

Part Two: Religious Beliefs of Hindu Religion**Lesson-4 and 5: The Dignity of Women**

Work place of men and women in life: Most of the time a man works outside. On the other hand, home becomes a favourite work place for many women.

Daughter's place: A daughter grows up under her parents' affection and care after her birth. She goes to husband's house in married life and takes care of husband's home. In old age, the same woman has to depend on her sons and daughters.

Three different rules of a woman: There are three different rules of a woman in our society - a daughter, a wife and a mother. As a wife her jobs are to take care of husband's family, rearing of children and ensuring their education. Thus a woman does her family work and inspires her children for better education and shapes up their character. Only an ideal mother can work for ideal children. To a child only a mother is the best shelter, encourager and the source of joy in well and woe. It is a duty of a child to respect his or her mother and serve her properly.

What does Manu-Sanhita say about familial life: Manu- Sanhita is one of the books of Hindu religion. It suggests how peace can be ensured in familial life. It tells that if the women of a family lead their lives in joy and festivals, God blesses that family with peace and prosperity. So, respectful behaviour to the women has become the part of religion.

Advashakti: In Hinduism, woman symbolizes God's nature and power. It is the primeval power (Adyashakti) Mahamaya. There cannot be anything without power. And the goddess for that power is a woman. Thus, the Hindu religion has expressed the dignity to the power of women.

Ardhanarishawar: Hindu Religious Books also tell that God divides Himself into two parts for creation _ one part is man and the other part is woman. This division is equal _ no less or more. We find in an idol by the name of 'Ardhanarishawar' – one half of this is Shiva and the other half is Parvati (Durga). This signifies the equality between man and woman. It also manifests the equal dignity of man and woman.

What has been said in Anushasan Parba of Mahavarata about gods' live in the family with joy: It is said in the Anushasan Parba (46/5 and 46/6) of Mahavarata that, gods live in the family with joy where women are provided with proper respect. On the other hand, if any woman is disregarded in a family all good acts ultimately go in vain.

Proper way to respect women: The proper way to respect women is to remember that women are part of the primeval power_ Devi Mahamaya. We should behave with women taking an equal view for women following the rules of religious books. God lives in women too as soul. So, if we show dignity to women, we will show dignity to God too.

Conclusion: Hindu Religion is established on the beliefs of Karmabad and Janmsantarbad, feelings of dignity to women, serving the living beings considering them God, the concept of sin and virtue, the idea of the heaven and hell etc. All these beliefs develop humanity among mankind and inspire all to maintain peace and discipline in family and social life.

Worksheet**Part Two: Religious Beliefs of Hindu Religion****Short Questions from Lesson-4 and 5:**

- 1) Where does a man work most of the time?
- 2) For whom does home become a favourite work place?
- 3) Under whose affection and care does a daughter grow up after her birth?
- 4) Where does a daughter go after her marriage?
- 5) How many different rules of women are there in our society? What are these?
- 6) What are the jobs of a woman as a wife?
- 7) Who can only work for ideal children?
- 8) Who is the best shelter, encourager and the source of joy in well and woe of a child?
- 9) What is the duty of a child towards his/ her mother?
- 10) What is Manu-Sanhita?
- 11) What does Manu-Sanhita suggest about the peace of familial life?
- 12) How has the respectful behaviour to the woman become the part of religion?
- 13) How does the woman symbolize in Hindu Religion?
- 14) How has Hindu Religion expressed the dignity to the women?
- 15) Who is Adyashakti?
- 16) Into how many parts does God divide Himself for creation? What are these?
- 17) What is 'Ardhanarishawar'? What does it signify?
- 18) What does 'Ardhanarishawar' manifest?
- 19) What has been said in Anushasan Parba of Mahavarata about gods' live in the family with joy?
- 20) What is proper way to respect women?
- 21) How should we behave with women?
- 22) How does God live in women?
- 23) On which beliefs is Hindu Religion established?
- 24) How can we show dignity to women?

Broad Questions from Lesson-4 and 5:

- 1) "The best role of a woman is that of a mother". Explain this statement with example.
- 2) Write down some ways to ensure proper dignity for women.