CHAPTER IV

WOMEN'S VOICES
4.1 CASE STUDY OF KAVITA

Socio economic profile

Age - 43 years
Educational Qualification - B.A, L.L.B
Occupation - Housewife
Family of orientation - Joint family
Family of procreation - Nuclear family
Children and ages - One daughter and one son aged 20 and 19 years respectively.

Introduction
Kavita, in her early forties is a housewife who has grown up with a lot of restrictions. Her mother used to always fuss over her, "don't do this, don't do that", "remember you are a girl". After her marriage she was asked to discontinue her studies. She used to hate all this. And now she does the same thing to her daughter. She keeps fussing over her daughter and her daughter complains about it.

Toy play
When asked about her children's toy play Kavita replies "as usual boys like to play with cars and girls with dolls". She says she gave the toys according to the children's liking. She feels there is something inherent about gender specific selection of toys by children.

Emotions
Of her two children her daughter is more emotional which according to Kavita is quite natural. She feels that as the daughter stays at home most of the time, she understands that mother or father is worried for this or that, hence she also becomes sentimental in the process. For the same reason she believes that daughters have a better appreciation of parents' emotions and feelings than the sons. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with both her son and daughter.

Peer group
Kavita's children have peers of both the sexes. She sees no reason for concern as long as the children take things in the proper light.

**Leisure activities**
So far as leisure activities go, while her son goes out to play with his friends, which is quite natural according to Kavita, her daughter prefers to stay at home.

**Behaviour patterns**
Kavita asks both her children to be polite and respectful to elders and to be kind and considerate to people around. There are certain things which she is very particular about in the case of her daughter. Like asking her to be careful about her body posture when she goes out.

**Psychological attributes**
Kavita describes her children, son, as well as daughter as confident, mentally strong, assertive, aggressive, and competitive excepting the fact that her daughter is a little more confident than her son.

**Household work**
Her children help her with the household work, like serving guests and getting things from the market. Her husband also helps her with the household tasks. She gets a bit irritated says Kavita when her daughter does not help her with the household tasks, especially when she is free.

**Sociability**
Kavita feels that a daughter has to be sociable as she has to maintain social contacts especially after her marriage.

**Character**
So far as character goes, Kavita is of the firm belief that a daughter's character is more important for purposes of her marriage and society's reaction.

**Marriage and family**
Kavita would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 25 or 26. Son would marry when he settles down. She would not want either of her children to remain single. Marriage is essential for companionship feels Kavita. She would definitely allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies. So far as values on marriage and family go kavita tells her daughter that when she gets married she would be going into a different family. She should respect her in laws like her parents. Kavita feels that it is the wife who plays an important role in setting up the home.

**Occupational roles**
Choice of children's future occupational roles is best left to them says Kavita. She believes that financial independence is necessary for a girl, as at times there could be shortage of money. At the same time she says that the mother should do a kind of job which is quite flexible in terms of working hours so that the mother can be at home whenever the children need her.

**Cinderella complex**
Kavita says she might not accept a job which is higher in pay than her husband's as it might cause some embarrassment to her husband who may be scared of what the society might think. She lends full credence to the belief that howsoever financially independent a girl might be, she always craves for male support and protection. And that happens because everybody is scared of society feels Kavita. Society's reaction is uppermost in everybody's mind.

### 4.2 CASE STUDY OF ANITA

**Socio economic profile**

**Age - 47**

**Educational Qualification - M.A, M.Phil**

**Occupation - Lecturer**

**Family of orientation - Joint family**

**Family of procreation – Nuclear family**

**Children and ages - Two daughters and one son aged 18, 15 and 13 years respectively**
**Introduction**

A lecturer by profession Anita in her late forties has had a very restricted childhood. There was a lot of discrimination between brothers and sisters, she says. With great difficulty she could complete her graduation.

**Toy play**

Anita’s children used to play with cars and airplanes. She feels there is nothing inherent about gender specific toy selection by children. It all depends on what their parents give them.

**Emotions**

Her son is very emotional. He gets hurt easily says Anita. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughters. She does not believe that daughters are more empathetic towards the parents than the sons.

**Peer group**

When her children were small they had peers of both the sexes. But now they have same sex peers. She would be concerned she says if they were to cultivate peers of the opposite sex.

**Leisure activities**

While her daughters paint during their free time her son confines himself to the home doing nothing.

**Behaviour patterns**

There is one thing which she would never tolerate in her daughters and that is what she calls as “masculine activities” like running, thumping one’s leg, too much of body movement or laughing loudly.

**Household work**

Her daughters help her with the household work. But her son doesn’t help her. He thinks its a girl’s job. Her husband also does not help her. She feels that housework should be shared by both the
partners but at the same time she also feels that it should not be taken to mean that if it doesn’t happen in reality one should dump one’s husband and come off.

Psychological attributes
Anita describes her daughters as total extroverts who are very confident of themselves and are mentally strong and assertive whereas her son suffers from a terrible form of inferiority complex. Anita is very concerned about this kind of behaviour on the part of her son. She tries to explain things to him. But she says things have reached a dead end.

Sociability
Anita’s daughters are very sociable and amiable. But her son keeps very aloof. She believes that both son and daughter should be sociable.

Character
Anita is of the firm belief that parents have to be extra careful about a daughter’s moral reputation because of the simple reason that she is under the close scrutiny of society members. Any hint of romantic attachment on her part could make her life miserable not only with respect to her marital life but also her everyday social interaction.

Marriage and family
Anita would like her children to get married at what she calls “the right age”. She would not mind she says if they decide to remain single. But she would definitely be worried if they marry late. Further studies can always continue after marriage says Anita. When her daughters gets married, she would ask them to adopt a compromising and accommodating attitude at their inlaws place. So far as setting up a home is concerned Anita is categorical in stating that the wife plays the important role in this respect.

Occupational roles
Anita would like her daughters to be educated and well settled in life. She wants them to be equipped with a job for three primary reasons. One she says gossip becomes primary when women sit at home doing nothing. Secondly in today’s competitive world it is difficult to afford a
decent standard of living with a single source of income and lastly if something disastrous were to happen in their marital life then they should be able to manage on their own. But she does not want her daughters to take up a job that entails night shifts as that would clash with their duties on the domestic front and they would neglect their homes.

Cinderella complex
Anita says that she would never take up a job that is better than her husband's in terms of pay and position because she believes her husband would not take kindly to the idea of his wife earning more than him. She lends full credence to the belief that howsoever independent a girl might be she always craves for male support and protection and that happens because she is brought up in a very protective environment.

4.3 CASE STUDY OF SANGEETA

Socio economic profile

Age – 48 years
Educational Qualification – B.A
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Nuclear family
Children and ages – Two daughters and one son aged 27, 26 and 18 years respectively.

Introduction
Sangeeta in her late forties is a mother of three grown up children. While she described her parents as very broadminded, she made it amply clear that there were a lot of restrictions on them, the daughters. She never shared with her mother the kind of closeness she shares with her daughters today.

Toy play
When small her daughters used to play with dolls and her son with cars. She gave them the toys. Sangeeta feels that there is something inherent about gender specific selection of toys by children.

**Emotions**
None of Sangeeta's children is emotional. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughters because her son is too small. Sangeeta is not very sure, but she feels that daughters might have a better understanding of parent's emotions and feelings than the son does because they spend more time at home. Sons are away from home most of the time.

**Peer group**
Sangeeta's children have peers of both the sexes. Even if they were to have peers of the opposite sex, it would not bother her, she says.

**Leisure activities**
When young Sangeeta's daughters used to go to the neighbour's place to play. Her son also went there along with his bat and ball. Now of course daughters spend time at home whereas the son goes out.

**Behaviour patterns**
Sangeeta says that while she asks her children to be soft spoken, gentle and polite, she is more particular about all this in the case of her daughter. Boys can afford to be harsh and rude, she says, but not girls.

**Psychological attributes**
Sangeeta rates her daughters as very confident, mentally strong, assertive and competitive. None of her children is aggressive. But her son is very diffident about himself. This makes Sangeeta very concerned. She tells him that he should develop confidence in himself. If girls today can be so confident and smart, then why not boys?

