

Unusual Career Options For Women

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Truck driving, carpentry, martial arts instructor are some of the unusual career options for women



By Aparna Sharma

We have all had those moments, chatting away at a dinner party or a social gathering, when someone asks a question to some female friend, “So what do you do for a living?”; to which she replies “I am a carpenter” –the immediate response to that being; “What? Women also do that?”

We’re past that 1950s housewife image. We’re even past the notion that women can’t do math or hard labour. In 2014, women are proudly bridging that gap between what was once thought impossible and what is now being achieved. Women, having unusual careers, need to thrive in a man’s world that still sometimes hangs onto old stereotypes.

In today’s world, countless careers exist that your parents and career counselors probably never mentioned or even knew about, for that matter. From a very young age itself, most of us are taught to walk on a track heading straight to regular jobs. Few girls grow up wanting to be an amusement park ride operator or a bus conductor – but they are all very real vocations.

Few unusual career options are as mentioned below:

Truck driver

What is it like to be a lady truck driver? Well, it doesn’t seem easy. You have to work twice as hard as a man to get anywhere in the workforce. It is not just the physical aspect of the job that affects women in the truck industry; it’s also the emotional and the safety aspect.

A woman also has to be more safety-conscious than a man. This is true anywhere, but truck stops can be especially dangerous for a woman who chooses to drive solo. She is more likely to be mugged or otherwise assaulted because she is seen as vulnerable.

Carpenter

This sector is extraordinarily male-dominated. Unless something changes, women will miss out on the almost 200,000 new carpentry jobs India expects to see created in the next decade.

Women in construction often face harassment and discrimination, as well as limited networking opportunities that stunt career advancement.

You're up against this assumption that you don't know anything. Many women are never taught those skills when they're young, and so they don't feel comfortable walking onto a construction site to ask for a job, the way many men do getting started.

Martial arts instructor

As confident, skilled and effective as their equivalent men, women are often still viewed as inadequate. This is mostly due to the prejudice and insecurities of others, and not necessarily due to the skill or competence of the female instructor. Rather than asking whether female martial arts instructors can teach men, a better question is "can men learn from female martial arts instructors?" There will always be men who harbour insecurities about taking directions from women. Men who value women positively are more capable of taking advice, guidance and instruction from female leaders in their field – in this case, martial arts.

Train ticket checker

Ticket checkers collect fines from passengers who are traveling without ticket and those who are on the platform without the platform tickets. With a little imagination at play, this job is incredibly interesting as you come across a variety of people and thousands of scenarios every day. However, women are usually not seen doing this kind of a job because the ticket checker has to be real tough with ticketless travelers. Women are believed to be softer and more empathetic and so they should be real tough from within, if they have to take up this job.

A few other careers that may sound odd today for women in India are electrician, bus conductor and billboard painter. However, going forward, they may just be accepted as everyday jobs.

There is no job in this world that a woman cannot do. All that is needed is support from her loved ones and the open minded approach that needs to be inculcated in childhood itself. No work is small. One just needs to broaden one's horizon and figure out the path that is right for oneself- One's own true calling!

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