



Class - VII - Social Science Class Work Notes September

4. Growing up as boys and girls

I. Technical Words

1. Gender - The fact of being a male or female.
2. Stereotype - A fixed image of any person or thing.
3. Prejudice - An opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
4. Breadwinner - A person who earns money to support family.
5. Devalued - Not getting due recognition.

II. Short answer type questions :

1. Differentiate between 'sex' and 'gender'.

Sex is the biological state of being male or female it is determined biologically. On the other hand, gender is a socially acquired characteristic, it is socially determined differences between male and female.

2. Discuss how a girl child is discriminated against boys in the family.

The family makes clear distinction between boy's and girl's, this is because, quite often parents want a boy rather than girl child. They are involved even in female foeticides. Boys are encouraged to do well in sports and studies girls are forced to do household chores. Such gender inequalities within the family influence the general attitude of the children in a family are the examples of discrimination.

3. "Girls are physically and mentally weak". Refute this prejudice with the help of some examples.

Kalpana Chawla or Sunita Williams cannot be considered as physically, mentally or emotionally week. Such prejudices that girls are physically and mentally weak cannot fit into a set stereotypes image.

4. Explain how you think stereotypes about women affect their right to equality.

Stereotypes create gender discrimination among the people. For example, girls are discriminated by man dominant society. Women are discouraged from taking part in certain activities, wearing some specific clothes. Girls are suggested to take home science whereas science and technology are considered to be predominantly boys' subjects. Women have to face the terrifying acts of eve-teasing and molestation in public places. All these facts show that stereotypes create inequality in society.

III. Long answer type questions :

1. "The family makes a clear distinction between boys and girls in the family". Justify the statement with the help of examples.

The family makes a clear distinction between boys and girls even before the birth of a child. Parents usually treat their sons and daughter differently. They give different toys to play with for example boys are generally given cars or planes to play with while girls are given dolls. These different toys give indication to the children that they will have different futures when they become men and women. Traditionally, girls are expected to do housework and take care of the family. On the other hand, boys are expected to work outside home and earn money to support the family. In this way, the family makes a clear distinction between boys and girls.

2. Explain how a society creates stereotypes.

It is our society that creates stereotypes, we hear the statements related to stereotypes constantly. We grow up in that particular pattern. So, we accept it without even thinking. In this way, we become fit into a set image. These images (stereotypes) are created around us by the society. Such stereotypes create discrimination among the people.

3. What are gender roles in schools? Explain.

Schools are the temple of learning children come here to develop knowledge and various skills. Though many rules and regulation are the same for boys and girls, but some rules are different also. For example, school uniform. In addition to this, textbooks often represent the gender biased ideology present in the society. Teachers give more attention and encouragement towards boys than girls. The choice of subjects taught in schools also reinforce traditional

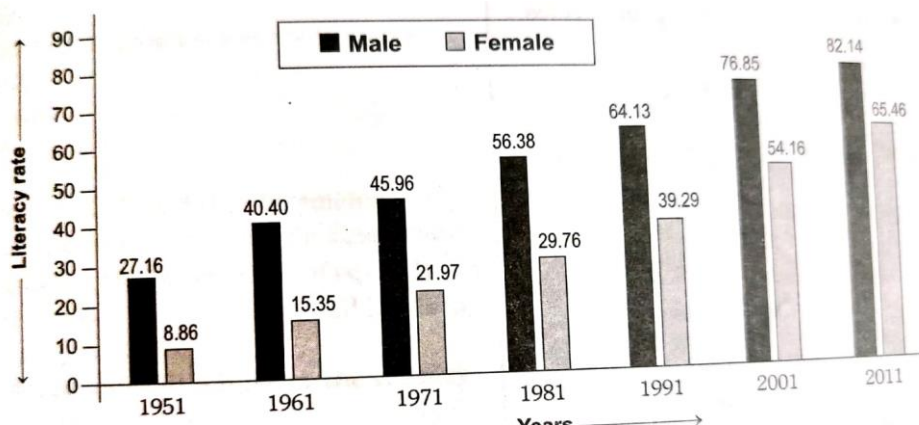
rules for women. Girls are suggested to take home-science whereas science and technology are considered to be predominantly boys' subjects.

4. Discuss about gender roles in public.

A woman is viewed as an object this belief has influenced the attitude of people towards women. A serious and shameful feature of public places is that the increasing number of incidents of violence against women are taking place. A woman has to face heinous acts of eve teasing and molestation in public places and sexual harassment at the workplaces. All these facts show the role of gender in creating unequal and illogical relations in a society.

IV. Picture Study :

1. The graph shows literacy rate in India : 1951-2011. Study the graph carefully and answer the questions that follows:



1. In which census year the male literacy rate was highest ?
2011.
2. In which census year the female literacy rate was lowest ?
1951.
3. Calculate the difference between highest and lowest female literacy rate.
Highest female literacy rate = 65.46
Lowest female literacy rate = 8.86
Difference = 56.60%
4. In which years was the male-female literacy rate gap highest and lowest?
Highest in 1981 and lowest in 2011.
5. What inference can you draw about the status of female literacy by looking at the graph?
Female literacy rates have shown remarkable improvement in India. From being only 8.86 in 1951, they have reached 65.46 in 2011