**Household work**
Sangeeta's children help her with the household tasks. Her husband also helps her a lot.
Character
Sangeeta feels that both boys and girls should have a spotless reputation. But because girls are more vulnerable towards being labeled as characterless, she would exercise a little more control on her daughters than her son. It's only a safeguard she says.

Sociability
Sangeeta's children are not social. But she is not bothered about her son because he will stay in this family and will have the same set of relatives. So where's the need to be sociable. But for her daughters, there is slight concern. They will marry into another house says Sangeeta and have so many new relatives. Hence it becomes imperative for them to remain in the good books of those relatives and hence they need to be sociable.

Marriage and family
Ideally, Sangeeta would like her daughters to be married by the time they are 25 or 26. She would not like either of her children to remain single. Marriage is a must feels Sangeeta. Sangeeta says that if her daughter has already approached marriageable age and still wants to go abroad for further studies then she would look for a match where there is scope for her daughter to further her career interests as well. Sangeeta wants her daughters to be good daughters-in-law. They should be polite and respectful towards their inlaws. She would ask her son not to nurture this male ego which says, "I am a man, so I have all freedom". His wife can lead as independent a lifestyle as her husband says Sangeeta.

Occupational roles
The children's future occupational role is best left to them, says Sangeeta. But she has always believed that her daughters should work and be financially independent. If she gets a good match for her daughter, then she will marry off her daughter. Later she can talk it out with her husband and decide to work.

Cinderella complex
According to Sangeeta, there is no particular harm if the wife is earning more than the husband. But the husband might develop a kind of inferiority complex. Besides every wife wants that her
husband be better placed than she is. She says its true that girls are always dependent on men and this happens because a girl's physical vulnerability makes her dependent on men on the mental level as well.

4.4 **CASE STUDY OF SUNANDA**

**Socio economic profile**

Age – 58 years
Educational Qualification – B. Sc
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Joint family
Children and ages – Sunanda has eight children, five daughters and three sons.

**Introduction**

Sunanda a housewife in her late fifties has been dominated by her husband from day one of her marriage. She reveals that she had nurtured several secret ambitions and desires which have been placed at the backburner on account of her domineering husband. She is full of praises for her children especially her daughters who she says are good natured human beings. She describes her daughters as her sons who have been her pillars of support throughout her ups and downs.

**Toy play**

According to Sunanda, her sons always played with cars, guns, sticks and her daughters played with dolls, kitchen sets etc. She herself gave them these toys because she felt that girls like to play with dolls and boys with sticks and sons.

**Emotions**

Her daughters are more emotional than her sons' says Sunanda. Boys have a greater control over their emotions. They don't break down easily. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughters. She feels comfortable sharing her thoughts with them. She feels that daughters are more empathetic towards their parents.
Peer group
Her daughters have always had same sex peers, whereas one of her sons had peers of both the sex. Sunanda says she was very particular about her daughters peer group. It was firmly laid down that they should not have peers of the opposite sex.

Leisure activities
While her sons used to go out and play during their free time, her daughters used to stay back at home and engage themselves in some household work or stitching and painting. She didn't like the idea of her daughters going out too often.

Behaviour patterns
Sunanda says, she always told her children to show respect to elders and to be polite in their manners. She does not like it if girls are loudmouthed and boisterous.

Psychological attributes
She describes her daughters as very confident, mentally strong and competitive, whereas her sons are very aggressive about everything. She describes her third daughter as aggressive and this makes her concerned she says. Sunanda feels it doesn't look nice if girls are assertive and aggressive. But similar characteristics with boys, seem okay from her point of view.

Household work
Her daughters have always helped her with the household work, says Sunanda. Her husband helps her a lot says Sunanda. He does not help with the daily chores but gets the monthly ration, prepares the menu when guests are invited and at times in deciding the menu for the day. She believes that daughters should be taught cooking early in life. But she never felt the necessity of teaching cooking to her sons. In her own words, "Girls have to be taught everything as they have to get married, but boys learn as and when the situation crops up".

Character
Sunanda feels that while a spotless character is an essential prerequisite in the case of a girl, it is not very essential in the case of a boy. Once a girl acquires a wild reputation, her life gets ruined.
Sociability
The ability to get along with others is a necessity in the case of girls says Sunanda. After all they have to get married and set up a new home. If they do not mix with people, who will go to their house?

Marriage and family
Sunanda feels that daughters should be married by the time they are 24 or 25. All her daughters were married around that age, excepting for her two younger daughters who according to her married late at the age of 27 and 28. She was very worried she says when her two younger daughters marriages were getting delayed. But a similar concern did not exist when her sons marriage was delayed. She would never have allowed her marriageable age daughters to go abroad for further studies. That would have been simply out of question says Sunanda. Sunanda had always told her daughters that they should leave no stone unturned in pleasing their inlaws. They should be polite and respectful to their inlaws. She does not remember having told her sons anything in this regard. Sunanda firmly believes that it is the wife’s primary duty to manage the home. The husband has no role to play in this regard.

Occupational roles
Sunanda says she never really thought that her daughters would take up a job. She does not think that financial independence is necessary for a girl. After all her husband is there to attend to her needs. So where is the need for her to work feels Sunanda. In her own words “Who will look after the home if she works”?

Cinderella complex
Sunanda is emphatic in her reply that she would never accept a job that gives her a higher salary than her husband’s. This would create terrible ego problems between the spouses feels Sunanda. Its true she says that no matter howsoever financially independent girls might be, on a mental level, they are always dependent on men for everything. Their biological weakness makes them dependent on men feels Sunanda.
4.5 CASE STUDY OF NEENA

Socio economic profile

Age – 45 years
Educational qualification - M.A, M.Phil
Occupation - Lecturer
Family of orientation - Joint family
Family of procreation - Nuclear family
Children and ages - Daughter and son aged 18 and 13 years respectively.

Introduction
Neena in her early forties is a lecturer by profession. She is a divorcee who stays with her two children one son and one daughter. She has had a very liberal upbringing. Her parents, she says were always very encouraging about her academic pursuits.

Toy play
Neena's daughter used to play with "typical girlish toys" she says and also teacher and student and her son used to play with cars. Her sister used to bring cars for her son because she believed that boys have a liking for cars. She feels there is something inherent about children's toy choice.

Emotions
Of her two children her son is more emotional. But she is not bothered about it. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with both her children. Neena believes that there is nothing like that, daughters being more empathetic towards the parents than the sons:

Peer group
Her children's peer group consists of peers of both the sexes. This does not bother her she says as long as it does not affect their studies.

Leisure activities
During their spare time her children watch television or read books.

**Behaviour patterns**

Neena says she has taught her children all the moral values of life. She enforces similar behaviour patterns in her son and daughter.

**Psychological attributes**

So far as psychological attributes go Neena's daughter is very confident of herself, mentally strong, assertive and competitive while her son is very aggressive. While she is happy for her daughter she sees no reason for concern for her son.

**Household work**

Her children do not help her with the household work nor does she expect them to help because she herself does not do most of the tasks. But she does tell them they should learn to do everything on their own so that later in life they don't have to depend on anybody.

**Character**

Neena feels that a good character is an essential prerequisite for both boys and girls and there is absolutely no reason as to why boys can be allowed to escape with a wild reputation whereas a big and hue and cry is raised about the girl's character.

**Sociability**

Neither of her children is sociable. They are accommodating only with her friends says Neena. Nor does she ever ask them to learn to develop social contacts.

**Marriage and family**

There is no such thing as a particular age within which she would like her children to be married. Nor would there be any concern if her children decide to remain single says Neena. She would never allow marriage to come in the way of her daughter's career says Neena. She would always be allowed to pursue further studies wherever be it in India or abroad. Regarding values imparted on marriage and family Neena said that she has asked her children to look for compatible life
partners. As far as setting up a home is concerned Neena feels that both husband and wife make a home and hence both should equally share in it.

**Occupational roles**
She has no particular preference for her children's occupational roles. But she wants her daughter to work because she believes working gives a lot of confidence.

**Cinderella complex**
Neena is already earning more than her husband. And she sees no reason for concern on this account. Nor does she believe that howsoever financially independent a girl might be she always craves for male support and protection. She give her own example in this connection and says that she is very happy living with her two children and she has never felt the need for her husband to be there by her side or any other man for that matter.

