

A common stereotype about Muslims is that they are not interested in educating girls and therefore do not send girls to school. However, studies have now shown that poverty amongst Muslims is an important reason why Muslim girls do not attend school or leave school after a few years.

Wherever, effort has been made to reach education to the poor, there the Muslim community has shown an interest in sending their girls to school. For example in the state of Kerala the distance between the school and the home is not much. There is a good government bus service that helps teachers reach schools in rural areas and over sixty per cent of the teachers are women. These factors have helped children from poorer families, including Muslim girls, attend school in much larger numbers.

In other states, where such efforts have not been made children from poorer families whether Muslim, tribal or so-called lower castes find it difficult to attend school. Therefore, poverty not religion is the cause for non-attendance of Muslim girls in school.

**Study the above extract and answer the questions given below:**

- 1. What is a common stereotype about muslims?*
- 2. What reason has been given in recent studies for not sending muslim girls to schools.*



**3.** *Why do muslim girls study in schools in Kerala alongwith other girls?*

**4.** *What is the real cause of muslim girls not going to schools?*



**Read the story of Bhimrao Ambedkar and answer the following questions:**

- (1) Despite the children offering money the cartmen refused them. Why?*
- (2) How did people at the station discriminate against Dr. Ambedkar and his brothers?*
- (3) How do you think Dr. Ambedkar felt as a child, when he saw the stationmaster's reaction to his statement that they were Mahars?*
- (4) Have you ever experienced prejudice or witnessed an incident of discrimination?*
- (5) How did this make you feel?*