



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034**

**CLASS –VII      SUBJECT: - SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Number of Blocks: 2**

**Topics: GROWING UP AS BOYS AND GIRLS**

**Subtopics:**

- Growing up in Samoa in the 1920s
- Growing up male in Madhya Pradesh in the 1960s
- Valuing housework
- Lives of domestic workers
- Women’s work and equality

**Instructional Aid:** MS Word, NCERT Pdf, Audio-visual aid, Flow Chart.

<https://www.teachertube.com/videos/gender-roles-221938>

**Learning Outcomes:** Each student will be able to:

- Introspect the norms and values that determine roles expected by boys and girls from the family, commonly in school, public places etc.
- Appreciate women’s work within & outside the family .
- Analyse the relationship between the work of women and equality with men .
- Link everyday practices which lead to inequality in our society.

**Reference Book:** Political and Social Life II (NCERT Political Science book class VII).

**Chapter Link:** <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?gess3=4-9>

**GUIDELINES:** Read the notes and the Chapter 4 of Political Science- ‘Growing up as Boys and Girls’ and follow the instructions given below. All the questions given below are to be done in the Social Science Notebook.

## Growing up in Samoa in the 1920s



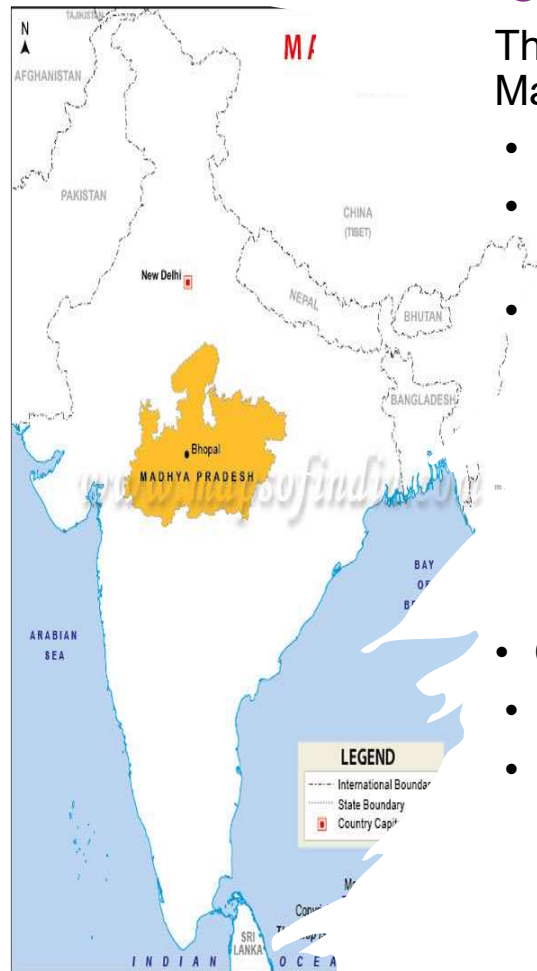
- The Samoan Islands are part of a large group of small islands in the southern part of the Pacific Ocean.
- In the 1920s, according to research reports on Samoan society, children did not go to school. They learnt many things, such as how to take care of children or do household work from older children and from adults.
- Fishing was a very important activity on the islands.
- Children Learn different things at different points in their childhood. At a smaller age, they learnt things such as how to take care of children or do household work from older children and from adults. Both boys and girls used to do household work. Both boys and girls looked after their younger siblings.
- By the age of nine, a boy joined the older boys in learning outdoor jobs like fishing and planting coconuts.
- Girls had to continue looking after small children or do errands for adults till they were teenagers.
- But once they became teenagers, they had much more freedom. After the age of fourteen or so, girls also went on fishing trips, worked in the plantations, learnt how to weave baskets.
- Cooking was done in special cooking-houses, where boys were supposed to do most of the work while girls helped with the preparations.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** In what ways do the experiences of Samoan children and teenagers differ from your own experiences of growing up?