4.6 **CASE STUDY OF BARNALI**

**Socio economic profile**

Age – 42 years
Educational qualification - M.A.
Occupation - Lecturer
Family of orientation - Joint family
Family of Procreation - Nuclear family
Children and ages - Daughter and son aged 10 and 7 years respectively.

**Introduction**
Barnali in her early forties is a lecturer by profession. She is terribly dissatisfied with her husband's rude and suspicious nature. She says that there is absolutely no consensus between her husband and herself on the issue of the children's upbringing. Belonging to a family of five sisters and four brothers Barnali cherishes pleasant memories of her childhood and adolescent years. There was
absolutely no discrimination between brothers and sisters and the atmosphere at home was very scholarly says Barnali. Everybody was allowed to pursue his or her academic interests.

Toy play
Barnali's daughter used to play with dolls and her son with cars. She gave them these toys because they asked for them she says. She feels that there is something inherent about children toy choice.

Emotions
Of her two children her son is more emotional. She is very concerned about it. She always tells her son that he is a boy, hence he has to be rational about everything. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter as her son she feels is too young to understand these things. She believes that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than sons.

Peer group
While her son has more girlfriends her daughter has peers of her sex only. Barnali says that at this age she is not overtly concerned about the sex of their peer group. If later in life they grow up to have peers of the opposite sex then she would not mind as long as it doesn't affect their studies and the friendship is seen in its proper light.

Leisure activity
Her children's leisure activities consist of watching television, listening to music and reading books.

Behaviour patterns
While she has asked her children to be polite and soft spoken and not to use abusive language, there are certain behaviour patterns which she emphasizes in her daughter. Things like having a sense of shame and modesty, not being loud mouthed and boisterous etc.

Psychological attributes
Barnali rates her daughter as courageous, self confident, assertive and independent minded. Her son is scared of everything. She feels that courage is an essential prerequisite for boys as they have to maintain contact with the outside world. A girl's contact with the outside world is limited. A girl's role is essentially within the home says Barnali.

**Household work**
Both her children help her with her household work. While training in culinary skills would be a compulsion in the case of her daughter it would be optional in the case of her son. But as an afterthought she adds "I guess my son should also know some culinary skills so that he can cook for himself when he is alone anytime in future". Her husband lends her a helping hand whenever the servant is on leave.

**Character**
Barnali feels that a spotless character is imperative for a girl because she is under the close scrutiny of society.

**Sociability**
Of her two children her son is more sociable. In Barnali’s opinion girls need to be more sociable. Hence she forces her daughter to mix with people.

**Marriage and family life**
She would like to see her daughter married by the time she is 24 or 25. Her son's marriage depends on what age he settles down. She would not like her children to remain single, either of them she says. She would never allow her daughter's marriage to come in the way of her career. So far as counseling her daughter about marriage is concerned she would advise her daughter to maintain cordial relations with her in laws and to bow to their wishes. She would ask her son to get along properly with his wife. So far as setting up a home is concerned she feels that wife's role is more important.

**Occupational roles**
She would like her daughter to be well settled with a job before getting married. The choice of their future occupational roles is best left to the children she says.

Cinderella complex
Barnali is unsure about whether she would be happy if she was more successful than her husband on the professional front. She has this nagging feeling that her success might hurt her husband’s ego. She feels that howsoever financially independent a girl might be she always craves for male support and protection.

4.7 CASE STUDY OF JAYASHREE

Socio economic profile

Age – 38 years
Educational qualification - B.A
Occupation - Teacher
Family of orientation - Joint family
Family of procreation - Nuclear family
Children and ages - One daughter and one son aged 17 and 14 years respectively.

Introduction
A teacher by profession, Jayashree has single handedly brought up her two children as her husband a journalist is away from home most of the time. She has painful memories of her childhood. She was discriminated against her brothers in matters relating to food and education. Jayashree used to feel very depressed on such occasions and she used to wonder why this was being done to her? Hence she made a firm resolve that she would not allow the same thing to be repeated in the case of her daughter.

Toy play
Jayashree’s daughter used to play with dolls and her son with cars. She says that her children asked for these toys, hence she gave them these toys. She feels there is something inherent about gender specific selection of toys by children. She sees this as almost an universal trend.

**Emotions**
Of her two children her son is more emotional. She is very concerned about this. She tells him that he is a boy after all, hence he should stop feeling so emotional about everything. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her son and she lends no credence to the saying that daughters are more empathetic towards the parents than the sons.

**Peer group**
Her children’s friend circle as of now consists of single sex peers. But later on if they were to cultivate opposite sex peers then there would be some concern says Jayashree.

**Leisure activity**
Her children read books during their spare time.

**Behaviour patterns**
Jayashree wants her children to respect elders and to be polite and well behaved in their manners. However one thing that really puts her off is a loud mouthed girl. Girls should be soft spoken says Jayashree. It enhances their beauty. But boys can afford to shout and yell.

**Psychological attributes**
Jayashree rates her daughter as self confident, assertive, competitive and mentally strong whereas her son is just the opposite of what her daughter is. This makes her very worried and she has told him umpteen times that he is a boy. He would have to go out one day to eke out a living for himself. He can’t stay with his parents forever. Hence its pertinent that he be equipped with the skills necessary to manage on his own.

**Household work**
Her son helps her with the household work, like serving the guests etc. Her daughter helps only when asked to. She feels that her daughter should help her more. If her son being a boy can help her she being a girl should help all the more. When asked why she feels this way she replies "Because that is what I've seen in society. Girls work boys do not ".

Character
She feels that a good character is an essential prerequisite for a girl than a boy because society is more concerned about the girl's character than the boy's.

Sociability
Both her son and daughter are very amiable and friendly says Jayashree. However she feels that girls are expected to maintain social relations, an expectation that is absent in the case of the boys.

Marriage and family
Jayashree would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 25 or 30 and her son by the time he is 28. She would never want her children to remain single, either of them because one needs a companion at one point or the other says Jayashree. She says she would be slightly worried if her daughter's marriage got delayed. She would definitely allow her daughter to go abroad for further studies even if she has already approached marriageable age. So far as counseling her daughter on marriage goes Jayashree would advise her to always uphold truth and justice, however adverse the situation might be. For the son she would ask him to make his wife feel at home in her new environment. Jayashree feels it is the wife who plays a more important role in setting up a home.

Occupational roles
Jayashree would like to see her children well settled with a good job that brings in a decent income not one that gives them a hand to mouth existence. She feels that a job is essential in the case of the girl as it gives her the security and the courage to fight against any injustice especially at her in laws place. But if she is dependent on her husband and inlaws for her material needs then she humbly accepts everything that comes her way, good or bad.
Cinderella complex
Jayashree is emphatic in her reply that there would be absolutely no concern if she were better placed than her husband on the professional front. She does agree that howsoever financially independent a girl might be she always craves for male support and protection. And that happens because of her socialisation process says Jayashree.

4.8 CASE STUDY OF PRATIBHA

Socio economic profile

Age - 34
Educational qualification - M.A, M.Phil
Occupation - Lecturer
Family of orientation - Nuclear
Family of procreation - Nuclear
Children and ages - One son and one daughter aged nine and six years respectively.

Introduction
A lecturer by profession Pratibha has had some discord in her marital life which has left a bitter taste in her mouth. That has made her very pessimistic about everything, says Pratibha.

Toy play
Her children do not exhibit any particular preferences with respect to toy play. Her son plays carom and video games. Her daughter follows his brother and does whatever he does. She feels that role modelling plays an important role in toy play. A girl does all those things with the doll which her mother does with her.

Emotions
Her son is more emotional of her two children. He cries at the drop of a hat. Pratibha does worry at times on this account. She tells him that he is a boy and if he cries this often he would face difficulties in future. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter. She does
not believe that daughters have a better understanding of parents' emotions and feelings than the sons.

**Peer group**
Pratibha's children have peers of both sexes. Even if they grow up to have peers of the opposite sex, she would not mind, she says, as long as they know where to draw the line.

**Leisure activities**
Her children watch television during their spare time.

**Behaviour patterns**
Pratibha wants her daughter to be feminine in her everyday interaction. She wants her to be gentle, polite, and soft-spoken. She hates it when she says if her daughter yells and shouts. She asks her son to be polite and respectful to people around.

