

All Sorts of People Change the World



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All sorts of people change the world

- Many people think they cannot change the world because they:
 - Are not rich enough
 - Are not educated enough
 - Have a criminal record
 - Belong to a minority religion, skin colour or sexuality
 - Are female
 - Lack self-confidence
 - Have a disability
 - Are children
- This short chapter shows that people who have changed the world come from all sorts of backgrounds

Education

■ Examples at one extreme:

- Edward de Bono has 5 university degrees
- Martin Luther King Jr. had a Ph.D.
- Gandhi had a university degree in Law
- Richard Stallman was a child prodigy

■ Examples at the other extreme:

- Jamie Oliver is dyslexic and was in the “special needs” class at school
- Bob Geldof failed *a//* his exams in his final year at school
- Malcolm X dropped out of high school

Wealth

- People from rich backgrounds:

- Florence Nightingale
- Comtesse de Ségur was the daughter of a politician

- People from middleclass backgrounds:

- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Gandhi

- People from poor backgrounds:

- Malcolm X
- Bob Geldof came from a working-class background. He had a succession of menial jobs and lived in squats

Criminal activity

- Malcolm X committed many crimes:
 - Burglary
 - Selling drugs (he was also addicted to drugs)
 - Prostitution (he safely escorted white customers into a black ghetto to visit black prostitutes)
- For several years, Bob Geldof was an illegal immigrant in Canada
- As a teenager, Bruce Lee founded his own street gang and often got into trouble with the police for fighting

Women

Examples of famous women who changed the world...

- Anita Roddick (founder of The Body Shop)
- Gloria Steinem (and many other feminists)
- Florence Nightingale (significant contributions to healthcare)
- Comtesse de Ségur (put feminism and educational values into children's stories)

Lack of self-confidence

- Gandhi had a fear of public speaking:
 - This fear caused him to be unable to defend his clients in court
 - He overcame this fear only when he emigrated to South Africa
- Richard Stallman was a social misfit:
 - He was academically brilliant but had very poor social skills

People with disabilities

Many people with disabilities have changed the world...

- Winston Churchill suffered from depression
- Jamie Oliver is dyslexic
- Richard Stallman says he might have autism
- Cyril Arthur Pearson was blind:
 - He set up a hostel to teach soldiers blinded in the First World War how to cope with living blind, and skills for new careers

Children

In 1996, Jason Summey was a 13-year old student in America

- His school had the highest dropout rate in the area:
 - Students who dropped out had a high chance of being poor or criminals
- He gave a speech at his middle school graduation:
 - He challenged his classmates to be the first year in the school's history to all graduate from high school
 - He started a "Be Cool... Stay In School" project
- Results:
 - The dropout rate dropped dramatically
 - He talked a student out of committing suicide
 - He appeared on TV shows and in newspapers
 - His book ("Be Cool... Stay In School") has a forward by President George Bush

Summary

- People who change the world have varied backgrounds
 - Rich or poor, male or female, highly educated or uneducated
 - Some lacked self-confidence
 - Some had disabilities
 - Some were children
 - Some were criminals
 - Some belonged to a minority religion, skin colour or sexuality

- It does not matter what your background is:
 - It *is* possible for you to change the world
 - The information in this training course can help you