## Growing up male in Madhya Pradesh in the 1960s

The following is adapted from an account of experiences of being in a small town in Madhya Pradesh in the 1960s.

- From Class VI onwards, boys and girls went to separate schools.
  - The girls' school had a central courtyard where they played in total seclusion and safety from the outside world.
  - The boys' school had no such courtyard, and our playground was just a big space attached to the school. Every evening, once school was over, the boys watched as hundreds of schoolgirls crowded the narrow streets. The boys used the streets as a place to stand around idling, to play, to try out tricks with their bicycles. For the girls, the street was simply a place to get straight home. The girls always went in groups, perhaps because they also carried fears of being teased or attacked.
- Conclusion from above two examples:
- There are many different ways of growing up.
  - Societies make clear distinctions between boys and girls. This begins from a very young age. We are for example, given different toys to play with. Toys to become a way of telling children that they will have different futures when they become men and women.
- Class Discussion: Enlist examples of how society treat boys and girls differently.



**Class Activity:**

Read the given story and answer the following questions:

How many working members do you have in your family?

Does the women in your family work?

Do they work inside or outside the house?

List the work done by the women in the house.

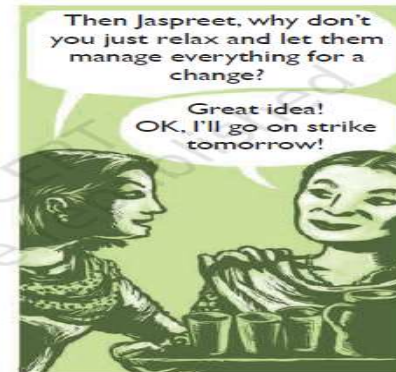
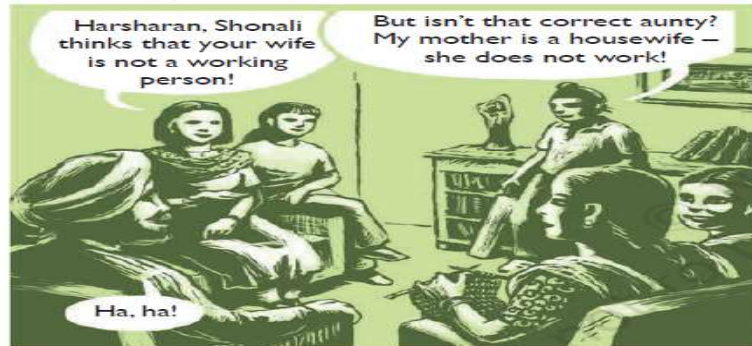
Are the women of the house paid for the household work done by them?

Is their work done inside the house valued?