**Psychological attributes**
Pratibha describes her daughter as very confident, assertive, very aggressive, and mentally strong. Whereas her son is just the opposite. But she feels that her daughter is overconfident of herself, which according to Pratibha is bad. But the non-possession of these qualities by her son does not bother her because she feels that once he grows up, he will develop these qualities.

**Household work**
Occasionally, her children help her with the household tasks like serving guests, etc. According to Pratibha, cooking is a ladylike quality which a girl should learn. But she does not see the necessity of teaching cooking to her son. "He can learn on his own," says Pratibha. Besides, cooking should not be his sole concern, she says.

**Character**
Pratibha feels that a good character is more essential in the case of a girl because, in her own words, "a girl has to face many encounters." Besides, society's criticism is another major consideration for some kind of watchfulness so far as a girl's character goes.
Sociability
Pratibha feels that both boys and girls should be sociable as they are a part of society and they need to maintain social contacts.

Marriage and family
Pratibha would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 20 and her son she really does not know. She would not want either of her children to remain single for an unmarried status brings in a lot of scorn for both men and women. She would not allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies. So far as counseling her daughter on marriage goes, Pratibha says she would tell her daughter only one thing “learn to compromise”. So far as setting up a home is concerned Pratibha feels both husband and wife play an equally important role in setting up a home. Sometimes the wife does everything and the husband blindly follows and sometimes its just the opposite.

Occupational roles
Pratibha would want her daughter to be well qualified but not necessarily be equipped with a job. She feels that because of their financial independence girls become very independent in their thinking and they stress their dominance in areas where it is actually not required and this strains the marital relation.

Cinderella complex
Pratibha says she would not settle for a job that gives her a salary higher than that of her husband. She is happy where she is. Besides she is not too ambitious. But she is firm about one thing and that is howsoever financially secured a girl might be she should always be ladylike in her interactions and be feminine in everyday life. Daughters or wives should never hurt the egos of their husbands, brothers or any male member of society. Only then can there be a congenial atmosphere at home, says Pratibha.

4.9 CASE STUDY OF SABITA
Socio Economic Profile

Age - 42 years
Educational qualification - M.A, Ph.D
Occupation - Lawyer
Family of orientation - Nuclear family
Family of procreation - Nuclear family
Children and ages - Two sons and one daughter aged 22, 18 and 20 years respectively.

Introduction
A middle aged lady with three grown up children, Sabita simply adores her children and is very friendly to all of them. She was married at a very early age and had her first child when she was only 18. Her own upbringing was very different from the way she has brought up her kids, says Sabita. Her mother used to think that marriage is the be all and end all of a girl’s life. She used to think that once her daughter is given in marriage she would have nothing to do with her. But Sabita does not see things that way.

Toy play
Sabita’s children never played with any specific toys as such. They used to play with mud and whatever things they could lay their hands on. As her daughter was the eldest among the three her sons used to do whatever she did. She feels role modeling plays an important part in toy play.

Emotions
Of her three children her eldest son is very emotional. But this does not bother her at all. She thinks it is quite natural for boys to be emotional. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her eldest son. She does not lend any credence to the belief that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons.

Peer group
Her children’s friend circle comprises of peers of both the sexes. Sabita feels her children can be a better judge of people if they mingle with friends of the opposite sex.
Leisure activities
While her daughter watches television and listens to music during her spare time, her sons go out to meet their friends or watch television.

Behaviour patterns
She has asked her children to be polite and soft spoken in their manners. She does not like it she says if either the son or the daughter is loud mouthed or boisterous.

Psychological attributes
She rates both her sons and daughter as confident, assertive, independent minded and mentally strong. None of her children is aggressive she says.

Household work
Sabita’s children help her tremendously with the household tasks. All of them are very good cooks. Sabita says that after the birth of her children she pursued her higher studies and hence she was always busy with her studies. This enabled her children to learn to cook and manage things on their own.

Character
Sabita feels that both boys and girls should have a refined character.

Sociability
Sabita feels that as both boys and girls are part of the society, they need to maintain social contacts and hence both need to be sociable.

Marriage and family
Sabita would like her daughter to get married after she finishes her course in medicine that is around 25 or 26 and her sons by the time they are 32. She would not want her children to remain single. If her daughter’s marriage was getting delayed then she would definitely be worried because as she says “A girl is like a creeper. She needs some kind of support all the time. Hence marriage is very important for her”. But the same concern would not be there if her sons
marriages were getting delayed for she feels that boys can somehow or the other manage on their own. So far as counseling her daughter on marriage goes, Sabita says she would ask her daughter to fulfil her duties towards all. She would ask her son to take care of his wife. So far as setting up a home is concerned, Sabita feels that it is the wife who plays the more important role.

**Occupational roles**
Sabita would like to see all her children well settled in life. While her daughter is pursuing a course in medicine, her son is doing so in engineering. She is firm that her daughter must do a job as working gives a sense of confidence.

**Cinderella complex**
Sabita sees no reason why there should be a problem if she was better placed than her husband on the professional front. But she does agree that however independent a girl might be, she always craves for male support and protection and this happens she says because of the male dominated Indian culture which socialises girls in such a way that they feel scared about going out alone in the night even though nothing might happen.

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**4.10 CASE STUDY OF MEENA**

**Socio Economic Profile**

Age - 43 years  
Educational Qualification - M.A, L.L.B  
Occupation - Lawyer  
Family of orientation - Nuclear family  
Family of procreation - Nuclear family  
Children and ages - One daughter and one son aged 23 and 20 years respectively.

**Introduction**
A woman in her early forties Meena is a lawyer by profession. She adores her children and is full of praise for their support and affection which she says is not forthcoming even from her husband. She describes her mother as a very nice lady but she says there was a communication gap between her and her parents. And there were quite a few restrictions on her as she was a girl.

**Toy play**
Her daughter used to play with dolls and her son with cars and engines. She feels this kind of thing happens because mothers and those around the children give them gender specific toys. They differentiate between the sexes and think that girls are feminine and docile and hence give them dolls and give cars to boys. She did the same thing she says.

**Emotions**
Of her two children her daughter is more emotional. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her son as her daughter is working and does not have much free time. Meena does not see as to why daughters should have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons. At least in her case both her children understand her very well she says.

**Peer group**
While her son has friends of his sex alone her daughter mingles with friends of both the sexes. Initially Meena was slightly apprehensive about this but soon she got over her apprehension and now she says she is confident of her daughter.

**Leisure activity**
While her son loves to play with his friends during his spare time her daughter reads books.

**Behaviour patterns**
She wants her children to be soft spoken and polite especially her daughter she says. Her son is already very polite but her daughter is somewhat harsh and rude. She does not like it and asks her daughter to change her behaviour. As she says, "Especially in Indian society girls can't afford to be rude and harsh. But for boys its okay".
Psychological attributes
Meena describes her daughter as very confident and intelligent. Her son is not as confident. She feels that self confidence is essential for both boys and girls but India being a male dominated society, parents want their sons to be more self confident. It is expected that girls should be submissive.

Household work
Her children help her with the household work. Her husband never lends a helping hand in matters of housework.

Character
Meena feels that a good character is an essential prerequisite for both boys and girls.

Sociability
Her daughter is very sociable. But her son keeps to himself. She feels that girls have to be social as otherwise they would face problems after marriage.

Marriage and family
Meena would like her daughter to get married at what she calls the "right age" for girls to marry. That is around 26 to 27. And son of course she cannot think of his marriage unless he is established says Meena. She would not like either of her children to remain single in life. She would be worried if her daughter's marriage gets delayed because she feels that after a certain age it becomes difficult to get a good match for a girl and besides there could be problems in adjusting into family life especially when her daughter is working and is used to an independent lifestyle. She really doesn't know whether she would allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad to pursue her further studies. If its a good match then she would have to think twice says Meena. According to Meena even though both the husband and wife have an equal role to play in the setting up of a home it is actually the wife in the ultimate analysis is responsible for the home and its members.

Occupational roles
Meena's daughter is already working and is doing very well. She is very ambitious also, says Meena. This makes her a bit scared for her daughter as it might lead to problems on the domestic front as has happened in her own case. Meena has been working for a long time now. But she hardly gets any support from her husband. Her mother had advised her not to aspire too high in her career and Meena is afraid, she might advise the same thing to her daughter.

