

The Women’s Crusade

by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn

This story from the New York Times, goes hand in hand with the book *Half the Sky*. The story presents issues of concern that face third world women and highlights the lives of three women in particular. I have tried to provide you open ended questions that revolve around quotes from the story. Please read the article actively and think thru your answers. Before you can act you need to awaken. There is more to this world than you. But you can make all the difference in the world.

1 - Quote - “The World is awakening to a powerful truth: Women and girls aren’t the problem; they’re the solution.” Think about this quote as you read the article and come back and talk at the end of the story.

2 - Profile - Saima Muhammed in Pakistan
Read her story. Picture yourself in her shoes, her life. Think about it.

What would be the most difficult challenge for you that Saima faced with her family, her life? Tell me why.



What blessings were you born with that Saima didn’t enjoy?

3 - Quote - “The implication of the sex rations, Sen later found, is that about 107 million females are missing from the globe today.” Work around this quote - India, China, - where did they all go? How is this unlike the United States - your life?

Something to think about...

“The global statistics on the abuse of girls are numbing. It appears that more girls and women are now missing from the planet, precisely because they are female, than men were killed on the battlefield in all the wars of the 20th century. The number of victims of this routine “gendercide” far exceeds the number of people who were slaughtered in all the genocides of the 20th century.”

4 - Profile - Abbas be of India

Read her story. Picture yourself in her shoes, her life.

Think about it. 14 years old she went to New Delhi - what happened? What were you doing at 14?



What does Abbas do now? For herself? For her sisters?

What do you think her nightmares are like?

A thought about you and your life...

List all of the problems that you have that measure up to what Abbas went through as fourteen year old when she got to New Delhi



Why would you waste a single day of your life? Why would you be apathetic? In a word - how difficult is your life in comparison to Abbas?_____

Something to think about...

“Perhaps the lesson presented by both Abbas and Saima is the same: In many poor countries, the greatest unexploited resource isn’t oil fields or veins of gold; it is the women and girls who aren’t educated and never become a major presence in the formal economy. With education and with help starting businesses, impoverished women can earn money and support their countries as well as their families. They represent perhaps the best hope for fighting global poverty.”

5 - Quote - “Sometimes it is said in poor countries that the only thing worse than being exploited in a sweatshop is not being exploited in a sweatshop.” Positive externalities, Negative externalities, why is it not all bad?

6 - Quote - “Why do Microfinance organizations usually focus their assistance on women? And why does everyone benefit when women enter the work force and bring home regular pay checks?” Read all around this quote - Tell me about mosquito nets, drugs, prostitutes.

7 - Quote - “William Easterly, an economist at New York University, has argued that shoveling money at poor countries accomplishes little.” Why? So then, what does work?

8 Some heavy hitters have announced the clout that women and girls represent worldwide - what’s their role?

United Nations _____

Larry Summers _____

CARE_____

Bill Gates_____

Barack Obama_____

Hillary Clinton _____

So what happened?...

“Bill Gates recalls once being invited to speak in Saudi Arabia and finding himself facing a segregated audience. Four-fifths of the listeners were men, on the left. The remaining one-fifth were women, all covered in black cloaks and veils, on the right. A partition separated the two groups.”

[illegible]

A photograph of a woman and a man in a rural setting. The woman stands on the left, wearing a bright blue headscarf and a long, flowing dress with a bold yellow and blue floral pattern. She has her hands clasped in front of her. The man sits on the ground to her right, wearing a brown jacket and dark trousers. They are surrounded by banana trees and other tropical vegetation. A small, rustic structure made of woven leaves is visible in the background.

1 _____

3 _____

11 - Profile - Tererai Trent of Zimbabwe

Read her story. How many times can you be told that you can't make it? Come on - give me a list of everything she's overcome to get to where she is today...and then think about how many assignments in a week you go through the motions on. List all of those obstacles that weren't obstacles for Tererai...

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

So what's in your tin can????????????????????????????????

LET'S GO BACK TO THE START - REMEMBER THAT FIRST QUESTION?

12 Quote - "The World is awakening to a powerful truth: Women and girls aren't the problem; they're the solution." Think about this quote as you read the article and come back and talk at the end of the story.

Why? tell me why they are the solution.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Optional - Then tell me why this should matter to you? YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ONE. I don't want to make you care. This stuff is too significant for that. What I'd like to do is put you into situations where your brain and your heart can make that call. When I was in high school I didn't know a thing about the world...and I really didn't care to know. It takes time. Ultimately, I hope that you wake up - much sooner than I did. I hope for your sake that you come to realize just how minimal our troubles really are. Maybe then you will use everyday as a launching pad for greatness and maybe too, you'll open your eyes to plight of those less fortunate. And maybe you'll do something about both things. That's the only way we build a better world.

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