

# CH 4 GROWING UP AS BOYS AND GIRLS

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# CLASS VII CH 4 GROWING UP AS BOYS AND GIRLS (NCERT)

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INTRODUCTION

GROWING UP IN  
SAMOA IN 1920's

GROWING UP MALE IN  
MADHYA PRADESH IN THE  
1960s



VALUING HOUSEWORK

LIVES OF DOMESTIC  
WORKERS

WOMEN'S WORK  
AND EQUALITY

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## INTRODUCTION

- Being a boy or a girl is an important part of **ONE'S IDENTITY**. The society we grow up in teaches us what kind of **BEHAVIOUR** is acceptable for girls and boys, what boys and girls **CAN OR CANNOT DO**.

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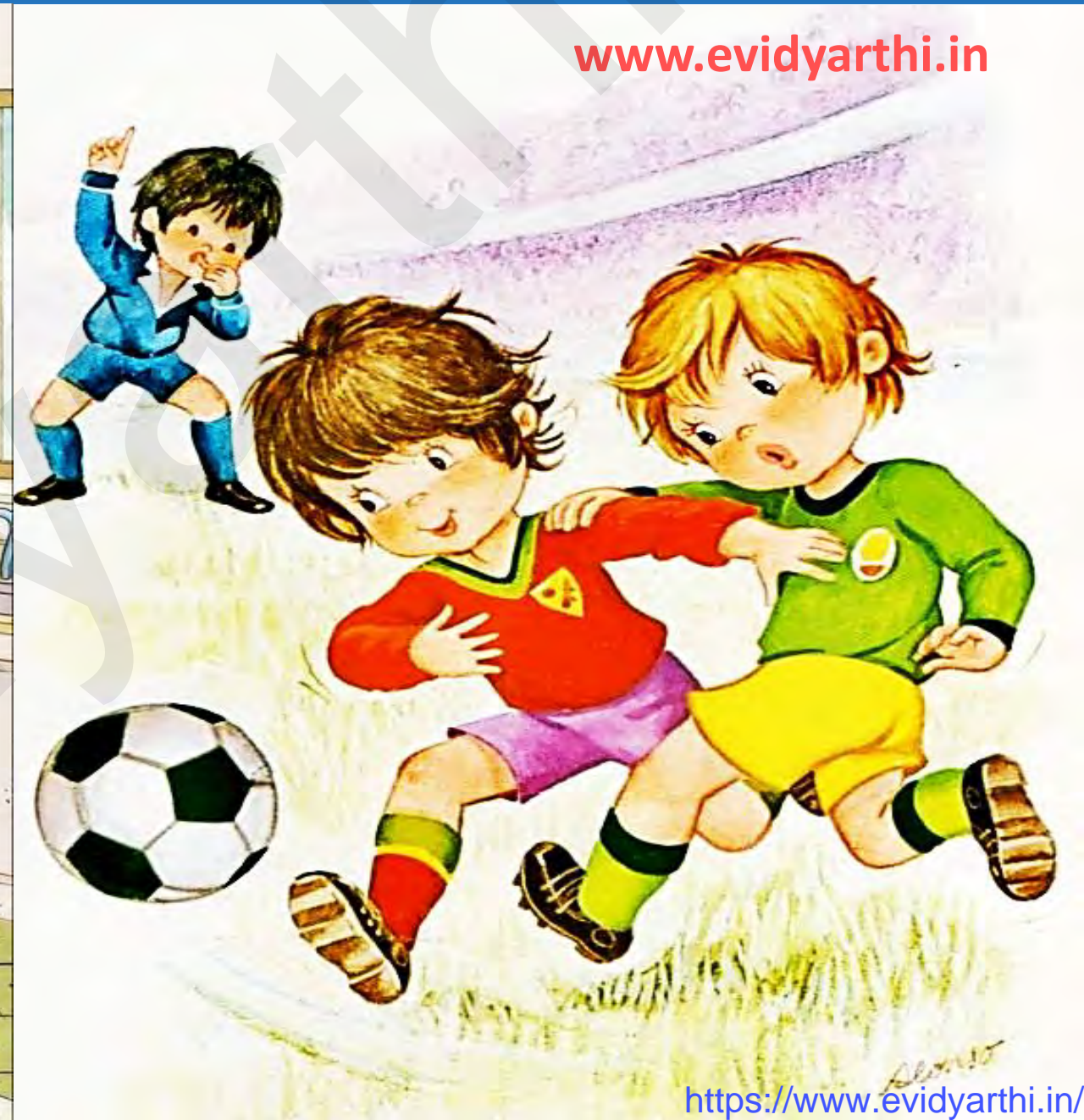
- We often grow up thinking that these things are **EXACTLY** the same **EVERYWHERE**. But do all societies look at boys and girls in the same way?
- We will also look at how the **DIFFERENT ROLES ASSIGNED** to boys and girls



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**the roles men play  
and the work they  
do.**



➤ **This chapter will  
also examine how  
inequalities  
between men and  
women emerge in  
the area of work.**







prepare them for their future **ROLES** as men and women.

