

## 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?

**1** 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.

**2** 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.

**3** 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 despite 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

**4** 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.

**5** 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.

**6** 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.

**7** 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

**8** 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.

**9** 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."

**10** 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."

Questions 1-5

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage?

Write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this in the passage

1. There is a shortage of female workers in male-dominated career.
2. The number of female students in Indian is continuing to increase through years.
3. A myriad of women seem dissatisfied with their earnings.
4. Men in Delhi have strong objection when seeing their wives have two full-time jobs.
5. A 33-year-old married woman was the first female electric rickshaw driver.

Question 6-10

Answer the questions below.

Chooses **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each question.

6. What is the percentage of women working in agriculture?

.....

7. In which fields that only about 16% of women are laborers?

.....

8. Which two things that women feel satisfied from their careers?

.....

9. What is on the bicycle's roof?

.....

10. The program gives women a huge chance for what?

.....

### Question 11-15

Complete the short text below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS/ A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Ummeed ki Rickshaw was created in the year (11) ....., which plays a role as a trainer for women to become (12) ..... By that way, women not only can earn a living but also gain a higher level of (13) ..... This program attracted the attention of an Indian Minister named (14) ..... because of its (15) ..... characteristic.

### Question 16-20

This reading passage has 10 paragraphs, 1-10

In which paragraph (1-10) is the following information found?

16. Chief obstacles that women encounter.

17. An affirmation about the meaning of the rickshaw project to women.

18. The percentage of woman who are not housewives but not laborers.

19. A cooperation to help find manpower for the project.

20. An event that let Singh come up with the notion of helping Delhi women.

#### Question 21-25

Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

21/ The working women must create a balance between what?

- A. Careers and interests
- B. Careers and family life
- C. Careers and beauty care

22/ A new kind of electric bicycle rickshaw is powered by

- A. Wind
- B. Sun
- C. Electricity

23/ At first, Singh began her project with a single electric rickshaw from:

- A. A local committee
- B. A local authority
- C. A local producer

24/ How did Singh make the programme known?

- A. Through advertisement
- B. Through talks on radio
- C. Through leaflets

25/ Which are the characteristics of electric rickshaw?

- A. Money-saving and multi-functional
- B. Environmentally friendly and futuristic
- C. Power-saving and not physically demanding