

Unpacking Gender

New Terms:

- **Anticipate:** To expect or look forward to.
- **Amoeba:** A single cell living creature.
- **Avenues:** Channels – openings for employment or occupation.
- **Chores:** jobs or tasks.
- **Exclusive schools:** Single sex schools / separate schools for boys and girls.
- **Evidence:** Proof.
- **Evolutions:** Process of gradual peaceful change.
- **Gender:** Male or female.
- **Primitive:** Relating to earliest times.
- **Scared:** Frightened.
- **Veil:** An item of dress traditionally worn by Muslim women covering the body from head to feet.
- **Unpacking Gender:** Upholding gender inequalities or disparities.

Multiple Choice / Very Short Answer Questions:

1. Complete the following statements:

- (a) Family expectations determine _____ roles.
- (b) Women are biologically _____ for combat roles in defense forces.
- (c) Traditional families still prefer to send their girls to _____ schools.
- (d) Gender bias is a _____ and not a natural outcome of physical differences.

Ans: (a) Gender
(b) Weak
(c) Exclusive school
(d) Social construct

2. Primitive women stayed indoors at the cave as they:

- (a) Could not hunt.
- (b) Had to care for infant children.
- (c) Had to breast feed very young children.
- (d) All the above.

Ans: (d) All the above.

3. Which of the following factors determine the gender roles?

- (a) Family expectations.
- (b) Religious practices.
- (c) Community customs.
- (d) All the above.

Ans: (d) All the above.

Short / long Answer Questions:

1. Why did primitive societies keep their women indoors?

Ans: In the primitive societies man had to out and hunt for existence. The women could not move and hunt especially if they were child. This make them tied up with the responsibilities of home, which includes caring for small children if they had to be breast fed. For this reason women in the primitive societies keep their women indoors.

2. Mention any three jobs that are traditionally believed to be more suited for women.

Ans: The jobs which are traditionally believed to be suited for women rather than men are cooking, washing, bringing up children and to do household chores. Even in the highly developed societies certain jobs are considered suited for women like nursing, back office jobs etc.

3. Give two examples to show that gender bias is a social construct not necessarily related to physical differences.

Ans: Gender bias is a social construct not necessarily related to physical differences for example, in many countries as well as in India there were lots of evidences that women has been successful as man. Such evidences are:

i. In the administrative services the name of Indira Gandhi and Dr. Pratibha Devisingh Patil are remarkable.

ii. In science and technology Kalpana chawla, etc.

All of these proves that gender bias is a social construct and not determined solely by biological differences.

4. How are gender roles in tribal societies different from those in developed societies? Mention any two.

Ans: The discrimination in regards of gender effects much less in the tribal communities and villages. The rules, that decides whether a job will be done by a men or women vary from rural and urban. In the villages and tribal community women go out in jungles for work but women in towns is much unsafe in towns and cities.

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of co – educational schools? Mention two each.

Ans: Advantages of co – educational schools:

i. It develop e competitive environment in the schools.

ii. Co – education supports girls and teaches gender equality.

Disadvantages of co – educational schools:

i. Co – educational institution exist only in the cities.

ii. This types of institutions caters to the elite section of the society only.

