

Twinkle Kapdi (Biker & Writer)

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It was in 2012, Twinkle Kapdi decided to be a rider and ever since she has lived her life on two wheels. She knows she is in a profession that can easily be classified as male dominated, but not even a fatal accident could deter her from achieving all that she wanted. Here's her very interesting take on being a female in a man's world.

"After 15 days of riding a bike, I embarked on a trip to Ladakh. I was the only girl in a group of 30 and Ladakh is considered the mother of all rugged terrains. I was discouraged by all to take up this ride. You are a girl, you have just learned riding, they would say. But I was not bothered by it all. In the journey, while there was a group of men who tried to intimidate me, tell me to go back, there were also few men who supported

me unconditionally without even saying so. They were the true feminists according to me."

Twinkle admits that being a female rider comes with its gamut of challenges."In rugged terrains where there isn't a single bush for miles and miles, the men can just stop and go relieve themselves anytime they want, but as a woman I would have a walk 500 mts in a slightly concealed place in freezing weather and low oxygen conditions to do this simple act. But you can't let all of this get to you. You have to learn to fight, to cope. Today all those men who intimidated me in my first journey have become friends and accepted that I am a boss rider. I often lead the pack now and it truly is empowering."

Talking on sexual harassment she says, "There is not a single girl I know who hasn't been assaulted, objectified and molested at some point in her life. But we can't let all of this shut us up, overpower us because that's exactly what they would want us to do. Women need to realize and remember that we

are extremely powerful and endowed. Nature actually has given women more grit and determination. All we need to do is channelize this, lift each other up and we truly will remain unstoppable."