- We will learn that most societies **VALUE** men and women **DIFFERENTLY**. The roles women play and the work they do are usually valued **LESS** than
- 
- 

## GROWING UP IN SAMOA IN 1920's



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- 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

# SAMOAN ISLANDS

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society, children did not go to school.

➤ **OLDER CHILDREN,** often as young as five years old, took over this **RESPONSIBILITY.**

➤ By the time a boy was



about **NINE** years old,  
he joined the older boys  
in learning outdoor jobs  
like **FISHING** and  
**PLANTING COCONUTS.**

- Girls had to continue  
**LOOKING AFTER SMALL  
CHILDREN** or do

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# PLANTING COCONUTS

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## FISHING

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errands for adults till they were teenagers.

➤ After the age of fourteen or so, girls also went on

**FISHING TRIPS,**  
how to **WEAVE BASKETS.**





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# FISHING TRIPS



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## GROWING UP MALE IN MADHYA PRADESH IN THE 1960s

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- From **CLASS VI** onwards, boys and girls went to **SEPARATE SCHOOLS**.
- The girl's school had a central **COURTYARD** where they played in seclusion



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# COURTYARD



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**BOYS SCHOOL**

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# FOOTBALL GROUND

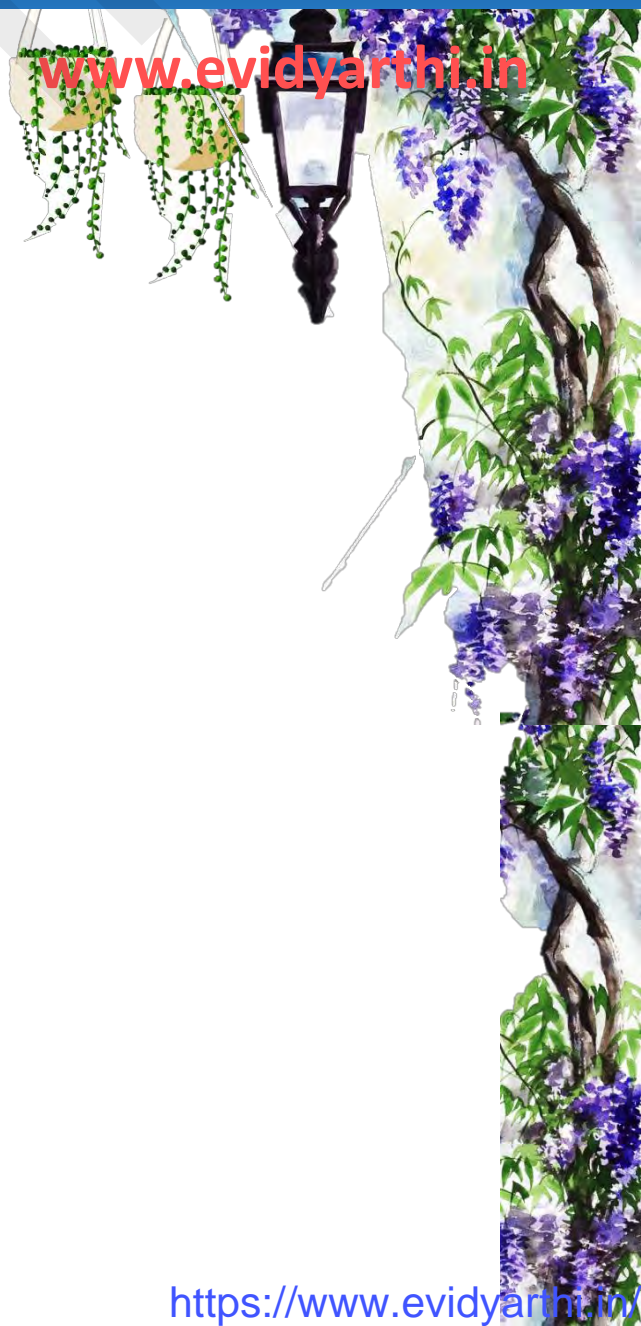




**and safety from the world outside.**

**Boys' school did not have separate enclosures.**

- **The boys used the streets as a place to stand around idling, to play, to try out tricks with their bicycles.**





- The girls always went in groups because they also carried fears of being teased or attacked.

