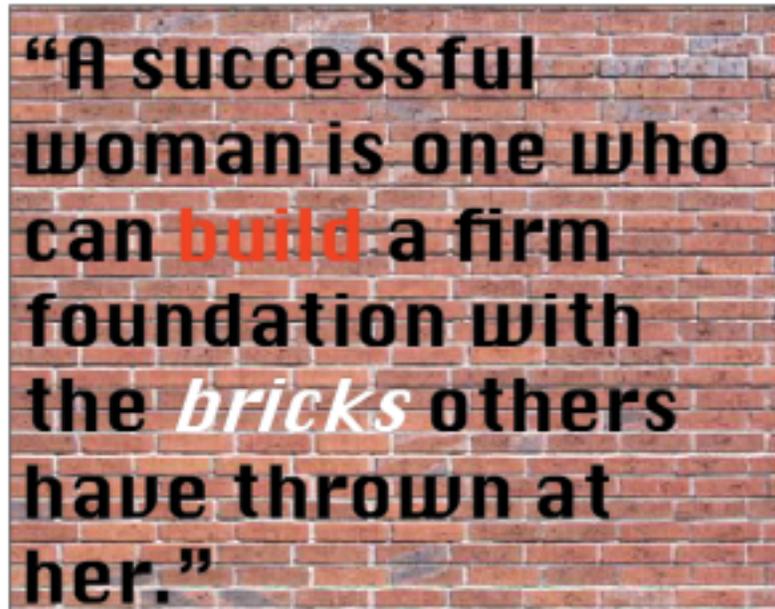


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What is empowerment?



Where did empowerment come from? Who thought of the fact that we need quotes and messages to empower women? Why can't we empower ourselves?

Empowerment is all about letting women and girls dictate their own life plans and goals. Let them decide how to live their lives. An article from CNN (May 2013) discusses how by letting women decide when to have children and get married will give them the option to stay in school and learn, which will allow her to better serve her family. The article states how a child whose family budget was created by the mother is 20 percent *more* likely to survive. Women know what is best for their own family. If they can't even decide priorities for their families, then how can we depend on them to be educated? After all, we all deserve an education, no matter the costs or risks.

Furthermore, such messages of empowerment (often advertisements) do not show the average woman. Instead, they show images of perfect, Photoshopped models. I can only wonder how that can inspire anyone? How is that lesson teaching young girls to believe in themselves as confident young women?

And another thing: "Women should empower each other instead of being so hateful and envious of one another." Why do fellow women have to be so catty? Why can't we support each other? We're just fighting for the *same* thing. If we don't stick up for ourselves, no one will. If we can't stand up for what's right, then how can young girls learn to do the same?

Coco Chanel once said, "A girl should be two things: who and what she wants." Don't wait around for someone to empower you, empower yourself. Go be whatever you want.

It's your life, why not live it the way you want? So, stand tall and be proud of yourself.

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