

Sumati

Life useful educational material for adolescents - 2
Sex Determination



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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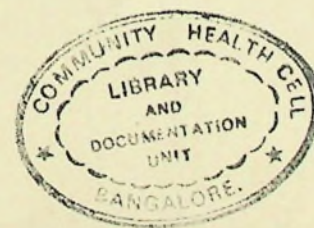
CHETNA Team

Sex determination

The sex of the child is determined by the chromosomes present in the sperms of the man. But the process of determination cannot be controlled by either the man or the woman, it is natural. However, in India often women are held responsible for giving birth to a female child. There is need to understand that the woman does not have any direct or indirect control on the sex determination of the child, but the much wider need is to analyse and re-frame our attitude towards the girl-child.

Indian society is a Patriarchal society, because of which every family aspires for a son to continue the family line, to perform the last rights of parents. He is also the security for old age, therefore sons are preferred to daughters.

However, the attitude of the society is changing. We should contribute by speeding it up, so that being a girl is something to be proud of and not an unfortunate accident. More and more girls have proved that they are capable and responsible citizens, when provided with the conducive environment. The time has come when society must provide space for the growth and development of this agile and capable member of the society, who can be much more effective if provided with education and opportunities and can prove her worth.



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Ramu was a farmer. His wife was Sita. Sita was very talented. Her skills in embroidery were a source of income for the family. People respected their quiet and helpful nature.



After some years they were gifted with a healthy daughter (To explain Childbirth kindly refer Child Birth Picture Book). Her birth was celebrated in the village. Her parents named her 'Sumati'.



Ramu and Sita brought her up with love and affection. Sita used to play with her and tell her stories. When Sumati grew up she started accompanying her father to their farm. She also started attending school. She was a very intelligent child and was good at studies.



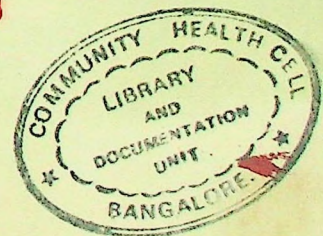
After some years, Sita again became pregnant. Her friends and elders started telling her, "This time you must have a son." Sita immediately responded, "What is the difference between a son and a daughter? Which is the quality in any boy that my Sumati doesn't possess? She is good at studies and has also learnt farming."

Ramu and Sita told the villagers, "Son or daughter, both are equal for us. And we have decided that we will have only two children".



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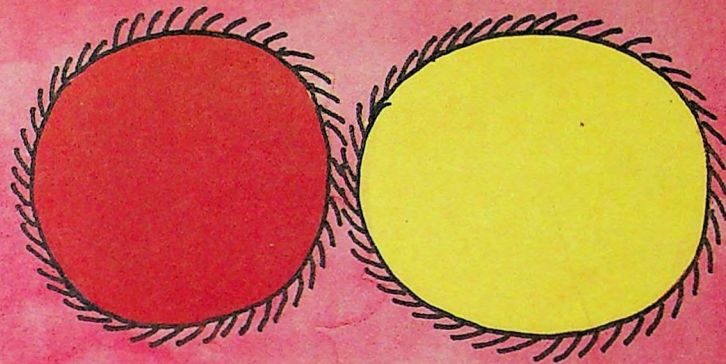
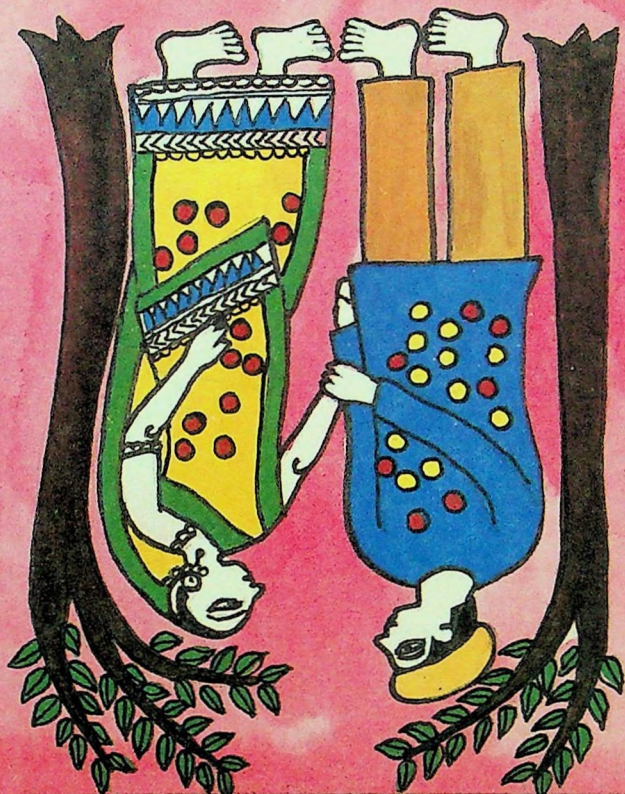
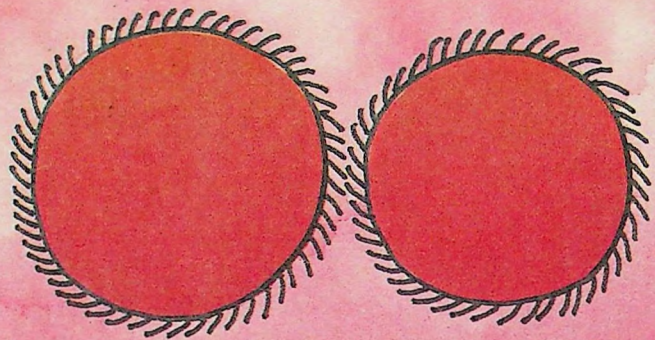
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One day, Sumati asked her father whether she would be having a brother or a sister. Ramu explained to her what the doctor had explained to him. He said, "Children are born from their parents. Like flowers and fruits, the human body also has seeds which fertilize to be children. Female seeds have two similar kind of substances. While male seed have two different kind substances. If the newly developed seed receives similar substances from male and female seeds, than a daughter is born. But if the different substance of male seed mixes with the female seed a son is born".

Sex Determination

Our body is made up of cells. The centre of the cell is made of a nucleus. The function of the nucleus is to maintain the activities of the cell. The nucleus of male and female cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, out of which, the 23rd pair is different and is responsible for determining the sex of the child. The construction of the 23rd pair in the male Chromosome is "XY" and that of female is "XX". During conception, if the "Y" chromosome from man and "X" chromosome of woman meet a son is born. If similar chromosomes from female and male meet, a daughter is born. The mixing of chromosome is not in our control.



After few months, Sita gave birth to another daughter. She was named Parvati. Every one was happy to see the healthy child. The couple joyfully celebrated the birth of their second daughter by distributing sweets among the villagers.

After narrating the story initiate the discussion on the following questions

- Is it necessary to have a male second child, in case the first child is a daughter?
- Who determines the sex of the child ?
- Is it necessary to educate a daughter?