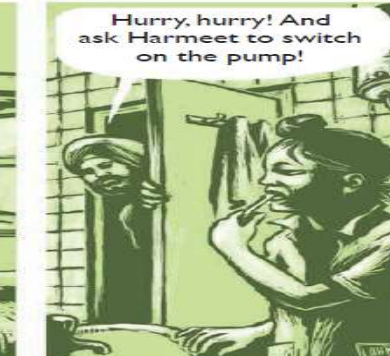
**'MY MOTHER DOES NOT WORK'**

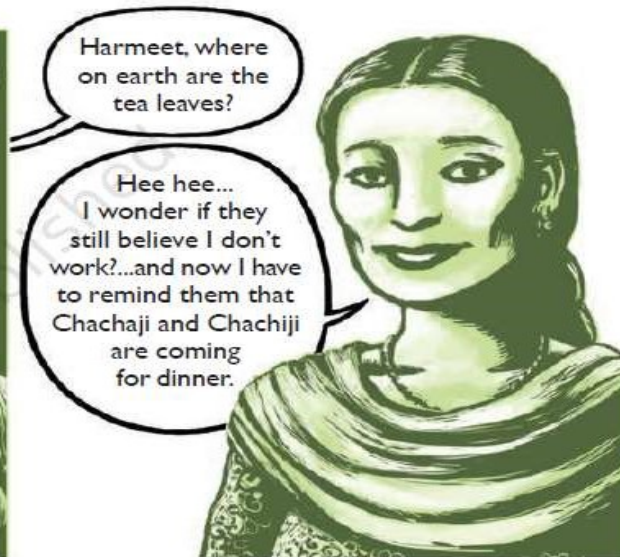
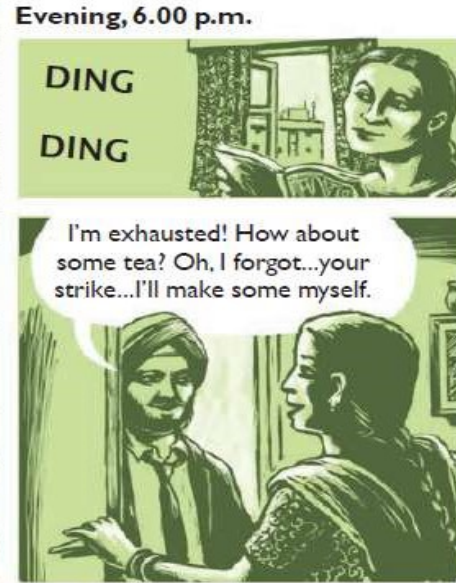
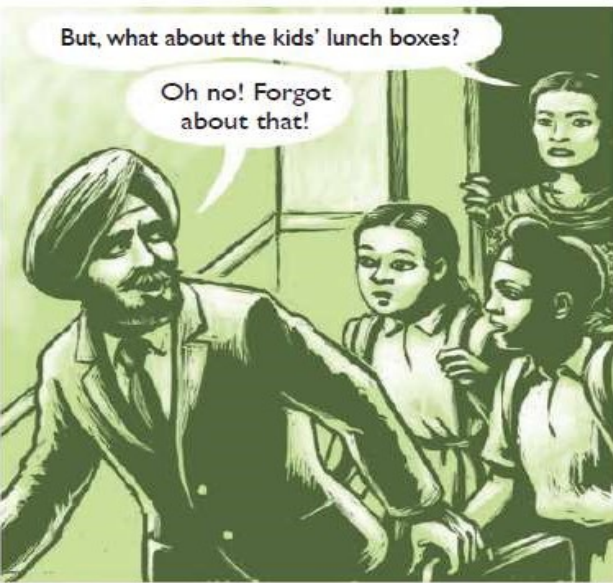


**At the Singh's house**



**Next morning, 7:30 a.m.**





## Valuing housework

Across the world, the main responsibility for housework and care-giving tasks, like looking after the family, especially children, the elderly and sick members, lies with women. Yet, the work that women do within the home is not recognised as work. It is also assumed that this is something that comes naturally to women. **It, therefore, does not have to be paid for. And society devalues this work.**

# Lives of domestic workers

**Class Discussion:** Describe the life of domestic worker in your house.

Many homes, particularly in towns and cities, employ domestic workers. They do a lot of work –

- Sweeping and cleaning
- washing clothes and dishes
- Cooking
- Looking after young children or the elderly.

Most domestic workers are women. Sometimes, even young boys or girls are employed to do this work.

## A day of a Domestic Worker's life

- A domestic worker's day can begin as early as five in the morning and end as late as twelve at night.
- Despite the hard work they do, their employers often do not show them much respect.
- Wages are low, as domestic work does not have much value.
- A number of these tasks they do require heavy physical work.

In both rural and urban areas women and girls have to fetch water. In rural areas women and girls carry heavy headloads of firewood. Tasks like washing clothes, cleaning, sweeping and picking up loads require bending, lifting and carrying. Many chores, like cooking, involve standing for long hours in front of hot stoves. **The work women do is strenuous and physically demanding.**

Another aspect of **housework and care-giving is that these are very time consuming.** In fact, if we add up the housework and the work, women do outside the home, we find that women spend much more time working than men and have much less time for leisure.

## Women's work and equality

As we have seen the low value attached to women's household and care-giving work is not an individual or family matter. It is part of a larger system of inequality between men and women. It, therefore, has to be dealt through actions not just at the level of the individual or the family but also by the government.

