

CHAPTER- 17

ACROSS THE WALL

2 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Is there any place to play near your house?

ANSWER:

Yes, we have a playground and park near my house.

2. What do people play there? Who plays there?

ANSWER:

People play cricket, throw balls etc., on the ground. Usually, it's the children who play on the ground.

3. Do the children of your age also get a chance to play there?

ANSWER:

Yes, children of my age get turns to play there.

4. What other things happen at this place?

ANSWER:

Old age people go for a walk, people go for a jog etc., are the other things which happen there.

5. Has anyone ever stopped you from playing some games? Which games?

ANSWER:

Yes, I was stopped from playing throw ball.

6. Who stopped you and why? What did you do then?

ANSWER:

Some elderly person stopped me from playing throw ball, as he feared it might fall on my head. Then, I stopped playing it.

7. Did anyone help you and encourage you to play?

ANSWER:

Yes, little older people helped me and encouraged me to play throw ball.

8. Do girls and boys play different types of games in your school or neighborhood? If yes, then which games do the boys play, and which do the girls play?

ANSWER:

Almost all the games are played by both girls and boys. But few games are played by boys such as cricket, football, hockey, baseball etc., and girls play games such as table tennis, shuttle cock, basketball etc.

9. Do you think that there is any difference between the games and the way they are played by boys and girls?

ANSWER:

Yes, there is a difference between the way boys and girls play the game. Boys usually play very harshly, whereas girls prefer playing smoothly.

10. Should the games for boys and girls be different? What do you think?

ANSWER:

I think there should not be any differentiation between girls and boys. Since both are treated equally, anyone can play the game they like.

11. Have you ever played as part of a team in your class, school or neighborhood? Whom did you play with? What game did you play?

ANSWER:

Yes, I have played for my school team. I played along with my classmates as well as the seniors. We played throw ball.

12. What is the difference between playing for yourself and for the team?

ANSWER:

There's a huge difference between playing for myself and for the team. When we play for ourselves, there is no competition, nor there is any fun. But when we play with a team of members, we enjoy a lot, we learn how to play, and there is healthy competition.

13. While playing in a team, would you like to play for yourself or for the team? Why?

ANSWER:

While playing in a team, I would like to play for the team rather than for myself. When we play in a team, there will be a better understanding between the team members, and it will teach us unity is strength.

14. Have you ever taken part in a game or competition from your school or area? How did you feel?

ANSWER:

Yes, I have taken part in the game; I felt great when I took part in my school's competition.

15. Did you go to some other place to play? What was that place like? How did you like going to that place?

ANSWER:

Yes, we went to another school to play the game. The school looked nice, and I liked the school environment when I was there.

16. Have you seen matches being played between India and other countries? Which ones?

ANSWER:

Yes, I have seen matches being played between India and other countries. I liked India and Australia cricket match.

17. Are these women less known than men? Why?

ANSWER:

No these women are not less known than the men. These women have brought huge pride and respect to the country in their respective fields.

18. How would you find the world to be, if girls never got a chance to take part in games, drama or dance? How would you feel if such a thing happened to boys?

ANSWER:

If girls never got a chance to take part in games, drama or dance then there would be no competitions or challenges among people and hence it would become uneven world. Similarly in case of boys when it is vice-versed.

19. Do you know of any woman or girl who you would want to be like when you grow up? (Think of names other than a film actor or a model)

ANSWER:

Yes I would want to become like Sunita Williams (Astronaut) when I grow up.

5 MARK QUESTIONS

1. The newspaper report said, “Afsana has jumped over the wall. The gender wall that her mother had put up for her.” Think and write in your own words, what was this wall? What do you understand by ‘gender bias’?

ANSWER:

The word wall here refers to gender bias. Usually, in rural parts of India, there still there exists differentiation between the genders. Girls are usually not allowed to study, work or do anything of their choice, and boys are given more attention than girls. Here, Afsana’s mother is trying to tell Afsana to continue with the household work rather than to work outside. Firstly, this gender bias has to be removed from people’s minds, and equal rights have to be given to both girls and boys.