**DISTINCTIONS** between boys and girls

- Societies make clear distinctions



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between boys and girls from an **EARLY AGE**.

- Boys are usually given **CARS** to play with and girls **DOLLS**.
- This **DIFFERENCE** is created in the **SMALLEST** and most **EVERYDAY THINGS** such as how girls must dress, what



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games boys should play,  
how **GIRLS** need to talk  
**SOFTLY** or **BOYS** need to be  
**TOUGH**.

➤ In most **SOCIETIES**, the  
roles men and women  
play or the work they do,  
are **NOT VALUED EQUALLY**.



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## 'MY MOTHER DOES NOT WORK'

Ma, we are going on a school excursion. Rosie Ma'am needs volunteers. Can't you take a holiday from office and volunteer?



Harmeet's mother always comes for excursions, because she doesn't work.



Shonali, how can you say that! You know that Jaspreet aunty is up at 5 a.m. everyday doing all the housework!

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Yes, but that's not real work, it's just house work!

Oh! That's what you think, do you? Let's go over to their house and ask Jaspreet what she thinks!





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At the Singh's house

Harsharan, Shonali thinks that your wife is not a working person!

But isn't that correct aunty? My mother is a housewife – she does not work!

Ha, ha!



Then Jaspreet, why don't you just relax and let them manage everything for a change?

Great idea!  
OK, I'll go on strike tomorrow!



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What fun! We'll take care of everything tomorrow – with Papa!



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Next morning, 7:30 a.m.



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But, what about the kids' lunch boxes?

Oh no! Forgot about that!



I'll give you some money. Just buy something from the canteen today...

Ma already gave us money for that!



Evening, 6.00 p.m.

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DING

DING



I'm exhausted! How about some tea? Oh, I forgot...your strike...I'll make some myself.



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The house looks like it was hit by a hurricane!

Did you expect it to remain in exactly the same condition in which you left it this morning, dear?

Harmeet, where on earth are the tea leaves?

Hee hee...  
I wonder if they still believe I don't work?...and now I have to remind them that Chachaji and Chachiji are coming for dinner.

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## VALUING HOUSEWORK

- **MANY WOMEN** work in **OFFICES** and many do only **HOUSEHOLD WORK**.
- **VALUING** housework is an important element which needs to be **PROPAGATED** in society.



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# WOMAN DOING OFFICE WORK

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# HOUSE WORK





➤ If we look at the lives of **DOMESTIC WORKERS**, they are involved in activities like **SWEEPING, CLEANING, COOKING, WASHING CLOTHES AND DISHES OR LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN.** Most of these are women.





## SWEEPING



# COOKING



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## WASHING CLOTHES

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# WASHING DISHES



# CARING THEIR CHILDREN



➤ A number of **HOUSEWORK** actually involves many **DIFFERENT TASKS**. The work requires **STRENUOUS** and **PHYSICALLY DEMANDING** situation.



## LIVES OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

**MELANI**, a domestic worker had to say about her **EXPERIENCE** of working in Delhi – “My first job was with **A RICH FAMILY** that lived in a three-storeyed house. The memsahib was very



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# LUXURY HOUSE





strange as she would shout to get any work done. My work was in the **KITCHEN**. There were **TWO OTHER GIRLS** who did the cleaning. Our day would begin at **5 O'CLOCK**. For breakfast we would get a cup of tea and two dry rotis. We could

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**TWO GIRLS (CLEANING)**

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# KITCHEN WORK

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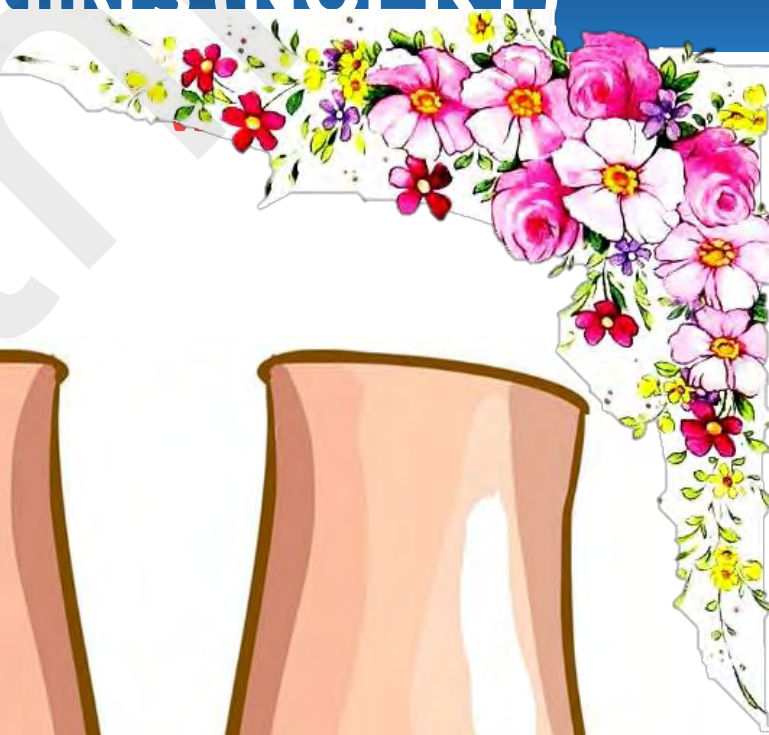




