

Boys and Girls (4)

Class 7th

Sub Civics

Question 1: 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:

- *Games played by boys: cricket, football, toy cars, bows and arrows, etc.*
- *Games played by girls: dolls, kitchen set, badminton, hopscotch, etc.*

The difference between the two lists is because of prejudices in the society. Most of the people do not consider girls and boys are equal. This has a deep relationship with the role which boys and girls have to assume when they grow up. Men are usually supposed to go out to earn money. Women are supposed to stay at home to take household work and to take care of children.

Question 2: Consider the following statements:

- a. Household work is invisible and unpaid work***
- b. Housework is physically demanding.***
- c. 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 is a work which is noticed only when it is not done. In other words, if household work like cleaning, organizing things etc is not done properly, the house looks as if it has been hit by a hurricane.

Physically Demanding: It requires a lot of effort to do household work. Work like sweeping, mopping, washing clothes etc is very strenuous.

Time Consuming: Household work takes up a lot of time of women. It hence leaves them with very less time for leisure. Cleaning the house, attending to children etc are non-stop tasks.

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Question 3: Are the statements given alongside 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.

Answer: True – the roles that men and women play are not valued equally. Most of the societies devalue the role of women. In some places like Samoa it is the reverse i.e. most of the cooking (which is otherwise considered a female’s job) is done by boys. Hence no society thinks similarly about the roles boys and girls play.

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

Answer: False – Right from toys that children play with, boys and girls are treated differently. Boys are given cars and girls are given dolls to play with. Even the way of dressing and mannerisms expected of a girl and boy; are very different.

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

Answer: False – women are continuously engaged in household work with no time for leisure. If a household woman goes for strike their quantum of work would be understood by the family members.

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

Answer: True – It is considered that household work comes naturally to women and hence they need not be paid for it. It is devalued.

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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: *Latika is the name of the domestic help who works at my house. She lives in a slum that is across the road from our apartment. Six people live in her small tenement: she, her husband and their four children. The room serves as bedroom as well as kitchen. There are about one thousand people living in that slum with only five toilets for all of them. Latika's husband makes rounds in the market to repair zippers for a nominal charge. Most of the money from what he earns is spent on booze. Sometimes, he beats his wife and children. Latika's day begins at five in the morning. After finishing mopping and cleaning in seven eight houses, she goes back to her house at around one at noon. Then she does the cleaning of her room and cooks for her children. She goes to the apartment at around 4 in the afternoon for her second shift of the day. She finally calls it a day at 10 pm at night. A tired Latika reaches her house only after that. She manages to earn eight to ten thousand rupees in a month. Out of that, three thousand rupees are spent on house rent.*

Match Columns

Column I	Column II
(i) Girls	(a) Try new tricks with bicycles
(ii) Central courtyard	(b) Go to home in groups
(iii) Boys	(c) Girl's school

Answer: *i – b, ii – c, iii – a*

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Fill in the Blanks

1. _____ involves standing long hours in front of the gas stove.
2. Double burden literally means _____.
3. It is mandatory for organizations having more than ____ women to have crèche facilities.
4. Women's work is often _____
5. The government has set up many _____ in the villages of our country.

Answer:(a) Cooking, (b) Double load, (c) 30, (d) Devalued, (e) Child care centres

Multiple Choice Questions

Question 1: Women typically labour

- a. Inside the home only
- b. Outside the home only
- c. both inside and outside the home
- d. only as maid servants

Answer: (c) both inside and outside the home

Question 2: The people employed as domestic help are

- a. women
- b. young boys and girls
- c. young girls only
- d. both a and b

Answer: (d) both a and b

Question 3: Many homes, particularly in _____ employ domestic workers

- a. Rural areas
- b. towns
- c. cities
- d. both b and c

Answer: (d) both b and c

Question 4: *The work women do is _____*

- a. Not strenuous at all*
- b. strenuous*
- c. physically demanding*
- d. both b and c*

Answer: *(d) both b and c*

Short Answer Questions

Question 1: *What are the main features of household work?*

Answer: *Household work is invisible and unpaid work. It is often de-valued. It is physically demanding and very strenuous. It is also very time consuming.*

Question 2: *How are girls and boys brought up in most of the societies?*

Answer: *The kind of toys given to boys is cars; bikes etc. and the ones given to girls are dolls. Girls are expected to be soft-spoken and well mannered. Boys are expected to be tough and assertive. Girls are expected to do all household work.*

Question 3: *Write a note on the scenario in Madhya Pradesh in the 1960s.*

Answer: *From class VI girls and boys went to different schools. The girls' school had a courtyard where they played in seclusion. They often went to home in groups for security reasons. The playground of the boys' school was attached to the school. They used to idle around or try new tricks with their bicycles, after school hours.*

Very Short Answer Type

Question 1: Define identity.

Answer: It is a sense of self-awareness of who one is. A person can have many identities. For example, a person can be a girl, sister and a teacher.

Question 2: What is the meaning of care-giving?

Answer: It refers to a range of tasks that are related to looking after and nurturing. It involves giving both physical and moral support.

Question 3: Give examples of household work that involve bending and lifting.

Answer: Washing clothes, cleaning, sweeping and picking up loads.

Question 4: Define the term de-value.

Answer: It is a feeling that a person gets if he/she does not get recognition for the work done/effort put in by him/her.

Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1: Write a note on government's efforts to ensure equality for women.

Answer: Equality is an important principle in our Constitution. But in reality, inequality on the basis of gender exists. The government is therefore committed to understanding the reasons for it and taking steps to solve it. For example, it understands that the responsibility of home and child-care falls on women. This therefore has an impact on whether girls can attend school, whether women can go for work or what kind of work they can take up. As a remedy to the situation, the government has therefore set up anganwadis or child-care centres in many villages in the country. It has also passed laws that make it mandatory for organizations that have more than 30 women employees, to provide crèche facilities. This helps women to take up employment outside home and girls to attend schools.

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Question 2: Write a note on growing up in Samoa.

Answer: *The salient features of the Samoan society as per research reports are as under*

- *Children did not go to school. They learnt household work and things like how to take care of other children from older children and adults.*
- *As soon as babies learnt to walk, their parents/ other adults did not look after them. Both boys and girls as young as five years old looked after their siblings.*
- *As soon as the boys were almost nine years old, they joined the older boys in fishing and other outdoor activities like planting coconuts.*
- *Till they reached teenage, girls had to continue looking after children or do errands for adults. They had much more freedom once they entered teenage. After the age of around fourteen years, they went out for fishing, worked in the plantations, learnt how to weave baskets etc.*
- *Cooking was done in special cooking houses where boys did most of the work and girls helped with the preparations.*

Question 3: Write a note on domestic workers.

Answer: *Many homes especially in urban areas, employ domestic workers. They do a lot of work including washing utensils, clothes, sweeping, mopping, cooking etc. Most of them are women, though sometimes even young boys and girls are employed for such work. The wages are low since domestic work does not have much value. But their life is very challenging. A domestic worker's day may start as early as 5 in the morning and end at midnight! In spite of taking so much effort, the domestic workers are generally treated in a very inhumane way by their employers.*
