

Hellen Keller – Author /Activist /Lecturer – Deaf Blind



Helen Keller, the first ever deaf and blind person to be able to break the shackles of physical limitations and be awarded a bachelor's degree, was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. It was her incandescent intelligence and undefiable tenacity to grow as a person that helped her overcome all obstacles and lead a healthy and productive life.

Born on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama, Keller was only 19 months old when she contracted an unknown illness that left her both deaf and blind. Though largely considered a recluse, Keller tried her best to stay abreast with the world.

Keller was six when Anne Sullivan came in her life as her teacher. A resourceful and demanding teacher Sullivan had the most positive impact on young Keller who attended several schools for blind and deaf and with Sullivan by her side, finally managed to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1904, a first blind and deaf woman to do so.

A prolific author, Keller was an avid traveller and outspoken in her convictions. She became a member of the Socialist Party of America and the Industrial Workers of the World, she also campaigned for women's suffrage, labour rights, socialism, anti-militarism, and other similar causes.

Keller has written 112 books and numerous articles. She was only 22 when she published her autobiography, '*The Story of My Life*', in 1903. The book was a beautiful recollection of Keller's life and the ups and downs she faced en-route.

In 1971, Keller was inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame. She was also one of the twelve inaugural inductees to the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame on June 8, 2015.

Keller is still remembered as an advocate for people with disabilities and her life continues to inspire billions across the world.