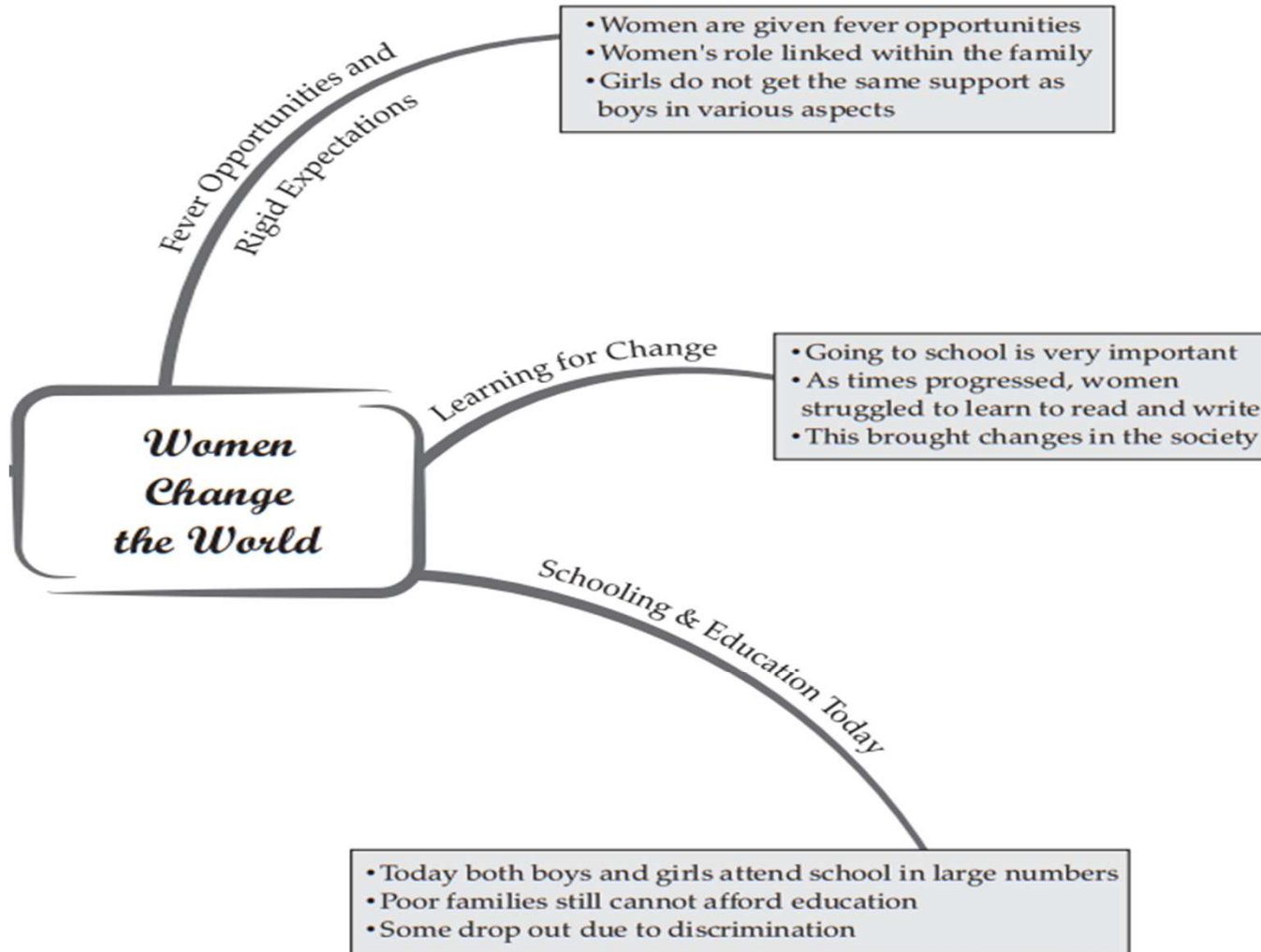
The Constitution of India says that being male or female should not become a reason for discrimination. In reality, inequality between the sexes exists. The government is, therefore, committed to understanding the reasons for this and taking positive steps to remedy the situation.