**Cinderella complex**

Meena is already earning more than her husband. It does not bother her but she has a feeling that her husband does not like it even though he has never voiced his dissent openly. That is why she feels women should play second fiddle to their husbands and even if they are successful on the professional front they should play it down.

### 4.11 CASE STUDY OF SHARANYA

**Socio Economic Profile**

- **Age** – 44 years
- **Educational Qualification** - B.A
- **Occupation** - Housewife
- **Family of orientation** – Joint family
- **Family of procreation** – Nuclear family
- **Children and ages** – One daughter and one son aged 20 and 18 years respectively.

**Introduction**

Sharanya in her early forties, is a mother of two grown up children. She has very sad memories of her childhood and adolescent days. Her mother she says was very critical about everything that she did. She could never become close to her mother, says Sharanya. But today she is very close to her daughter.

**Toy play**
When young Sharanya’s son used to play with guns and her daughter with dolls. She says she is really not sure as to why this happens but she has noticed that girls like to wear ribbons and like to dress up. But boys are not so very interested in these things.

**Emotions**
Of her two children, her daughter is more emotional. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter. She does not tell anything to her son as he is a boy and in any case he does not listen to anything she says. Sharanya believes that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons do. This happens because the daughter stays with the parents and is aware of all the happenings in the house. But a son stays out most of the time.

**Peer group**
Sharanya’s children’s friend circle consists of same sex peers. But she would definitely be concerned if boys came home and spoke to her daughter says Sharanya. When asked about her son, she pauses and then says “Yes”.

**Leisure activities**
While daughter stitches and makes dolls, her son repairs radios during his spare time.

**Behaviour patterns**
She wants her daughter to be soft spoken and gentle in her everyday life. When her daughter goes out she tells her not to attempt to walk too fast or to take long strides. Her son is quite rude and harsh. But she cannot help it she says. She has learnt to accept it.

**Psychological attributes**
She rates her daughter as very confident, competitive, mentally strong and assertive. Whereas her son is very aggressive and lacks confidence in himself. She is very concerned for her son. She tells him that he is a boy, hence he should be very courageous and brave.

**Household work**
Her children help her with the household work. While her daughter helps in what Sharanya calls the "girlish things", her son helps with outside marketing. She doesn't get any help from her husband in household tasks.

**Character**

She is more concerned about her daughter's character says Sharanya. First because she has to get married and second, because of her physical vulnerability she can become an easy prey in the hands of men.

**Sociability**

Her daughter is more sociable of her two children. And it's also necessary that girls be sociable as they have to get married and set up a home and maintain social contacts, says Sharanya.

**Marriage and family**

Sharanya would want her daughter to be married by the time she is 25 and son between 27 and 30. She would not want either of her children to remain unmarried. Delay in her daughter's marriage would definitely make her worried. In her own words "The sooner we give her a bidai the better". But the same concern would not be there in the case of the son. She would never allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies. She would ask her daughter to be respectful and polite to her in laws and to do all the household chores. She would tell her son to study well, do a good job and manage his grihasthi properly. The wife plays an important role in setting up the home, says Sharanya. After all she is aware of all the nitty gritty of homemaking. What does a husband know? asks Sharanya.

**Occupational roles**

While she wants her daughter to be well qualified, she does not feel that her daughter must work before marriage. Given a choice she would like her daughter to be in the teaching line.

**Cinderella complex**

Sharanya says she would never accept a job that gives a higher salary than that of her husband's as it would hurt her husband's ego. She does agree that howsoever financially independent a girl
might be she always craves for male support and protection. And that happens because of her socialisation process says Sharanya.

4.12 CASE STUDY OF SUDESHNA

Socio economic profile

Age – 32 years
Educational Qualification – B.A
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Joint family
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 12 and 8 years respectively.

Introduction
Sudeshna in her early thirties is a young housewife who finds herself suppressed by her mother in law. Sudeshna lost her mother when she was 15 years old. She was with her uncle and aunt for a few years before going back to her father. Hence being the eldest and being without a mother, she was married off immediately after her education. She had nurtured ambitions of studying further, but they could not materialise because of her early marriage.

Toy play
Sudeshna’s daughter used to play with dolls and her son with cars and engines. She feels that this phenomenon of boys taking a liking for cars and girls for dolls is quite a universal feature, which is inherent by nature.

Emotions
Her son is more emotional of her two children. She is quite worried at this aspect of her son’s personality. She explains to him that he is a boy, that he should stop being so emotional about
everything. She believes and says that it is very true that a son's attachment for his parents lessens after marriage. But daughters are forever concerned about their parents.

Peer group
Sudeshna's children have friends of the same sex. She says she would not mind if they grow up to have peers of the opposite sex. But the friendship should be seen in its proper light.

Leisure activities
While her son enjoys playing cricket during his free time, her daughter loves reading books especially of the mythological kind.

Behaviour patterns
She wants her children to be soft spoken and polite, kind and respectful to people around them. She feels very strongly that girls should be soft spoken.

Psychological attributes
Sudeshna rates her daughter as very confident, assertive, aggressive, competitive and mentally strong, while her son is scared of everything. She is worried about this aspect of her son's personality and explains to him that he is a boy, he would have to go out for further studies and hence he should learn to manage on his own. Besides he should be courageous and brave.

Household work
Her children do not lend her a helping hand in the kitchen. While her son is too small to help, her daughter does not help as much as a girl should help, says Sudeshna. Her husband does not help her with the household duties.

Character
She is more concerned about her daughter's character, says Sudehna as she has to get married. If her reputation is at stake, then chances of marriage become dim.

Sociability
Sudeshna's daughter is more sociable than her son. She feels that a girl should be sociable as she has to get married and go to another house. And if she unable to interact with her new relatives then she would be called unsociable.

**Marriage and family**

Sudeshna would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 24 or 25. The son would get married whenever he settles down. She would not want either of her children to remain unmarried. If her daughter's marriage was getting delayed, then there would definitely be some concern says Sudeshna. She says she would allow her daughter to go abroad for further studies despite her having approached the so called "marriageable age". So far as counseling her daughter on marriage goes, Sudeshna says she would ask her daughter to be polite and respectful towards all. And tell her son that he should give first priority to his wife.

**Occupational roles**

Sudeshna would like her daughter to be equipped with a job before getting married. So far as future occupational roles go, given a choice she would like her daughter to do a course in management and her son to do engineering.

**Cinderella complex**

Sharanya says that if she was better placed than her husband then it would definitely bother her husband. Hence for the sake of family peace she would not aspire to be higher placed than her husband on the professional front. This is the basic reason why a girl howsoever financially independent she might be, always craves for male support and protection.

4.13 **CASE STUDY OF ARADHANA**

**Socio economic profile**

Age – 34 years
Educational Qualification – B.Sc
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Nuclear family
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 14 and 9 years respectively.

Introduction
Aradhana in her early thirties is a housewife who was taken aback when we asked her if she would teach cooking to her son. Her immediate reply was “I guess boys have other pressing matters to attend to than learn cooking”.

Toy play
Her daughter used to play with dolls and kitchen set and son used to play with cars and guns. She gave them these toys because they wanted them. She attributes this phenomenon to biology.

Emotions
Of her two children her daughter is more emotional. She takes things to heart whereas her son forgets everything. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter as her son is too small. She gives no credence to the commonly held belief that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons.

Peer group
Her children’s friend circle as of now comprises of peers of both the sexes. Even if they grow up to have peers of the opposite sex, she would not mind says Aradhana as long as the friendship is seen in its proper light.

Leisure activities
During their spare time her children read storybooks, watch television and do some drawing.

Behaviour patterns
She wants her children to be soft spoken and polite, kind and respectful to people around them. She feels very strongly that girls should be soft spoken.
Psychological attributes
She rates her daughter as confident, courageous, competitive and mentally strong whereas her son is aggressive and destructive. She is sure that with age her son will also develop confidence like his sister.

Household work
Her daughter helps her with the household work, but not her son. She does not get any help from her husband either.

Character
She is more concerned about her daughter's character says Aradhana as her daughter has to get married, besides she stands vulnerable from a physical point of view. Hence she has to exercise some restraints on her daughter's mobility.

