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**CHAPTER-4**

**GROWING UP AS BOYS AND GIRLS**

Qs 1. Describe the life of children in the Samoan Islands in the 1920s.

Ans. 1. Children did not go to school.

2. As soon as babies could walk, their mothers or other adults no longer looked after them.

3. Older children, often as young as five years old, looks after their younger siblings.

4. By the time a boy was nine years old, he joined the older boys in learning outdoor jobs like fishing and planting coconuts.

5. Girls after the age of fourteen or so, also went on fishing trips, worked in the plantations, learnt how to weave baskets.

Qs 2. Why did girls used to walk in groups after school in Madhya Pradesh?

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

Qs 3. Describe the life of children in Madhya Pradesh in the 1960s.

Ans. 1. From class VI onwards, boys and girls went to separate schools.

2. The girls’ school had a central courtyard where they played in total seclusion and safely from the outside world.

3. The boys’ school had no such courtyard and their playground was just a big space attached to the school.

4. Every evening, once school was over, the boys watched bas hundreds of school girls crowded the narrow streets.

5. For boys, streets was a place to stand around idling, to play, to try out tricks with their bicycles. But for girls, the street was simply a place to get straight home. They used to watch in groups.

Qs 4. Why at a very young age, girls are given dolls whereas boys are given cars to play with?

Ans. Toys become a way of telling children that they will have different futures when they become men and women. This difference is created in the smallest and most everyday things. How girls should dress, what games should boys play, how girls need to talk softly or boys need to be tough.

Qs 5. What is the responsibility of a woman at home?

Ans. Across the world, the main responsibility for housework and care-giving tasks, like looking after the family, especially children, the elderly and sick members, lies with women.

Qs 6. Why is the housework which a woman does is not recognized as work?

Ans. It is assumed that this is something that comes naturally to women. It, therefore, does not have to be paid for. And society devalues this work.

Qs 7. What is the work a domestic worker does?

Ans. They do a lot of work- sweeping and cleaning, washing clothes and dishes, cooking, looking after young children or the elderly.

Qs 8. ‘The work women do is strenuous and physically demanding.’ Comment.

Ans. In rural areas women and girls carry heavy headlocks of firewood. Tasks like washing clothes, cleaning, sweeping and picking up loads require bending, lifting and carrying. Many chores, like cooking, involve standing for long hours in front of the hot stoves. Thus, the work women do is strenuous and physically demanding.

Qs 9. Many women work both inside and outside the home. This is often referred as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of women’s work.

Ans. Double burden.

Qs 10. What are the steps taken by the government to remedy the inequality between the sexes?

Ans. 1.The government has set up anganwadis or child-care centres in several villages in the country.

2. The government has passes laws that make it mandatory for organizations that have more than 30 women employees to provide crèche facilities. The provision of crèche helps many women to take up employment outside the home. It also makes it possible for more girls to attend schools.