

Sumati-Parvati

Life useful educational material for adolescents — 3
Gender Discrimination



CHETNA

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Life useful educational material for adolescents

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This educational material has been prepared to impart life useful education to adolescents. This material comprises of four flip books which are to be used along with CHETNA's publication - Child Birth Picture Book, available in various Indian languages. Use these flipbooks chronologically.

How to use this flip book

- Hold this flip book by both the hands carefully. Ensure that the illustrations face the group. Take care that the illustrations are not hidden by your hands.
- When the illustrations are facing the group, you will be able to see the writings relevant to the illustrations. To attract the group's attention make the story interesting by narrating it with expressions.
- When you are telling the story, kindly point out with your finger the characters and incidents, in the illustrations. This will help the group to concentrate.
- On the last page of this flip book, some questions have been given. Kindly initiate discussions with the help of these questions.

Acknowledgements

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CHETNA Team

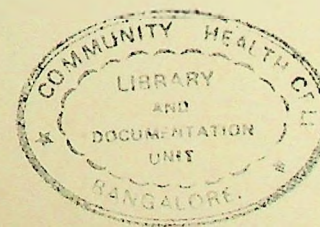
Gender Discrimination

Due to the Indian patriarchal society women have no control over production, reproduction, education, information system, economic resources, women's mobility, etc. Result of this control by men is that women remain behind in every sphere of life especially in education and training.

It is assumed by the society that reproduction work (cooking, cleaning, washing, child care) is women's work, due to which her growth is hindered. The experiences/case studies have proved that if women get equal chances/exposure as men, they are equally skilled and capable to do any type of work, even the so-called men's-work (or professional work) such as farming, engineering, architecture, tractor driving, marketing, etc.

Education is must to every child whether girl or boy. Education is also necessary for her personality development and to help in eradicating socio-cultural norms those are discriminating to girl/women responsible for the secondary status. Equality of opportunities for all individuals whether girl or boy is the only way to the balanced development of the society.

It is true that due to a woman's sex, she gets pregnant and is responsible for lactation, but it doesn't mean she alone is responsible of household chores and child care. These responsibilities must be shared by male members of the family so girls and women get time to study and engage themselves in the work they want to do. When girls also will progress, parents will be equally proud to have daughters.



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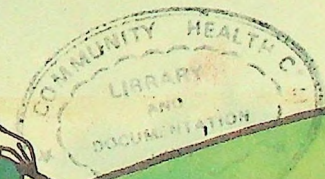
Sumati and Parvati grew into talented young girls. Sumati was studying medicine and Parvati was in the higher secondary school. Parvati went to the farm with her father daily and discussed on the issues related to farming. Her parents took pride in the fact that she was also as clever as Sumati. They were happy that both their daughters are clever and could do the work which was so called "Man's Work".



Parvati enjoyed playing with girls and boys of her village . But since some time the boys did not let her play with them. Parvati questioned them about their behaviour. They responded, "After all you are a girl. Playing and laughing with boys is not ladylike. You are not supposed to play with us." Parvati replied, "Don't you think girls and boys should co-operate and be friendly, and work together." Since then, Parvati decided that she would prove her point.



Years passed. Parvati grew up. As time passed Parvati started taking more interest in farming. She started studying agriculture. She used to impress the villagers with her interest in farming and hard work. Parvati discussed the topics of farming with the villagers. By making use of her education she guided people about the technological advancements in farming. Over the years many farmers benefited from her advice.



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Within a short time Parvati along with the villagers initiated a co-operative, dispensary, and income generation activities in her village. Parvati was very happy that all this had become possible only because men and women worked together.

Sumati worked hard at the dispensary as a doctor. Sumati and Parvati's parents were proud of their daughters.

After narrating the story initiate the discussion on following questions.

- Are men cleverer and more informative than women?
- Are the girls spoiled if they are educated?
- Is farming a male profession?

