

Dear Change Maker

In your journey as a Change Maker you have made difficult choices to adopt new attitudes and practices that prevent violence against women and promote equal relations. Your change must have involved others. Some of them may have agreed with your new attitudes and practice while others may have ignored or opposed the change.

Your success in changing your own attitudes and practices is an important first step. The next step is to sustain and grow that change. It means that your change should not remain an aberration (odd one), while everyone else continues to support violence. Your actions, that were new and different, should have gradually become common practice also for others around you.

For example, you may have decided that restricting women's mobility is violence. As a young woman you may have convinced your family members to agree with your new attitudes, and allow you to go out freely. Or, as a parent you may have conveyed your belief that the daughters and daughters-in-law in your family could make their own decisions about their mobility; you have stopped restricting them, and supported their actions.

Did your change in attitudes and practices (whatever they were) get adopted by others - your family members, peers, friends, neighbours and co-workers or fellow students? Or are you the only one who has changed while most of the others continue with older attitudes and practices that support domestic violence and discrimination?

Is it important that everyone around you also adopts your change? How can that happen? Read Change Maker Munna's story and find out!

*We Can
India Alliance*



We Can

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"Talk about the benefits"

"Before I joined the campaign, I was very offensive towards my sister. My friends and I also used to make indecent comments about women. But after being a part of the campaign my world view has changed completely. I can see the daily hardships that women face.

My friends are impressed by my efforts to help my sister. They have all joined the campaign to help many more women like her. Some friends have followed my example; now I see that they, like me, are much closer to their families. We lost nothing, but gained love and respect!" Ravi



"Use your credibility"

"In our society, teachers are highly respected and I take advantage of this status to influence parents. I think that this is working; it is delaying the age at which parents are marrying their daughters off." Amina Khanam

"As a Sarpanch I command respect and following and I hope the move of putting my daughter through college will inspire others. This is extremely unusual in my community. Though some don't approve of this move, many others do, and it is for them that I have made this effort." Savithaben Rathod



"Persistence Pays"

"A change in attitudes is the most difficult thing to achieve. For example, I insisted on the family eating a meal together. However, others in my family, took this to be a charade of some sort and did not expect me to follow it through. But I did. Change unsettles people so they resist it. But change is inevitable. The day will soon come when women will live in safe and violence free homes." Shah Md. Sajahan



Munna shows the way!

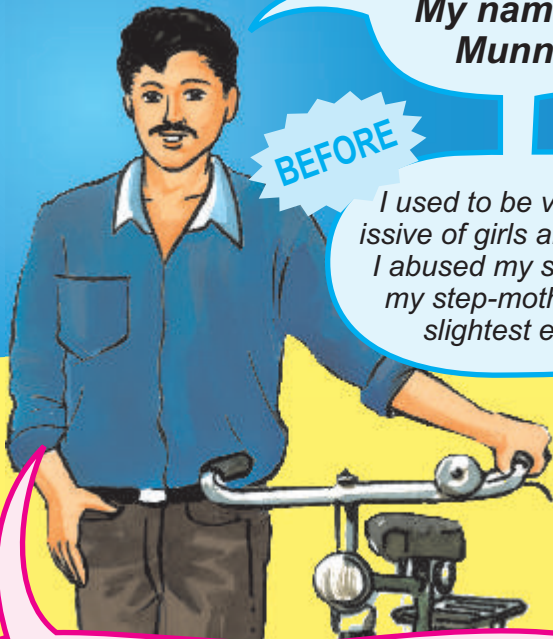
**Hello!
My name is
Munna**

BEFORE

I used to be very dismissive of girls and women. I abused my sisters and my step-mother at the slightest excuse

My elder sister had moved in with us with her children, as her husband abandoned them. I would constantly

I may have learnt this from my father. He would beat my mother, and he disliked girl children, saying they were a burden on the family



I wouldn't allow my wife to spend her own salary or go out much. Munna helped me respect her rights. I even looked after the children for a month when my wife was away.

Friends



After Munna spoke to us, we are no longer rude to women. Munna's family is a role model for other families in our village.

AFTER

My attitudes and practices have changed since I joined the campaign. I have understood the value of respecting women and treating them as equals.



Relative

Cousin



After seeing how Munna looks after his married sister, I have also given shelter to my abandoned niece.

Now we discuss family matters so that decisions can be made together. We also eat together and make sure that boys and girls get the same food.



Family

I would not allow my daughter to go out. Munna helped me understand why it is important for girls to follow their dreams. Now my daughter travels to the city and goes to school.



Neighbour

What about the violence that men face?

Violence is not acceptable in any circumstance whether it is against men or women. But statistics show that women face much more violence than men, in many different ways, throughout their lives. That happens because women are valued less in our society, and that must change!



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