

READING PASSAGE

DRIVING CHANGE

Among the cars, trucks, and cows of Delhi's busy streets, bicycle rickshaws - three-wheeled people-carriers - zip through the traffic. Rickshaw driving has been a traditionally male-dominated profession. However, 17-year-old Avani Singh is trying to change that.

A CHANGING WORKFORCE?

A Singh is part of a new generation of Indian women. More and more women in India - about 30 percent - are working outside of the home. Women also make up more than 40 percent of the student population in the country, and that figure is growing. Many are choosing traditionally male-dominated careers in engineering and technology, although their representation in these fields remains small.

B The situation in India mirrors global trends. Worldwide, an average of 50 percent of all women participate in the workforce, but behind this figure there are some hard facts. In 2012, about half of these women were working in service jobs, just over a third were working in agriculture, and only about 16 percent had jobs in industry and technology. This last figure has not changed in 20 years.

C Working women face very real challenges as they try to strike a balance between their careers and family life. Around the world, women are often expected to make sure that life at home runs smoothly: that meals are prepared, that the family has clean clothes, and that the house is tidy. In reality, they have two, often full-time, jobs. It's tough, but in spite of this, many say they appreciate the independence and income their careers provide; they also value their roles as wives and mothers, however.

A SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT

D Avani Singh wanted to help women in the slums of Delhi feel a sense of empowerment. Growing up in New Delhi, her route to school took her past the city's slums. In this city of 17 million, these areas of poverty stretch for miles. To Singh, they seemed just

a part of the city-always there, unchanging. But as she grew older, it began to dawn on her: Not everyone had what she had. And she could help.

E The idea first came to her when she learned about a new kind of bicycle rickshaw. Bright green and futuristic, it was electric-powered, thanks to a solar panel on the roof. The electric motor made it easier to pedal. Singh, then only 16 years old, had an insight: Rickshaw driving-traditionally a job for men because of its physical demands-could now be a job for women, too.

F In 2012, Singh founded Ummeed ki Rickshaw, a program that trains women from the slums of Delhi to become rickshaw drivers. Through this initiative, she gives women a way to earn both a living and a level of social mobility that were previously unimaginable- all before she's old enough to get a driver's license of her own.

G Singh started Ummeed ki Rickshaw with a single electric rickshaw, donated by a local manufacturer. Then she needed to find a driver, so in collaboration with the Delhi- based non-governmental organization Centre for Equity and Inclusion, she put out a call for volunteers in Jamia, a slum near her home. "When I first advertised the program, 15 women came to hear about it," she remembers. "They were bubbling with energy and were so excited by the idea." The first rickshaw went to Kohinoor, a 33-year-old single mother of two. Kohinoor's father died when she was four years old, and she started working when she was just eight. After years of struggle, she became Delhi's first female electric rickshaw driver.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

H In a city where female drivers are rare, *Ummeed*, which means "hope" in Hindi, is carving out a space for female economic mobility. The program gives women an opportunity for economic independence. Singh even earned the attention of India's Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Farooq Abdullah, who endorsed the program because electric rickshaws are environmentally friendly.

I Many of the young girls that Singh works with get married before they've ever left their village-half of them by age 13. They don't understand that they can be wives and

mothers and also have good jobs. Ummeed ki Rickshaw helps them to realize their potential and aspire to do something to create better lives for themselves and their families. Singh explains, "Ummeed ki Rickshaw is a really small step-it's practically nothing if you look at it from the country's perspective or from the world's perspective. But I think something small like this can help inspire a young generation to make a difference."

J Singh's partners at the Center for Equality and Inclusion are confident that the rickshaw project will help women balance their new freedoms with the traditional roles they have to fulfill at home. Says one spokesperson, "This has provided our women an exciting opportunity to break stereotypes and take on new challenges."

SECTION 1: Question 1-5

The text has 10 paragraphs (A - J).

Which paragraph contains each of the following pieces of information?

1. Hard facts about the global workforce.
2. A small step to make a change of a generation.
3. Unexpected solution for making money and change in socio-economic situation of women.
4. A possible job for women.
5. Challenges that a working woman confronts.

SECTION 2: Question 6-10

According to the text, **TWO** of the following statements are true.

Tick in answer boxes

- ☐ 6. A large number of women are working in careers that are traditionally predominated by men.

- ☐ 7. Farooq Abdullah, India's Minister of New and Renewable Energy, took notice of Singh and supported her idea because electric rickshaws are eco-friendly.
- ☐ 8. Singh works with many young girls who are well aware of self-esteem
- ☐ 9. With a single rickshaw given by an international manufacturer, Singh launched Ummeed ki Rickshaw.
- ☐ 10. When trying to reconcile their professions and family lives, working women encounter very real hurdles.

SECTION 3: Question 11-15

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer?

In boxes **11-15** on your answer sheet, write

YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 11. Rickshaw driving is controlled by men.
- 12. Ummeed ki Rickshaw is a program that trains Delhi slum women to drive rickshaws.
- 13. Women make up an increasing percentage of the nation's student population.
- 14. New kind of bicycle rickshaw works by solar energy
- 15. Singh herself guarantees that the rickshaw project will significantly change women's lives

SECTION 4: Question 16-20

Complete the summary.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes **16-20** on your answer sheet.

A 17-year-old Avani Singh is trying to change the number of women in the workforce in India, especially (16)_____professions. She found an opportunity in an electric bicycle rickshaw which is easy for women to pedal as it has the electric motor energized by (17)_____on the roof. In 2012, a program called Ummeed ki Rickshaw was established by Singh in order to train women in the poor regions to become rickshaw drivers so that they earn an (18)_____level of social mobility. The first female electric rickshaw driver is Kohinoor-a 33-year-old single mother of two. The program gained the attention of India's Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Farooq Abdullah, not only it gives women economic mobility but also it is (19)_____.This is (20)_____for women to embark on a new journey which teardowns stereotypes and assigns themselves new challenges.

SECTION 5: Question 21-25

Fill in the blanks with the correct answers

21. Women can discover their _____and desire to take action to improve their life and the lives of their families thanks to Ummeed ki Rickshaw.

A. potential

B. willingness

C. happiness

22. The women involved in the rickshaw initiative will be able to balance their new freedoms with_____they must play at home

A. the housework B. the traditional duties C. the roles

23. Avani Singh aimed to give Delhi's slum women a sense of_____.

A. beauty B. empowerment C. confidence

24. Due to its_____, driving a rickshaw has always been a career for men.

A. nature B. strength C. physical demands

25. Ummeed, which means "hope" in Hindi, is establishing a place for female economic mobility in a city where female drivers are _____.

A. rare B. common C. unqualified