2. Should games for boys and girls be different? Think and write what you feel.

ANSWER:

I feel there should be no different games for boys or girls. Games give relief to the mind, be it a boy or a girl. Physical activity is an important aspect of a child’s life. Playing different games allows a child’s mind to be active. So, there should not be any differentiation between boys and girls.

3. If you are made the leader of a team, how will you prepare your team?

ANSWER:

If I were made the leader of a team, I would prepare them as the Nagpada team by keeping in mind a few things, such as:

- Encouraging them to play enthusiastically.
- Respect each other in a team.
- Maintaining cooperation among the team.
- Never discourage anyone, and support each other in difficult times.
- Have a healthy competition.

4. Have you heard of any women players? Name them and the games they play.

ANSWER:

Yes, I have heard women players, as mentioned below:

- PT Usha (Athletics)
- Sania Mirza (Tennis)
- Mary Kom (Boxing)
- Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
- PV Sindhu (Badminton)
- Jwala Gutta (Badminton)

5. In which areas, other than sports, have you heard of women getting recognition?

ANSWER:

There are areas where women get recognition other than sports, such as the following:

- Kalpana Chawla (Astronaut)
- Pratibha Patil (First Lady President of India)
- Kiran Bedi (Police Officer)
- Indira Gandhi (First Lady Prime Minister of India)
- Bachandri Pal (First Indian Lady to climb Mount Everest)

6. Describe Afsana's journey across the wall. What were the societal barriers she faced, and how did she overcome them?

ANSWER:

Afsana, a 13-year-old girl, jumped over the wall between her jhuggi and the local basketball court, symbolizing the gender bias imposed by society. Her mother initially opposed her playing basketball, considering it inappropriate for girls. Afsana overcame this barrier through determination, convincing her friends and coach to speak to her mother, eventually gaining permission to play.

7. Explain the significance of the Nagpada Basketball Association in Mumbai. How has it challenged societal norms?

ANSWER:

The Nagpada Basketball Association is significant for challenging gender norms in Mumbai. It has formed a successful girls' basketball team, including Afsana, who have defied societal expectations. The team's achievements have challenged the stereotype that sports, especially basketball, is only for boys.

8. What role did the coach, Noor Khan, play in shaping the Nagpada girls' basketball team? How does he contribute to breaking stereotypes?

ANSWER:

Coach Noor Khan played a pivotal role in training and forming the Nagpada girls' basketball team. He contributed by providing coaching to girls from diverse backgrounds, breaking stereotypes that limit sports participation based on gender, caste, or economic status. His efforts have led to some players even receiving the Arjuna Award.

9. Discuss the challenges faced by the girls in convincing their families to let them play basketball. How did they overcome these challenges?

ANSWER:

The girls faced resistance from their families due to societal expectations. Parents were hesitant about girls playing sports. They overcame these challenges by persistently expressing their desires, involving the coach to speak to their families, and highlighting the positive impacts of playing basketball, such as physical fitness and teamwork.

10. Analyze the girls' experiences playing in Sholapur. What did they learn from the interaction with the team from Sholapur?

ANSWER:

The girls learned the importance of teamwork and cooperation during their experience playing with the team from Sholapur. The lack of cooperation in the Sholapur team made the Nagpada girls appreciate the unity and understanding within their own team.

11. How does the Nagpada girls' basketball team promote inclusivity by playing with boys' teams? Discuss the challenges they face and how they overcome them.