For example, it recognizes that burden of child-care and housework falls on women and girls. Hence,

- The government has set up Anganwadis or child-care centers in several villages in the country.
- The government has passed laws that make it mandatory for organizations that have more than 30 women employees to provide crèche facilities.

The provision of crèches helps many women to take up employment outside the home. It also makes it possible for more girls to attend schools

## Summary





## **Assignment:**

Q1. Being a boy or girl is an important part of one's identity. The society we grow up in, teaches us what kind of behaviour is acceptable for boys and girls. What does assigning different roles to boys and girls lead to?

- a. It makes them confused.
- b. It prepares them to be scared.
- c. It makes them angry.
- d. It prepares them for future roles as men and women.

Q2. State whether true or false. Support your answer with the use of an example –

- a. All societies do not think similarly about the roles that boys and girls play.
- b. Our society does not make distinctions between boys and girls when they are growing up.
- c. Women who stay at home do not work.
- d. The work that women do is less valued than that of men.

Q3. Housework is invisible and unpaid work.

Housework is physically demanding.

Housework is time consuming.

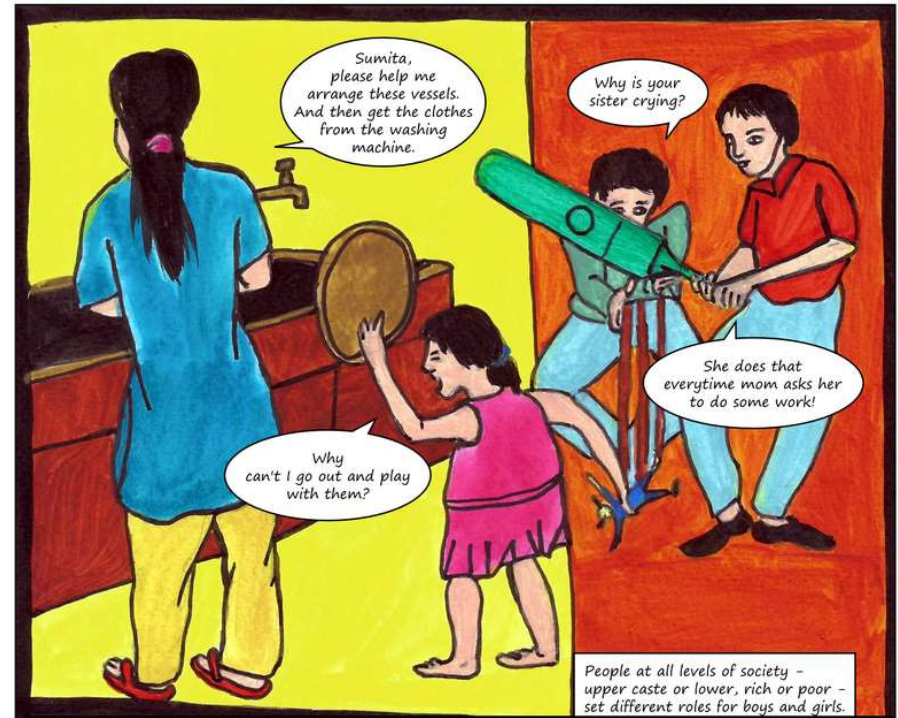
Write in your own words what is meant by the terms 'invisible', 'physically demanding', and 'time consuming'?

Give one example of each based on the household tasks undertaken by women in your home.

Q4. Describe the life of a domestic worker, working in or around your house.

Q5. Why does our society devalue the work women do inside the home.

Q6. Our constitution does not discriminate between male and female. But inequality between the sexes exists. What steps have been taken by the government to rectify the problem?



Look at the pictures given above and share your views about the roles assigned to different genders in our society. Create one such picture on your own to highlight this social stereotype in our society.