**NEVER** get a third roti. **IN THE EVENING**, when I cooked the food, the two other girls would beg me to give them an **EXTRA ROTI**. I would **SECRETLY** give it to them and make an **EXTRA ONE** for **MYSELF**. We were so **HUNGRY** after working through the day! We could not wear chappals in the house.

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**IN THE WINTER**, our feet would swell up with the cold. I used to feel scared of the memsahil but also **FELT ANGRY** and **HUMILIATED**. Did we not work all day? Did we not **DESERVE** to be **TREATED** with some **RESPECT?**”





Housework involves many **DIFFERENT TASKS**. A number of these tasks **REQUIRE HEAVY PHYSICAL WORK**. In **BOTH** rural and urban areas:

- Women and girls **FETCH WATER**.
  - Carry **HEAVY HEAD LOADS** of firewood.
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- 



# FETCHING WATER.

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➤ **PERFORM TASK** like  
WASHING CLOTHES, CLEANING,  
SWEEPING and PICKING UPLOADS  
REQUIRE BENDING, LIFTING and  
CARRYING.

➤ The work women do is  
**HARD** and **PHYSICALLY**  
**DEMANDING**. It's very **TIME**  
**CONSUMING** also.

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**HARD AND  
PHYSICALLY  
DEMANDING**





➤ If you add up the **HOUSEWORK** and the **WORK**, **WOMEN** do outside the home, you find that **WOMEN** spend much more time working **THAN MEN** and have much **LESS TIME** for **THEMSELVES**.



# HOUSEWORK

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# OFFICE WORK





The **GOVERNMENT** has set up **ANGANWADIS** or **CHILD-CARE CENTRES** in several villages in the country.

➤ The government has passed **LAWS** that make it **MANDATORY** for organisations that have more than **30 WOMEN**



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# ANGANWADIS





**EMPLOYEES** to provide  
**CRECHE FACILITIES.**

➤ A crèche is a **FACILITY** which enables parents to **LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN** while they are **AT WORK** and where children are provided with a **STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT**



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## CRECHE

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for their holistic development.

➤ for the **FAMILY**, All these works are very **TOUGH**, still, women do them **EVERY DAY**. They do not **COMPLAIN** or show any **ANGUISH** on their face.

➤ The work of women is **TIME-**



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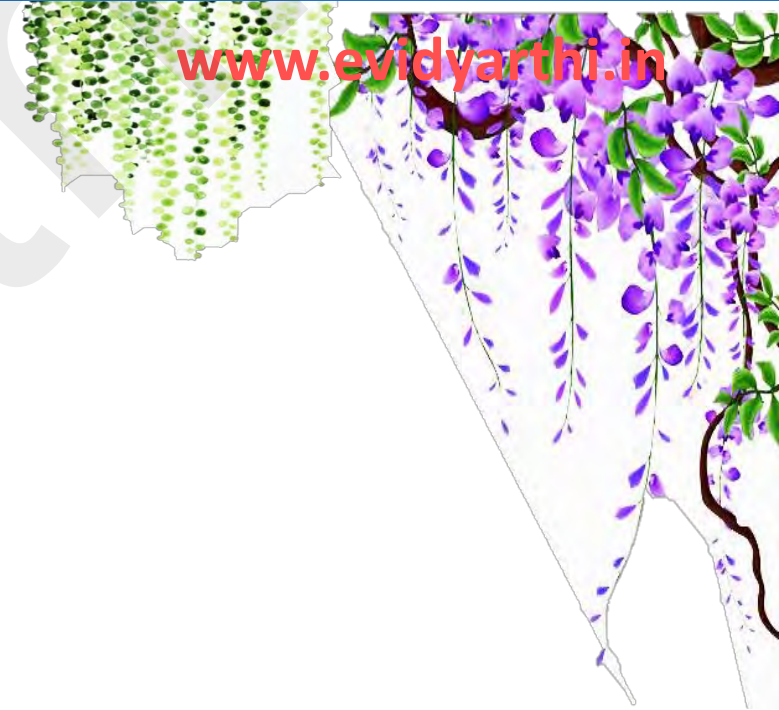


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**CONSUMING** too. They do not have much time for leisure.

