

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

for *Teach a Woman To Fish: Overcoming Poverty Around the Globe* by Ritu Sharma

1.

Imagine your community suffered a natural disaster and your government did not have the resources to assist. Everyone lost everything, including loved ones. How would you want foreigners—both individuals and governments—to respond for your community? Are there things you would NOT want them to do?

2.

As you read in Chapter 45 (pages 209-211), the US Government spends less than one percent on international aid for people living in poverty. In fact, much even that aid goes to areas like trade promotion for US businesses abroad or assistance to governments to improve their management. What do you think the right proportions of the US budget are for defense, homeland security/law enforcement, education, health, domestic poverty assistance, social security, and international aid?

3.

The book brings to light how transformative and impactful advocacy can be. If you were an investor, how might you allocate your portfolio between advocacy and direct services to people (education, health care, etc.) (e.g. 80%/20%)?

4.

All the issues covered in *Teach a Woman to Fish*—violence, economic opportunity, education, health care, and food security—are intimately connected. Do you feel that any one or two of them are more vital than the others? Is there an order you might sequence them in if you had limited resources to put towards these areas?

5.

Of all the suggested actions contained in *Teach a Woman to Fish*, from asking about ethical production in stores to buying fair trade to writing Congress, which would you actually do? What might you do if friends did it with you? What do you think would have the most impact?



For more information about *Teach a Woman to Fish*,
visit Women Thrive online at:
WomenThrive.org/teach