ANSWER:

The team promotes inclusivity by playing with boys' teams, challenging gender stereotypes. They face challenges such as imitations and sometimes leniency, but they address these issues by scolding boys when necessary and viewing it as a challenge to improve their skills.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Afsana and the Nagpada basketball team made it to the _____ of a district-level tournament. **(semi-finals)**
2. Zarin used to watch boys play from her balcony in Class _____, and she wished she could also play. **(VII (7))**
3. Afsana's mother initially opposed her playing basketball, putting up a _____ wall. **(gender)**
4. The girls faced resistance from their families in convincing them to let them play, but with persistence, they managed to _____. **(overcome)**
5. Coach Bacchu Khan played a crucial role in _____ children to play on the muddy land, forming players from the area. **(training)**
6. The Nagpada girls' basketball team faced challenges when playing with a team from _____, where there was a lack of cooperation. **(Sholapur)**

7. According to the girls, the strength of their team lies in _____, understanding, and supporting each other well.

(unity)

8. Coach Noor Khan mentioned that players should be recognized for their _____ rather than their caste or economic status.

(ability)

9. The girls' team aspired to play for their _____ and bring glory to their area by winning a gold medal. **(Country)**

10. The coach emphasized that it is important for players to play as a team, understanding each other's _____ and weaknesses.

(strengths)

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Afsana and the Nagpada basketball team reached the _____ of a district-level tournament.

- a) quarterfinals
- b) semi-finals
- c) finals
- d) preliminary rounds

Answer: b) semi-finals

2. Zarin used to watch boys play when she was in Class _____.

- a) V (5)
- b) VII (7)
- c) IX (9)
- d) XI (11)

Answer: b) VII (7)

3. Afsana's mother initially opposed her playing basketball, putting up a _____ wall.

- a) brick
- b) glass
- c) gender
- d) concrete

Answer: c) gender

4. The girls faced resistance from their families in convincing them to let them play, but with persistence, they managed to _____.

- a) withdraw
- b) overcome
- c) accept
- d) ignore

Answer: b) overcome

5. Coach Bacchu Khan played a crucial role in _____ children to play on the muddy land, forming players from the area.

- a) discouraging
- b) preventing
- c) training
- d) stopping

Answer: c) training

6. The Nagpada girls' basketball team faced challenges when playing with a team from _____, where there was a lack of cooperation.

- a) Mumbai
- b) Sholapur
- c) Delhi
- d) Kolkata

Answer: b) Sholapur

7. According to the girls, the strength of their team lies in _____, understanding, and supporting each other well.

- a) competition
- b) unity
- c) individual performance
- d) rivalry

Answer: b) unity

8. Coach Noor Khan mentioned that players should be recognized for their _____ rather than their caste or economic status.

- a) achievements
- b) personality
- c) ability
- d) popularity

Answer: c) ability

9. The girls' team aspired to play for their _____ and bring glory to their area by winning a gold medal.

- a) city
- b) state
- c) country
- d) region

Answer: c) country

10. The coach emphasized that it is important for players to play as a team, understanding each other's _____ and weaknesses.

- a) strengths
- b) talents
- c) abilities
- d) skills

Answer: a) strengths

SUMMARY

The narrative "Across the Wall" revolves around Afsana and the Nagpada girls' basketball team, highlighting their journey to overcome societal barriers and excel in the sport. Afsana, a determined 13-year-old, defies her mother's initial opposition to playing basketball due to gender bias. With the support of her friends and Coach Bacchu Khan, Afsana and her teammates, including Zarin, Khushnoor, and Afreen, form the Nagpada Basketball Association.

The girls face resistance from their families, challenging societal norms that restrict girls from playing sports. Despite initial hesitations, they persist, convincing their families and breaking gender stereotypes. Coach Noor Khan plays a crucial role in training and forming the girls' team, emphasizing the importance of recognizing players based on ability rather than societal factors.

The team's unity becomes its strength, and they excel in district-level tournaments, even reaching the semi-finals. The girls share their experiences, emphasizing the challenges faced and the importance of cooperation within the team. They also play with boys' teams, challenging stereotypes and demanding equal treatment.

The narrative underscores the significance of sports in promoting inclusivity and breaking down societal barriers. The girls aspire to play for their country, showcasing the transformative power of sports in empowering individuals and challenging societal norms. The coach's dedication and the girls' determination exemplify the potential of sports to bring about positive social change.