- Many women nowadays **WORK** both **INSIDE AND OUTSIDE** the home. This is often referred to as the **DOUBLE BURDEN**. Women bear this double

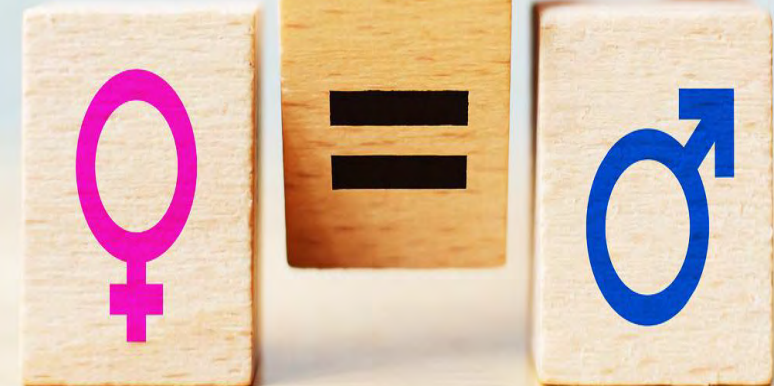


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# EQUAL PAY



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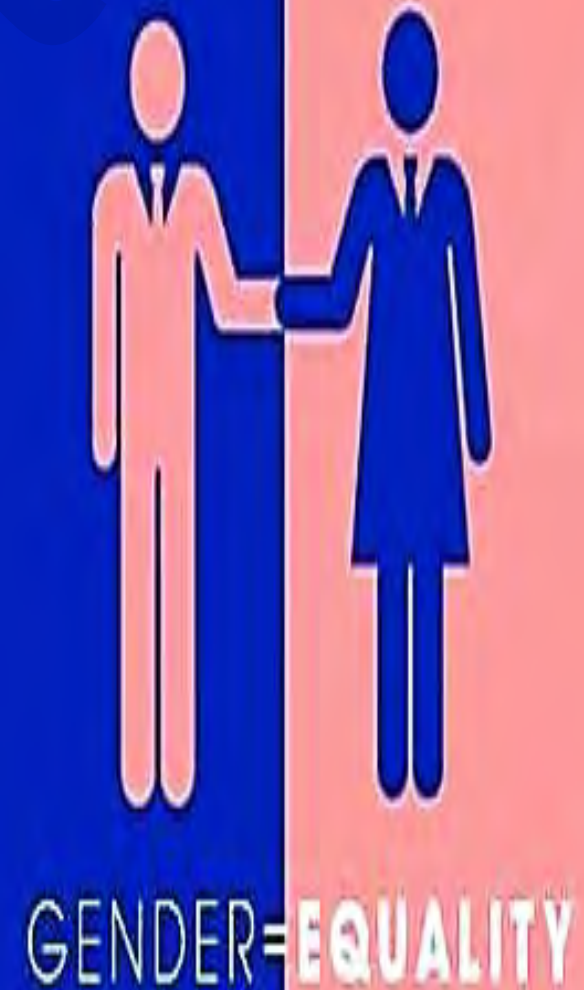
burden very  
**SKILFULLY** and  
**EFFICIENTLY.**

➤ **EQUALITY** is an  
important principle of  
our **CONSTITUTION** which  
says that being male or  
female should not  
become a reason for



**DISCRIMINATION.** But what we see in **REALITY** is that **INEQUALITY STILL EXISTS** between both the **SEXES.** The **GOVERNMENT** is, therefore, very much keen to take some positive measures to **IMPROVE** the situation.

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➤ The **GOVERNMENT** has set up **ANGANWADIS** or **CHILD-CARE CENTRES** in several villages in the country and has passed **LAWS** that make it **MANDATORY** for organisations that have more than 30 women employees to provide **CRECHE FACILITIES**.



# ANGANWADIS



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## CRECHE

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## WOMEN'S WORK AND EQUALITY

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- The **INEQUALITY** between men and women has to be dealt with through actions not just at the level of the individual or the family but also by the **GOVERNMENT**.
- The Constitution says that



# GENDER INEQUALITY





being male or female should not become a reason for **DISCRIMINATION.**

- The **GOVERNMENT** is, therefore, committed to understanding the **REASONS** for this and taking positive steps to remedy of the situation.



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