

## The importance of female role models for teenage girls and boys

I think we all had a role model when we were younger which we admired, didn't we? But what is a *female* role model and what role did it play for us? A role model is someone who you admire, a person whose behavior you look up to or someone who has accompanied you in difficult times. It can be your mother, a fictional star like Hannah Montana or even a firefighter. Therefore I think it's important to have someone who you look up to when you feel bad, or even feel like giving up because you think that this is the only option, but it is not! You need them as well as they need you! But why am I talking about female role models? The answer is simple.

Children are often taught that only men are strong and that there are only male heroes, which has been recognized since the beginning of humanity, but that's wrong. It is very important to teach young ladies and boys at a young age that female role models are just as good as male role models. Having a female role model means, to never ever doubt yourself or think that one can't do something just because they are female. Young girls have to know that they have a voice, let girls know that they don't have to be silent or. They must be shown that whatever they have to say matters! Successful female role models give little girls a brighter future and hope for tomorrow. Each generation gets a new chance to make a difference, whether through innovation, courageousness, kindness, inspiration, or navigating conflict.



But unfortunately it does not look like this in every country, an example for this is the big gap between Germany and Nigeria. In many Nigerian cultures a woman is no more than a housewife. And Beyond the household level, power is generally dominated by men. **BUT** Aisha, ( a boko haram huntress), is a female role model because she fights against racism, terrorism an sexism. Thats why she plays a big role for many females especially in Nigeria. In contrast to Nigeria, women have more rights in Germany. They are not seen as a housewife and go to work although they still earn **six percent** less than men in comparable positions and with comparable qualifications. Women in Germany are also very highly educated. Around **50 percent** of university graduates

and around **45 percent** of doctoral students are female. But what shows us all these information?

It is really important to not think old-fashioned about women staying at home and do all the household chores. Women have a long and difficult history of being able to do everything that men do, such as bringing the money home, independence or even having a voice. It's time to raise our boys AND girls to become independent and see each other as equal. Do not differentiate your child's upbringing based on gender!

