

Chapter 4: Growing up as Boys and Girls

Intext Questions:

Question 1 : In what ways do the experiences of Samoan children and teenagers differ from your own experiences of growing up? Is there anything in this experience that you wish was part of your growing up?

Answer: The Samoan children and teenagers did not go to school. They look after the younger siblings at home. But, I go to school regularly and have no such responsibility to look after the younger siblings. No. There is nothing in this experience that I wish was a part of my growing up.

Question 2 : Why do girls like to go to school together in groups?

Answer: The girls like to go to school together in groups, because perhaps they carry fear of being teased or attacked.

Question 3 : Are there as many girls as boys in your drawing? Most probably you would have drawn fewer girls. Can you think of reasons why there are fewer women and girls in your neighbourhood streets, parks, and markets in the late evenings or at night?

Answer: No. There are fewer girls in comparison to boys.

There are fewer women and girls in my neighbourhood streets, parks, and markets in the late evening or at night, because, firstly their population is lesser than men and boys, and secondly there is insecurity to their dignity and respect.

Question 4 :

(i) Are girls and boys doing different activities?

(ii) Can you think of reasons why this might be so?

(iii) What would happen if you replaced the girls with the boys and vice versa?

Answer: (i) Yes. Girls and boys are doing different activities.

(ii) The reasons behind the different activities of girls and boys are as follows:

The girls are supposed to be more vulnerable to their dignity while boys are not generally.

Girls are supposed to do most of the homely jobs in the future whereas boys are supposed to work outside the house.

(iii) If we put the girls in the place of boys it will represent an increase in the number of girls. It would indicate that the attitude of society has changed regarding the girls. Society is now treating girls differently. But, if the boys were put in the places of girls, it would indicate that the societies had been more rigid for girls. They were not treating girls as friendly and liberally as the boys were treated.

Question 5 : Were Harmeet and Shonali correct in saying that Harmeet's mother did not work?

Answer: No. Harmeet and Shonali were not correct in saying that Harmeet's mother did not work.

Because for one day strike by Harmeet's mother made Papa exhausted and nothing was done on time and in a proper way as she used to do.

Question 6 : What do you think would happen if your mother or those involved in doing the work at home went on a strike for a day?

Answer: If my mother or those involved in doing the work at home went on a strike for a day, the consequences would be the following:

I would have been in school uniform without a bath.

I would not get the breakfast at right time and a good dish as mother prepared.

I would have to go to school without a lunch box because Papa would not be able to make a dish for my lunch box.

Question 7 : Why do you think that men and boys generally do not do housework? Do you think they should?

Answer: It is assumed in our societies that housework is something that comes naturally to women and girls. And, it is not correct that men and boys do housework.

This is the reason why boys and men generally don't do housework. But I think both men and boys should also help women in doing housework.

Question 8 :

1) Below is some data from a special study done by the Central Statistical Organization of India (1998-1999). See if you can fill in the blanks.

State	Women Paid (Work hour per week)	Women Unpaid(Housework hour per week)	Women (Total)	Men Paid(Work hour per week)	Men Unpaid(Housework hour per week)	Men(Total)
Haryana	23	30	?	38	2	?
Tamil Nadu	19	35	?	40	4	?

Answer:

State	Women Paid (Work hour per week)	Women Unpaid(Housework hour per week)	Women (Total)	Men Paid(Work hour per week)	Men Unpaid(Housework hour per week)	Men(Total)
Haryana	23	30	53	38	2	40
Tamil Nadu	19	35	54	40	4	44

2)What is the total number of working hours spent by women in Haryana and Tamil Nadu each week?

Answer:The total number of working hours spent by women in Haryana = 53 hours

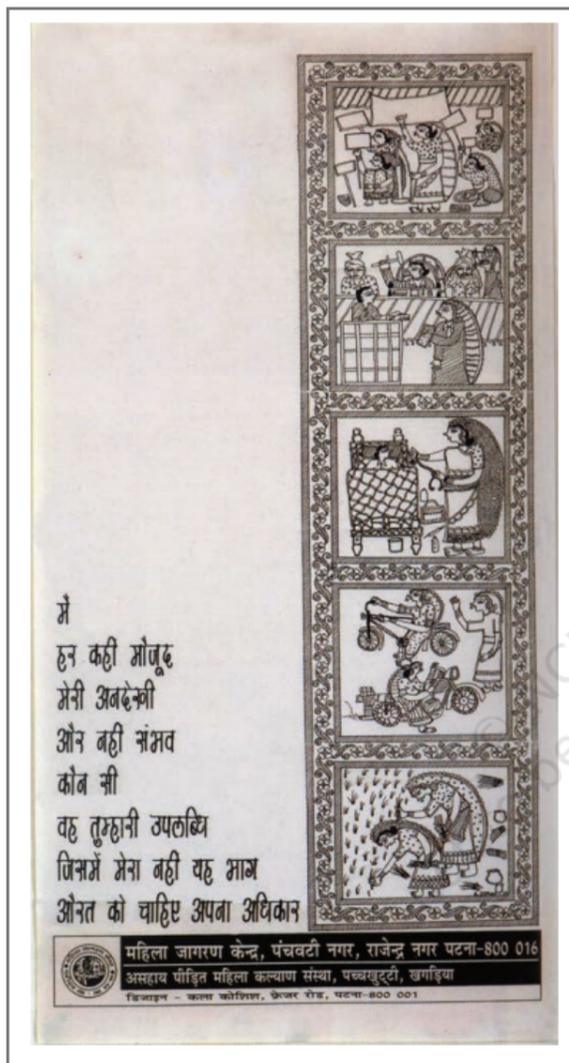
The total number of working hours spent by women in Tamil Nadu = 54 hours

3)How does this compare with the total number of work hours spent by men?

