



**SAHBHAGI SHIKHAN KENDRA**

---

---

**REPORT ON ORIENTATION OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS OF GENDER RELATED ISSUES**

---

In the case of girls, adolescent phase is most difficult because they are facing lot of social barriers and as these adolescents grow, they have lot of myths and misconceptions which need to be properly addressed. At the same time, there are lots of physical emotional and social changes which take place, and they have a dilemma of identity as child and adult. Many different processes by which the expectations associated of being a boy (man) and being a girl (woman) are passed on through society. Gender is an essentially dynamic concept which brings into question the apparent immutability of social roles. Understanding of gender refers to the complex social, political, economic, and psychological relations between men and women in society. Gender is part of the social structure. Gender speaks of unequal power relations between men and women. Keeping this in the background one day orientation for members of the "*Kishori samuh*" was planned.

**Objective of the Training Programme**

---

- ✦ Sensitizes the adolescent girls on the issue of gender.
  - ✦ To provide a platform for adolescent girls for sharing their feelings on the unequal power relations between men and women.
- 

**Date:** 22/10/09

---

**Venue:** Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Varanasi – Office

---

**Facilitators Team:** Sudhir Singh, Uttara and Babita.

---

**Participants:** 2 (Adolescence girls from Dhaurahara Area), Varanasi

---

**Proceedings:**

---

Training programme began with a song. During the introduction session each participant introduced themselves. They also shared their family background and hobbies. This gave an interactive introduction; this helped in establishing a great rapport with the participants. The idea of knowledge of the participants and expectations helped us to where to start our discussion on given topic :-

- ✦ Understanding Gender Concepts
- ✦ Gender implications on roles and identity

In general discussion,

- A participant Sima Begam said that Gender, means socially constructed sex, be it female or male.

With this major point, Mr Sudhir Singh discussed with the participants on gender and its concept. He focused on:

**"Differentiating Sex from Gender and Defining Sex and Gender"**



Sex refers to Physical Characteristics - characteristics that are present only (exclusively) to men or only to women. Characteristics that are present from birth (genitalia). **Where as Gender Refers to the socially learned behaviours and expectations that are associated with the two sexes .**

He explained with several examples that *Gender* refers to the attributes and opportunities associated of being male and female, and the socio-cultural relationships between women and men, or girls and boys, as well as the relations between different groups of women and different groups of men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and learned through socialization process. They are context specific and changeable (flexible). Gender determines what is expected, allowed



and valued in a woman and a man in different contexts. In most societies there are differences and disparities (inequalities) between women and men in activities undertaken, access to and control over resources and decision-making (power) opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty-level or wellbeing, ethnic group, religious affiliation and age. He informed the girls that:

- **This is set by culture and society**
- **Changes through time and history**
- **Attributes and designations may change depending on the place and the culture.**

After Tea Break session starts with help of educational CD and Movies Clips, which were related to Gender Expectation its role and identity then after starts general discussion on educational CD and Movies Clips and tried to know there conclusions.

- ☉ **A Participant ,Babita said that due to family pressure we are not getting basic right like education permission to enjoy those game which we liked like kabadi,kho-kho etc.**
- ☉ **Same time Nargis said that family itself under the pressure of society.**
- ☉ **Maharu Nisha said that man have more prestige, respect and responsibility in the society ,in compare to women.**





With this point Babita asked one question to girls, why are women not getting prestige, respect and responsibility in the society, in compare to men?

☉ A participant Tamana Bano said that they are not functional like man.

With these major points, Babita and Uttara had hold discussion with the use of participatory methodology they informed participants about:

### **Gender Expectations**

In brief they explained that Gender Expectations establishes usually biological sex but it is not completely true. Here and there social norms and culture produce it. Femininity and masculinity are cultural concepts and as such have fluctuating meanings, are learned differently by different members of culture, and are relative to the historical and cultural contexts in which they emerge.

### **Gender implications on roles and identity**

In brief they explained that Gender play significant role to decide the expectations for behaviour and attitudes that the culture defines as appropriate for men and women. Same time they illustrate that the socialization process controls us in several ways:

- Gives us a definition of ourselves
- Defines the external world and our place in it
- Provides our definition of others, our relationships
- Encourages and discourages acquisition of certain skills by gender.

After lunch next session starts with certain activities that which showcase the roles, functions and activities which performed by man or women. With the help of these three activities, Babita and Uttara clarified the certain myth like women are not functional like man and also clarify how roles, functions and activities directly related to the Women identity, prestige and respect.

In the end participants saw the Audio-Visual of Nanda and Maan ke Manjere which is helpful for the participant to understand the dynamics of empowerment related to self empowerment and Self realization.. It is helpful for participant to know that changes never come by the magic stick. Same time it gives realization worthy goal.



### **Observation :**

- 
- ☉ They want to understand the Social Construction of Gender and want more discussions on it.
  - ☉ They have lots of hesitation regarding relationship men and women.
  - ☉ They have enthusiastic approach in orientation..