Sociability
Her daughter is more sociable of her two children. And its also necessary that girls be sociable as they have to get married and set up a home and maintain social contacts, says Aradhana.

Marriage and family
Aradhana would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 25 or 26 and her son's marriage would depend on whenever he settles down. She would not want either of her children to remain unmarried. Marriage is necessary for both the sexes, at least for the sake of companionship says Aradhana. She would not allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies. She thinks it would be better if her daughter got married first and then she would be free to pursue her further studies. She would ask her daughter to conduct herself respectfully at her inlaws place. She does not see the necessity of telling anything to the son in this respect.

Occupational roles
She would like her daughter to have sound qualifications for a job before she gets married. But she does not think it is necessary for her daughter to be well settled with a job before she gets married. She would like her daughter to pursue a job in academics.
Cinderella complex
She says there would be absolutely no ego hassles if she was working and better placed than her husband on the professional front. She does not lend credence to the belief that howsoever financially independent a girl might be she always craves for male support and protection.

4.14 CASE STUDY OF RASHMI

Socio economic profile

Age – 34 years.
Educational Qualification – M.Com.
Occupation – Housewife.
Family of orientation – Nuclear family.
Family of procreation – Nuclear family.
Children and ages – One son and one daughter aged 9 and 2 years respectively.

Introduction
Recalling her childhood memories, Rashmi in her early thirties tells us how she was not allowed to do her post graduation because she had to travel far to the university and this was not acceptable to her parents. She was also a sportswoman in school and college. But she was not allowed to participate in any of the tournaments just because she happened to be a girl. She lamented that had she been a boy she would never have had to face such restrictions. And she is quite firm that she would not allow a similar thing to be repeated in the case of her daughter.

Toy play
Rashmi says, that while her son plays with cars and motorcycles, her daughter “quite naturally” plays with dolls. She sees this as an inborn quality.

Emotions
Rashmi says that her daughter is very expressive. But the son even though loving and affectionate is unable to express himself. She feels boys are made that way. She feels that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons.

Peer group
At present Rashmi's children have peers of both the sexes. Even if they grow up to have peers of the opposite sex she would not mind she says.

Leisure activities
Her daughter is too small to have any spare time. Her son plays cricket and watches television during his free time.

Behaviour patterns
She wants her children to be well behaved and soft spoken in their everyday interaction.

Psychological attributes
Rashmi describes her son as very courageous and brave but her daughter is scared of everything. She sees this as quite natural.

Household work
More than her son, her daughter helps her with the household work. If she asks her son to fetch a glass of water, her daughter runs to get it for her. Her husband helps her whenever they are throwing a party at home.

Character
Rashmi feels that both boys and girls should have a refined character. But because a girl stands vulnerable from the physical point of view, she has to exercise some extra caution in her daughter's case.

Sociability
Rashmi feels that as both boys and girls are part of the society, they need to maintain social contacts and hence both need to be sociable.

Marriage and family
She would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 24 or 25 and son by the age of 29 or 30. She would be greatly concerned if her daughter chose to remain single but a similar concern would not prevail in the case of the son. She would allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies. She would ask her daughter to take care of her in-laws like her own parents. She does not know what to tell her son in this respect.

Occupational roles
The choice of future occupational roles, should rest on the children, feels Rashmi. Yet, given a choice, she would like her daughter to opt for a teaching line.

Cinderella complex
Rashmi sees no reason as to why there should be a problem if she was a working lady and was better placed than her husband. "It all boils down to the mutual understanding between the two partners", says Rashmi. However, she believes that howsoever financially independent a girl might be she always craves for male support and protection. As she says "I am not working. But I believe if I was a working lady, I would also crave for this kind of love and support".

4.15 CASE STUDY OF RAMA

Socio economic profile

Age – 44 years
Educational qualification – M.A
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Nuclear family
Children and ages – Two daughters and one son aged 24, 14 and 21 years respectively.

**Introduction**
A housewife in her early forties Rama is a mother of three grown up children. Some “not very pleasant memories” of her marital life have taught her a few lessons which she wishes to pass on to her daughters. She always tells her daughters that if there is any injustice towards them at their in laws place they should not take things lying down. Rather they should protest against it.

**Toy play**
Rama’s daughters used to play with dolls and her son used to play with cars and engines. She feels that it is the children themselves who select toys specific to their gender. And this selection has something to do with their biology.

**Emotions**
Her elder daughter is very emotional. She shares her thoughts and feelings with her two daughters as her son is away from home most of the time. She feels that daughters are more empathetic towards the parents than the sons.

**Peer group**
Her children’s friend circle consists of peers of both the sexes. There is absolutely no cause for apprehension in this respect says Rama.

**Leisure activity**
When small her children used to play during their free time. Now the son goes out with his friends and the daughters enjoy themselves at home.

**Behaviour patterns**
While she asks both her son and daughter to be soft spoken and polite, to show respect to elders and to be kind and considerate, there are certain things which she feels, girls should be careful about. Things like laughing loudly and without purpose, walking too fast, shrieking and shouting even in normal conversation. She asks her son not to be too talkative.
Psychological attributes
Rama describes her eldest daughter as very confident, assertive, mentally strong and competitive. Her son lacks confidence and is aggressive. Whereas her younger daughter is very quiet and sober.

Household work
Her children help her a lot with the household work. Son helps in things like getting vegetables and daughters help with cooking. Her husband does not help her at all.

Character
Rama feels that both boys and girls should have a refined character. But because a girl stands vulnerable from the physical point of view, she has to exercise some extra caution in her daughter’s case.

Sociability
Rama feels that girls need to be sociable as they are expected to maintain social contacts. Her daughters are very sociable says Rama.

Marriage and family life
Rama would like her daughters to be married by the time they are 25 or 26. Son’s age of marriage would depend on when he settles down with a job. She would be greatly concerned she says if her daughters decide to remain single. She feels that society will not take kindly to this decision of her daughters. Whether or not she would allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies would depend on the marriage proposals, says Rama. The girl plays the all important role in setting up a home. Notwithstanding any help received from the husband, in the ultimate analysis it is the wife who has to be responsible for the nitty gritties of housekeeping.

Occupational roles
Rama would like her daughters to do a job before getting married. It is necessary for girls to take up a job and be financially independent. One she says, it is difficult to afford a decent standard of
living without both the couples working and secondly, should any mishap occur in a girl's life, she should be able to manage things on her own instead of breaking down.

**Cinderella complex**
Rama feels that it would not bother her if she was a working lady and was earning more than her husband. However she does feel that however financially independent girls might be they always crave for male support and protection.

### 4.16 CASE STUDY OF SMITA

**Socio economic profile**

**Age** – 41
**Educational qualification** – M.A
**Occupation** – Bank probationary officer.
**Family of orientation** – Joint family
**Family of procreation** – Nuclear family
**Children and ages** – One daughter and one son aged 19 and 18 years respectively.

**Introduction**
Smita in her early forties is a mother of two grown up children. Her transferable job keeps her posted at different places. Hence her children stay with her husband, while she visits them off and on. She married very late as she was busy nurturing her academic ambitions.

**Toy play**
Smita's daughter used to play with kitchen sets and her son used to play with cars. Gender specific selection of toys and play is not inherent according to Smita, rather it is the product of role modeling.

**Emotions**
Both, her son as well as daughter are emotional. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter as she happens to be the older of the two. But she does not believe that daughters are more empathetic towards their parents than the sons.

Peer group
Her children's peer group comprises of peers of both the sexes. There is no concern on this account as long as the friendship is seen in its proper light, says Smita.

Leisure activity
Her son normally goes out, whereas her daughter reads books during her free time.

Behaviour patterns
Smita says she always asks her children to be polite and pleasing in their manners. She asks them not to use abusive language and to always lend a helping hand to people in distress.

Psychological attributes
Smita describes her daughter as mentally strong, assertive and confident. But her son is very fickle minded and aggressive. She is definitely concerned about this aspect of his son's personality. She tells him that he will not make much headway in life, if he remains this way. Rather he should learn to push himself through all situations.

Household work
As she is away from home most of the time, her husband takes care of the kitchen. Her children help him a lot. Basically she sees it as a joint endeavour of her children and husband.

Character
Both the son and daughter should have a refined character feels Smita.

