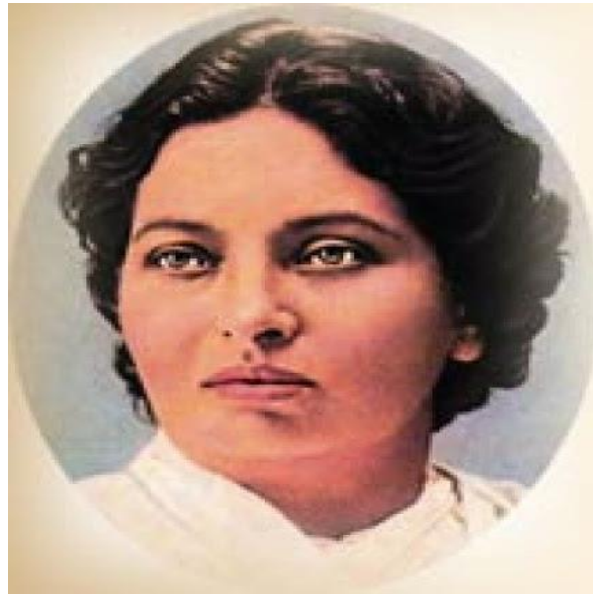
- Rashsundari Devi was a housewife from a rich landlord family, who was not allowed to read and write.
- She secretly taught herself to read and write after marriage.

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain



- ❖ Born to a rich family.
- ❖ She knew how to read and write Urdu, but was stopped from learning Bangla and English.
- ❖ Rokeya learnt to read and write English and Bangla, with the support of her elder brother and elder sister.

Pandita Ramabai



- ❖ She was born to an intellectual Brahmin family
- ❖ Learnt to read and write from her parents.
- ❖ She was a poet, a scholar, and a champion of women's equality

Women Breaking Stereotypes

- ❖ Laxmi Lakra, a 27-year old woman, who comes from a poor, tribal family in Jharkhand, became an engine driver.
- ❖ She is the first woman to take up the post in Northern Railways.
- ❖ Overall, she is the second woman engine driver in India, after Surekha Yadav

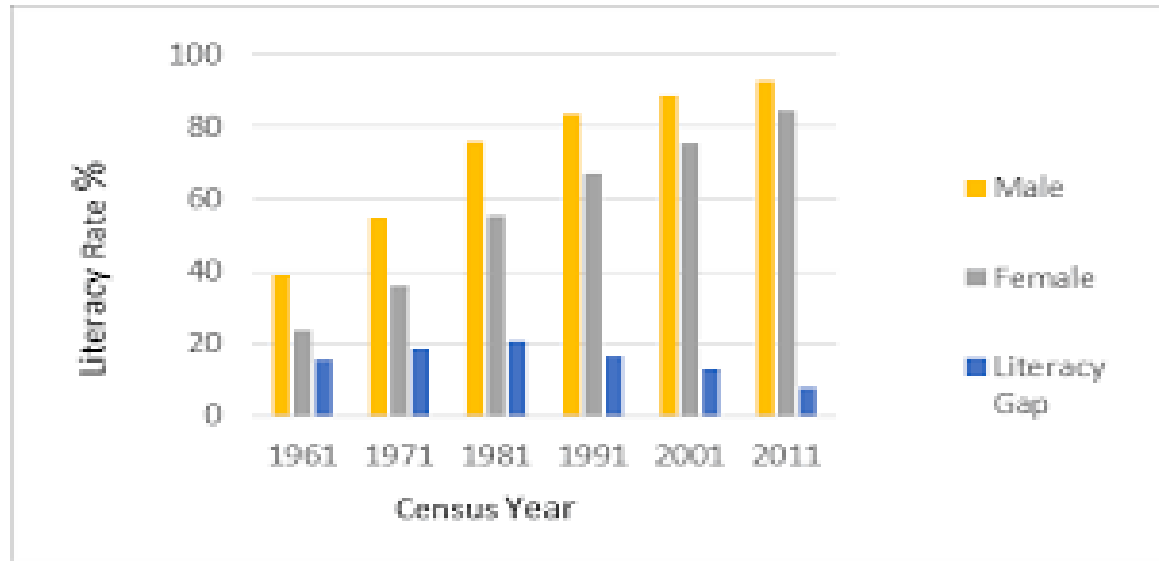


Schooling and Education Today



- Today, both boys and girls attend school in large numbers.
- Yet, the number of girls attending school is less than that of the boys.
- There remains a difference in the education of boys and girls.

Literacy in India: 1961-2011



- According to the 1961 census, about 40% of all boys and men were literate compared to 15% of all girls and women.
- In the census of 2001, the figures have grown to 76% for boys and men and 54% for girls and women.
- In the census of 2011, literacy rate has risen to 82% for men and 65% for women.



- ❖ In rural areas, girls' drop out rate (SC/ST) is higher than that of girls from General category.
- ❖ Reasons for poor attendance of SC/ST girls in schools:
 - Lack of proper transport system
 - Poor economic condition at home
 - Caste discrimination

Women's Movement: Agendas and Methods

- ✓ The status of women in India; with respect to education, legal reforms, violence and health has improved.
- ✓ But to get these improvements, women have had to struggle a lot.
- ✓ This struggle is known as Women's Movement
- ✓ Strict legal sanctions imposed in case of violence against women, whether in public or private spheres.
- ✓ Different strategies used to spread awareness, fight discrimination and seek justice for women.

What are the various mobilization strategies used by women's organizations in India?

Campaigning



- ❑ Campaign against women's discrimination and violence is an important part of the women's movement.
- ❑ Mass campaigns have led to new laws being passed.

Legal Reforms

A law was passed, in 2006, to give women legal protection in cases of domestic violence.

Supreme Court formulated guidelines, in 1997, to protect women against sexual harassment at workplace and within educational institutions.

Raising Awareness

- An important part of the women's movements' work is to raise public awareness on women's rights issues.
- Awareness on women's issues is spread through street plays, songs and public meetings.
- In 1980s, women's groups across the country spoke against 'Dowry Deaths'.
- They voiced against the failure of the courts to bring these cases to justice.
- They did so by organizing street rallies, approaching the courts and sharing information.
- This became a public issue with media coverage, forcing the courts to change dowry laws.
- As a result of mass campaigns by women's groups, the court made changes in the dowry laws to punish families who sought dowry.

Women's Day in India



- In India, International Women's Day is celebrated with great fervor.
- Several women's organizations, NGOs, students and social activists participate actively by organizing seminars, mass rallies, movies and documentary shows, and also staging gender-sensitive plays.

Source:-NCERT Book

IMAGES:-TAKEN FROM INTERNET