Answer:

Women/Men	Total work hour in Haryana	Total work hour in Tamil Nadu
Women	53	54
Men	40	44

Question 9 :What do you think this poster shown on page 52 of the textbook is trying to say?



Answer: The poster shown on textbook page 52 is trying to say that they are demanding their different fundamental rights. These rights are as follows right to strike or protest against inequality, the right to justice through the courts, the right to health right to move along with driving permission, and the right to work outside the house.

Question 10 : The poster shown on page 52 of the textbook was created by a women's group in Bengal. Can you write an interesting slogan for the poster?



Answer: The woman does all the works to take care of and save the children, family, and society but what she gets in return are insult, taunts, and beating.

Slogan: "We work for men our work is in vain"

Exercises:

Question 1 : Are the statements given below true or false? Support your answer with the use of an example. Statements:

(a) All societies do not think similarly about the roles that boys and girls play.

Answer: True

Because in one society the girls are not allowed to get modern education and do service in offices. But another society gives them the liberty to modern education and also what they like along with, permission to work in offices. For example, Muslim society does not allow the girls generally to get modern education and do work in offices, whereas the Christian community supports them for this.

(b) Our society does not make distinctions between boys and girls when they are growing up

Answer: False

Our society makes a distinction between boys and girls since very childhood. The parents prefer boys in playing outside the house, their nourishment, clothing, and giving career education. For example, girls are refused to play outside by saying that it is not good for girls, to play outside.

(c) Women who stay at home do not work.

Answer: False

The women who stay at home do more work than the work done by men. These women get up as early as 5 o'clock in the morning and continue as late as twelve at night. These women do various physical works at home such as sweeping and cleaning, washing clothes and making dishes, looking after young children or the elders.

(d) The work that women do is less valued than that of men.

Answer: True

The work that women do is not properly valued. Because women do not get payments for most of these works. They do sweeping, cleaning, washing, cooking, and caring for children and elders at home, and receptionist, personal assistants, public relations, etc, in the offices. But, their work is underestimated.

Question 2 : Housework is invisible and unpaid work. Housework is physically demanding. Housework is time-consuming. Write in your own words what is meant by the terms invisible, physically demanding, and time-consuming? Give one example of each based on the household tasks undertaken by women in your home.

Answer:

Invisible. It means the work that is not seen with our eyes. For example, the main responsibility for housework and care-giving tasks, like looking after the family, especially children, the elderly, and sick members, lies with women. There are such works or tasks which are often not recognised as works and therefore remain invisible.

Physically demanding. Physically demanding. Very tough and difficult tasks. For example, women do a lot of work inside the home. Some of these works such as carrying heavy headloads of firewood, fetching water from a far-off place, washing clothes of the entire family members, etc. are very tough and difficult. Still, women do them regularly without making any complaints.

Time-consuming. Household works that take much time. For example, women's routine begins from early morning and continues upto late at night. During this period they are seen busy in fulfilling the needs and wishes of their family member. They often sit with their children and help them in completing their homework. This is a good example of time-consuming work.

Question 3 : Make a list of toys and games that boys typically play and another for girls. If there is a difference between the two lists, can you think of some reasons why this is so? Does this have any relationship to the roles children have to play as adults?

Answer:

Toys

Boys: Car, Jeep, Revolver, Video-games, Aeroplane, Helicopter, Jetfighter

Girls: Dolls, Gudda- Guddia, Singar box, Musical instruments

Games

Boys: Cricket, Football, Kabaddi, Shooting

Girls: Swimming, Gymnastics, Tennis, Table tennis, Badminton

Reasons for difference: The boys are given those toys which are tough/hard. They play most of the games. The outdoor girls play with those toys which are easy-way play and have feministic feature. Most of the games they play are indoor.

Relationship with adulthood: These toys and the games, the boys and girls play with have somehow the relationship to the roles they have to play as adults.

Question 4 : If you have someone working as a domestic help in your house or locality talk to her and find out a little bit more about her life who are her family members? Where is her home? How many hours does she work? How much does she get paid? Write a small story based on these details.

Answer: A domestic helper in my locality :

Name: Soudha

Her family-member: Old father, sick mother, three younger brothers, and two younger sisters.

Her home: Midnapur, a village near Hoogly river, West Bengal. Working hours: Nineteen hours a day.

Her salary: Two thousand per month along with food and lodging.

Story: Soudha, a domestic helper in the house of Guptaji, my neighbour, says about

Herself as: I work as a domestic helper since I was eight years old in the Kothi of Babu Sahib in my village. I came to Delhi with my cousin when I was ten years old and worked with her for two years.

Guptaji is my second employer: There are four members in the Gupta family Guptaji (Bade Sahib) is a doctor in a government hospital and Memsahib is PRO in a multinational company. They have two children, daughter Sweta six years old and the son is Ashok, eight years, studying in a convent school. I wake up at 5:30 in the early morning and sweep the house. I prepare breakfast for all four and keep ready their lunch boxes. I clean the floor when they go to offices and schools. Then wash the clothes and prepare dishes. I bring the children from school at 2 o'clock and prepare their mid-day meal. I take care of them very strictly. Bade Sahib- and Memsahib come at 5:30 in the evening. I give them coffee with light snacks. Sometimes Ashok and Sweta complain to Memsahib against me. She is very harsh, she scolds me frequently. But Bade Sahib is kind. Memsahib gives me the food that remains in plates of the children and some of her. I don't like that but have to eat. I have to massage the body of the children till twelve in the night. All these things, I have to do to earn money for the support of my parents. My brothers and sisters are studying with the help of my earning.