Sociability
Smita believes that both the son and daughter should be sociable. Her son is more sociable than the daughter.
Marriage and family
Smita would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 24 or 25. She cannot think of her son’s marriage, till he settles down says Smita. She would not be bothered she says in case her daughter’s marriage got delayed. But she would be concerned if either her son or daughter chose to remain single. She would definitely allow her marriageable age daughter to pursue higher studies. She would ask her children to be polite and respectful to their in laws whenever they get married. She feels that both the husband and wife have an equally important role to play in the setting up of a home.

Occupational roles
Smita is firm in her opinion that girls should be financially independent before getting married. hence she is firm that her daughter arm herself with a good job, before getting married. She has the following to say “A job gives economic and social security. From my own experience I can say that, had I not been working, I do not think, I could have given my children the kind of education I am giving them now”.

Cinderella complex
Smita says she sees no reason as to why she should not accept a job that is better than her husband’s in terms of pay and position. Nor does she lend credence to the belief that a girl despite her financial independence is always dependent on a male.

4.17 CASE STUDY OF KAVERI

Socio economic profile
Age – 54 years
Educational qualification – B.A
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Joint family
Children and ages – One daughter and two sons aged 30, 35 and 40 respectively.

Introduction
A mother of three married children, Kaveri is in her early fifties. Very candidly she stated that girls are her favourites. Hence she is very popular with her daughter and grand daughters much to the dismay of her sons and grandsons. Remembering her childhood and adolescent days, Kaveri says that her parents were quite broadminded even in those days. There were not many restrictions on her except that her mobility was somewhat restricted. She was pampered by her parents and whenever her brother complained about it her father used to say “She will get married and go away to another house, but you will always remain with us. So why not pamper her.”

Toy play
When small her daughter used to play with teddy bears, while her sons played with cars and bows and arrows. Kaveri believes, that it is the parents who give gender specific toys to their children.

Emotions
Kaveri describes her youngest son as very emotional. She says she shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with all her children. But a little later she adds, “I guess, I am a little more friendly with my daughter”. She lends no credence to the belief that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons.

Peer group
Her children had peers of the same sex.

Leisure activities
While her daughter loved to stay indoors and read books, her sons used to go out and play.

Behaviour patterns
Kaveri says she always asks her children to be polite and pleasing in their manners. She asks them not to use abusive language and to always lend a helping hand to people in distress.
Psychological attributes
Kaveri thinks that her children are self confident, mentally strong, courageous and assertive.

Household work
Her eldest son used to help her a lot with the household work. But her daughter never helped her. At times, her husband lent her a helping hand.

Character
Kaveri feels that both boys and girls should have a refined character. But because a girl stands vulnerable from the physical point of view, she has to exercise some extra caution in her daughter’s case.

Sociability
Her sons are more sociable than her daughter. Kaveri was always worried as to how a daughter would adjust into her in laws family after marriage.

Marriage and family
Kaveri’s daughter and her two sons are already married. While the daughter was married at the age of 27, sons were married around 28 or 29. When asked if she ever felt concerned about her daughter’s marriage, especially when she had crossed 25 or 26 Kaveri said “Not until she was studying. After that I became a bit concerned”. She had asked her daughter to respect her in laws like her own parents. However she had told nothing to her sons when they got married.

Occupational roles
Kaveri’s daughter is a doctor. Kaveri was very firm from the beginning that her daughter should do something about her career. In pursuance of this wish of hers, she and her husband refused many good marriage proposals for their daughter. They wanted her to complete her medicine first. There is a tinge of regret in Kaveri’s voice, when she says “In these kind of technical careers marriage becomes a big obstacle. My daughter was unable to do her post graduation because she got married”.


Cinderella complex
According to Kaveri, girls always look for a father figure in their husbands and in the process become dependent on them. She feels that if she was a working lady and was better placed than her husband in terms of pay and position, then there could have been some problems on the homefront, in the sense her relatives might not have taken too kindly to it. Hence she would never have opted for such a job.

4.18 CASE STUDY OF MEERA

Socio economic profile

Age – 41 years
Educational qualification – M.A
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Nuclear family
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 19 and 18 years respectively.

Introduction
Meera in her early forties is a mother of two grown up children. Talking about her childhood days she says that she has grown up with a lot of restrictions. There were many do’s and don’ts associated with her childhood and adolescent days and she found them severely constraining.

Toy play
Her son used to play with cars and her daughter with dolls. Meera thinks all this is a product of role modeling. She feels that children observe a lot. Her daughter used to observe her interaction with her son and did the same things to the doll as her mother was doing to her kid brother.

Emotions
Her daughter is the more emotional of her two children. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her son. She lends no credence to the oft quoted saying that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons do. In her case her son is more concerned about his parents than the daughter.

Peer group
Her children’s friend circle consists of peers of both the sexes. She says even though some concern is there on account of this, yet things can’t be helped because days have changed.

Leisure time
Her children when small used to play and read comics during their free time. Now of course they do not have any free time she says.

Behaviour patterns
Meera says she always asks her children to be polite and pleasing in their manners. She asks them not to use abusive language and to always lend a helping hand to people in distress. However there are certain things about which she is very particular especially in her daughter’s case. Like being careful about her posture and bodily movements when she is going out.

Psychological attributes
She describes her daughter as confident, mentally strong, competitive, courageous and assertive. Her son gets scared on the slightest pretext. This makes her very concerned she says.

Household work
Her children do not help her with the household tasks. She feels that at least her daughter should help at times. But even that is not forthcoming she says. She gets no help from her husband.

Character
Even though she believes that both the son and daughter should have a good moral reputation, yet she feels that some extra caution is required in the case of the daughter as she has to get married.
Sociability
Meera believes that both the son and daughter should be sociable. However her son is more sociable than her daughter.

Marriage and family
She would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 24 or 25 and son’s marriage she says, she cannot think of it, till he settles down. She would not want either of her children to remain unmarried. If her daughter’s marriage got delayed, then “naturally” there would be some concern she says. But the same concern would not be there in the case of the son. She would not want her daughter to go abroad for further studies, if she has already approached marriageable age. She would ask her daughter to win everybody’s love with her good deeds at her in laws place. When asked what she would tell her son Meera simply laughed it off.

Occupational roles
Her daughter is studying architecture. So she wants her daughter to work but not necessarily before marriage.

Cinderella complex
Meera says she would never accept a job that is better than her husband’s in terms of pay and position as her husband would feel bad about it. She also believes that a girl is always dependent on a man on a mental plane. This happens because of her upbringing.

4.19 CASE STUDY OF MADHAVI

Socio economic profile

Age – 32 years
Educational qualification – B.A, Diploma in Computer sciences
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Nuclear family
Family of procreation – Nuclear family
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 15 and 9 years respectively.

Introduction
Madhavi, a mother of two children is in her early thirties. She has this burning desire to have financial independence but it is not getting realised. Reflecting on her college days she says that she was a brilliant student but she was not allowed to pursue her studies beyond graduation just because her parents thought that it was important for her to get married. After marriage she was keen to take up a job but her husband thought otherwise. She recalls all this with a tinge of sadness. And she has made it clear to her husband, that her daughter will be totally free to exploit her educational interests to the fullest. Nothing will come in her way, not even marriage.

Toy play
While Madhavi’s daughter used to play with kitchen set and dolls, her son enjoyed playing with cricket bats and building sets. She feels that this gender specific selection of toys by children is inborn.

Emotions
Both her children are emotional says Madhavi. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter as she is the older of the two and is empathetic towards her mother. Madhavi says it is true that daughters have a better understanding of parents emotions and feelings than the sons. This happens, because parents keep telling their sons that they should not be emotional.

Peer group
Her children have peers of both the sexes. She has seen, she says, that her children maintain a very healthy relationship with their friends. She likes it that way, she says.

Leisure activities
Her daughter likes to read horror stories and her son likes to paint.

Behaviour patterns
She asks her children to be polite and respectful towards elders and to shower affection on young ones. But she asks her son not to do a lot of talking.

**Psychological attributes**
Madhavi rates her daughter as confident, mentally strong and assertive. Her son lacks confidence and is aggressive. She is quite concerned about this aspect of her son’s personality.

