

Shabana Basij-Rasikh: Dare to educate Afghan girls

https://www.ted.com/talks/shabana_basij_rasikh_dare_to_educate_afghan_girls

Previewing questions

1. In old times in China, did girls get the same education as boys? What happened in the western society?
2. Discuss a woman's role in modern times. Is she allowed to get educated and work for equal pay?
3. Are you aware that in some countries, it's still illegal to send girls to schools? If yes, share your knowledge with your classmates.

Comprehension questions

1. What happened when Shabana was 11 years old?
Her father told her happily that the Taliban is gone and she can go to a real school.
2. How did her father learn about this?
From BBC News
3. When did the Taliban take over Afghanistan and make it illegal for girls to go to school?
When she was 6 years old.
4. Did she still go to school after that?
Yes, she dressed as a boy to escort her older sister to a secret school.
5. What did they do so that no one would suspect where they were going?
By taking a different route and covering their books in grocery bags so it would seem that were just out shopping.
6. What was the school like?
More than 100 students packed in one small living room.
7. Did they risk their lives for going to school? How did they feel about this?
Yes, they were scared but still school was where they wanted to be.
8. What did her family think of education?
It was prized.
9. What did she say about his grandfather?
An extraordinary man for his time, he insisted that his daughter go to school, and for that he was disowned by his father.
10. What did her mother do after getting a good education?
She became a teacher. After she retired, she turned their house into a school for girls and women.
11. What did her father say when she got frustrated by her life and always being

scared?

You can lose everything, but no one can take what you learned away from you.

12. What's the percentage of women being educated in her country?

6%

13. What school did she graduate from?

Middlebury College.

14. What did she accomplish?

Because of her family, she could dream big. She became a global ambassador for 10x10, a global campaign to educate women. She cofounded SOLA, the first and perhaps only boarding school for girls in Afghanistan.

15. What happened to Ahmed, the father of her student?

He and his child literally missed being killed by a roadside bomb by minutes because he sent her girl to school.

16. What did she say about the role of a father in her daughter's education?

Behind most of us who succeed is a father who recognizes the value in his daughter and who sees that her success is his success.

17. How many girls are being educated in her country?

More than 3 million girls.

Discussion questions

1. What is the most important thing you learned from this talk?
2. Why do these young girls still want to go to school, despite risking their lives?
3. Do you think education is important? Why and why not?