

# Girls Who Grew Up to Change the World



**Anadi Gopal Joshi**

(1865-1887)





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As was common in nineteenth-century India, Anandi married when she was nine years old and gave birth to a child at the age of fourteen.



Ten days later, the child died. Unfortunately, this was a frequent occurrence in India, where it was difficult to access any medical care at all.





Anadi was determined to change that.



At eighteen, she sailed across the ocean to America, where she applied at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.





‘I may not have the qualifications you ask for,’ she wrote in her application. ‘But please give me a chance to help my poor suffering countrywomen.’





They accepted her and Anandi went on to graduate, becoming the first Indian woman to earn a degree in western medicine. Queen Victoria sent her a message of congratulations.



But all the time she had been studying, Anandi had been battling her own illness. She'd feel weak and out of breath, suffering headaches and fevers.





The cold, damp climate of Pennsylvania was unfamiliar to her, and it made her illness worse.



Not long after returning home to Bombay, Anandi died.  
She was twenty-one years old.





Despite her life being cut short before Anandi was able to fulfil all her goals, she inspired a generation of women to break free of the roles they'd traditionally been assigned.



Several awards and fellowships in medicine have since been established in her name, and a gigantic crater on the planet Venus is named after her.





On what would have been her 153rd birthday, Google changed their logo to a drawing of Anandi clutching her medical diploma. The world has not forgotten India's first female doctor.







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