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Gender equality has been one of the most debated topics even today in 21st centuries. Women deserve equal rights and opportunities as men, yet there have been many challenges that a woman has to face regularly. Contribution of women in any field has been as worthy as men but somehow their contributions are not much talked about or have been forgotten with time.

This is true even in the field of science and technology. While we know about the priceless contribution of great scientists like C V Raman, Meghnad Saha, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, many of us are unaware of the contributions of Indian women in the field of science.

Here is the list of 10 Indian women, who have contributed to Science and technology.

Kadambini (Basu) Ganguly (18 July 1861 – 3 October 1923)

Kadambini was the first female graduate of the British Empire. She was also the first female physicians of South Asia to be trained in western medicine. She studied medicine at the Calcutta Medical College and got graduated in 1886.

Anandi Gopal Joshi (31 March 1865 – 26 February 1887)

Anandi Gopal Joshi was another woman from India also obtained a degree in Western medicine in 1886, she graduated from Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, USA. So, she became the first Indian to study medicine from abroad.

Anna Mani (23 August 1918 – 16 August 2001)

Anna Mani was an Indian physicist and meteorologist; she was also a former Deputy Director General of the Indian Meteorological Department. Who made significant contributions in the field of meteorological instrumentation. From Imperial Col-



Role of Indian women in science and technology

lege London she studied meteorological instruments and joined the Meteorological department in Pune after returning to India in 1948. She researched and published numerous papers on ozone, solar radiation and wind energy measurements. She also authored two books, The Handbook for Solar Radiation data for India in 1980 and Solar Radiation over India in 1981. In 1987 Anna Mani won the K.R. Ramanathan Medal.

Rajeswari Chatterjee

60 years ago Rajeswari Chatterjee was the only woman faculty in the Indian Institute of Science. She is the first Woman Scientist to initiate the Field of Microwave Engineering and Antennae Engineering in India. In 1949, she received her MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Michigan University, USA. She got retired as Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Electro-Communication Engineering, Indian Institute of Sci-

ence, Bengaluru.

Dr Indira Hinduja

We all know her as the first Indian women who delivered a test tube baby in 1986. She also pioneered the Gamete Intra Fallopian Transfer (GIFT) method helping in the birth of India's first GIFT baby in the year 1988. Formerly she is an Indian gynaecologist; obstetrician and infertility specialist who is based in Mumbai. For menopausal and premature ovarian failure patients she developed an oocyte donation technique. On 24 January 1991, she gave the country's first baby out of this technique.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw Chairman & Managing Director, Biocon Limited Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is on the Forbes list of the world's 100 most powerful women and in the business list on top 50 women released by the Financial Times'. She started Biocon in the year 1978 in the garage of her rented house in

Bangalore with a capital of Rs. 10,000. Currently, the net worth of the company is more than \$ 900 million. Biocon manufactures drugs for cancer, diabetes and auto-immune diseases.

Dr Aditi Pant

Dr Aditi Pant is an oceanographer by profession and is one of the first Indian women to visit the icy continent Antarctica. In 1983-84 she was a part of the third Indian expedition to Antarctica and was honoured with the Antarctica Award along with Sudipta Sengupta, Jaya Naithani and Kanwal Vilku for their outstanding contribution to the Indian Antarctic programme. Dr Aditi completed her MS in Marine Sciences from the University of Hawaii and obtained a doctorate from the London University in the Physiology of Marine Algae. She was placed with the National Institute of Oceanography (Goa) and the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

Madhuri Mathur

Madhuri Mathur made Indian women life easier with her strenuous efforts, hard work, skills, and labour that made Sumeet mixer a household name and necessity. 40 years ago, along with her engineer husband devised Summit mixer grinder. Before her venture, having a kitchen helper that could blend, chop, and mince at a touch of a button was just a dream for millions of Indian women.

Dr Suman Sahai

Dr Suman Sahai is the founder of the Gene Campaign in India. She is the voice of the millions of Indian farmers. Currently, her campaign is running in 17 states. She is the brains and the brawn behind the patent campaign for *Azadirachta indica* (Neem) and Turmeric (Haldi). D Sahai believes that 'nature's technology can meet the needs of humanity'. Her name is listed in the successful women pioneers in India because of her single-minded dedication to her cause. She made the Indian government to notice the actual problems faced by Indian farmers.

Kalpana Chawla (17 March 1962– 1 February 2003)

Kalpana Chawla was the first Indian-American astronaut and a first Indian woman in space. In 1997 she first flew on Space Shuttle Columbia as a mission specialist and primary robotic arm operator. The NASA chief called her a "Terrific astronaut". On February 1, 2003, the U.S. space shuttle Columbia with a seven-member crew including Chawla, 41, disintegrated in flames over central Texas in a while before it was scheduled to land at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Let's salute all these women, who made our life easy and comfortable.

-Compiled by **Kahekashan**