**Household work**
At times her children help her with the household work, especially when she asks them to. But she mentions that her son is more interested in lending a helping hand than the daughter. No help comes from the husband. Madhavi does not see the need for husbands to help their wives with the household tasks except if the wife is a working lady. She says that her son is deeply interested in cooking.

**Character**
Even though she believes that both the son and daughter should have a good moral reputation, yet she feels that some extra caution is required in the case of the daughter as she is under the close scrutiny of the members of society.

**Sociability**
She feels that both the son and daughter should be sociable. But she does not like it if men do a lot of unnecessary talk. But a similar gossip in a girl’s case looks pleasing says Madhavi.

**Marriage and family**
Madhavi has no particular age in mind within which she would like her children to get married. She would not like either of her children to remain single. She wants them to enjoy what she calls “the bliss of marital life”. She is firm that she would not allow any hurdles to come in the way of her daughter’s career. Not even marriage. She does not see the necessity of counseling her daughter on marriage. She thinks her daughter will manage on her own. She thinks that it is the wife who plays an important role in setting up the home. Husbands are away from home, most of the time. So many minor details escapes their eye, says Madhavi.
Occupational roles
Madhavi wants her daughter to first settle down with a good job, before she gets married. She gives a lot of importance to financial independence.

Cinderella complex
If she was a working lady and was better placed than her husband, then it would definitely bother her husband feels Madhavi. He would have an ego problem. That is why for a peaceful family life, she would not opt for such a job. Indeed girls have this dependence on men feels Madhavi. And this happens because they are reared in a dependent atmosphere.

4.20 CASE STUDY OF SASMITA

Socio economic profile
Age – 42 years.
Educational qualification – M.A, B.E.D.
Occupation – Principal of a primary school.
Family of orientation – Joint family.
Family of procreation – Nuclear family.
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 16 and 12 years respectively.

Introduction
Sasmita a mother of two children is in her early forties. She has had quite a liberal upbringing. Her husband has been posted at another place and stays away from her. Despite the fact that she does everything on her own she feels that a girl’s life is riddled with insecurities and she requires a lot of protection.

Toy play
Her son used to play with cars and her daughter with dolls. She says her children preferred those toys. She is not too sure about why this happens.
Emotions
Of her two children her daughter is more emotional. But that does not concern her. After all girls are slightly emotional says Sasmita. She feels that daughters are more empathetic towards their parents than the sons.

Peer group
At present, her children have same sex peers. Even if they grow up to have peers of the opposite sex, it would not bother her, says Sasmita.

Leisure activities
Her son goes out to play cricket during his free time, while her daughter helps her with the minor household tasks like cleaning and dusting.

Behaviour patterns
Sasmita says she always asks her children to be polite and pleasing in their manners. She asks them not to use abusive language and to always lend a helping hand to people in distress. However there are certain things about which she is very particular especially in her daughter’s case. Like being careful about her posture and bodily movements when she is going out.

Psychological attributes
She describes her daughter as a dependent creature who is not very confident of herself and lacks independent decision making power. And she thinks this is quite normal for girls and hence is not concerned. But her son is very assertive and confident of himself.

Household work
Sasmita’s daughter helps her with the household tasks like serving the guests. She gets no help from her husband. Nor does she expect it she says. But the expectation is there from her daughter.

Character
According to Sasmita while it is necessary that both boys and girls should have a refined character the requirement is greater in the case of a girl. Hence she would definitely place some restrictions on her daughter’s mobility.

**Sociability**
Her son is more sociable than her daughter. But she would like her daughter to be more friendly and amiable to others.

**Marriage and family**
She would want her daughter to be married by the time she is 25 or 26 and her son whenever he settles down. She would never want her children to remain unmarried especially her daughter. Delay in her daughter’s marriage would definitely bother her as it might reduce prospects of getting a suitable candidate. But a similar concern would not be there in the case of her son. She would have to think twice she says about sending her marriageable age daughter abroad for further studies. So far as counseling on marriage goes Sasmita says she would advise both her children to be polite and respectful to their in laws. It is the wife who sets up the home. No wonder she is called the lady of the house says Sasmita.

**Occupational roles**
She wants her son to do law or join the armed forces. As for her daughter she wants her to take up jobs like teaching etc that would enable her to maintain a perfect balance between home and career.

**Cinderella complex**
She is not very sure as to how she or her husband would take it if she was better placed than her husband in terms of pay and position. But she is very clear about one thing and that is girls are dependent creatures who will always remain dependent on men.

4.21 **CASE STUDY OF MANJUSHREE**
Socio economic profile

Age – 42 years.
Educational qualification - Graduate
Occupation – Housewife
Family of orientation – Joint family
Family of procreation – Nuclear family
Children and ages – One daughter and son aged 23 and 18 years old respectively.

Introduction
A mother of two grown up children, Manjushree is in her early forties. She has grown up with a lot of restrictions. Her parents were quite strict. She was not allowed to go out as often as she wanted to. She was married early despite her protests. However she is very close to her daughter now she says and gives a lot of importance to her needs and desires unlike her mother who never bothered about her desires and needs.

Toy play
Her son used to play with cars and blocks and her daughter with dolls. She feels that the children opted for those toys because that liking is biological in nature. Besides she thinks that it is good if girls play with dolls. They will develop that nurturant feeling which is so characteristic of girls.

Emotions
Both her children are emotional by nature. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with both her children. She lends no credence to the commonly held belief that girls are more empathetic towards their parents than the sons.

Peer group
Her children have same sex peers. She would not mind she says if her children were to have peers of the opposite sex as long as they take the friendship in its proper light.

Leisure activity
While her daughter stitches during her free time, her son helps his father in his business.

**Psychological attributes**
Manjushree describes her daughter as confident, assertive, competitive and mentally strong. She hopes that with growing age her son will develop confidence and mental strength.

**Household work**
Both her children help her in household work. Her son fetches things from the market and also helps in the kitchen. Her daughter also lends her a helping hand. Her husband has never helped her.

**Character**
A spotless character is an essential requirement in the case of both boys and girls.

**Sociality**
Manjushree feels that both boys and girls should be social in their everyday interaction.

**Marriage and Family**
She would like both her children to be well settled with a job before getting married. She says she would not be unduly worried if her children’s marriage were delayed as she is confident that both will get married and do well in future. However she would not like it if they chose to remain single, especially the daughter. Life for a single girl is unsafe. For the same reason she would not allow her daughter to go abroad for further studies. Counseling for marriage is no longer required feels Manjushree. Girls are pretty matured to understand how to behave at their in laws place. Both husband and wife play an important role in setting up the home according to Manjushree.

**Occupational roles**
Her son will take care of his father’s business says Manjushree. Her daughter’s wish is to take up teaching.

**Cinderella complex**
She sees no reason as to why there would be a problem if she was a working lady and earning more than her husband. However she feels that girls are always dependent on men.

4.22 CASE STUDY OF PURNIMA

Socio economic profile

Age – 34 years.
Educational qualification – B.A.
Occupation – Housewife.
Family of orientation – Joint family.
Family of procreation – Joint family.
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 9 and 5 years respectively.

Introduction
A middle class housewife in her early thirties, Purnima grew up to believe that girls should be shy and demure and devote themselves to the needs of their husbands and children. But now she no longer thinks in the same vein. Today she would like to see her daughter confident and smart and strong enough to protect herself. She is highly skeptical of the joint family set up. She believes that in a joint family children imbibe the prevailing gender stereotypes faster under the influence of grand parents who tend to be stereotyped in their behaviour.

Toy play
Her son used to play with cars and her daughter with kitchen sets. She says she never gave them those toys. They developed a liking for them. She attributes this gender specific toy play to role modeling.

Emotions
Neither of her children is emotional according to Purnima. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter because she happens to be the older of the two. She believes that
daughters are slightly more empathetic than the sons because they spend most of their time at home hence they are aware of the concerns and worries of their parents.

Peer group
As of now, her children have peers of both the sexes. At present, she is not concerned about it. But later on one has to watchful about the kind of peers the children cultivate, especially the daughter.

Leisure activity
Her son goes out to play cricket while her daughter confines herself to the home, engaging herself in domestic tasks.

Behaviour patterns
She always stresses on one thing so far as behaviour patterns go and that is being soft spoken and polite especially in her daughter says Purnima.

Psychological attributes
She describes her daughter as confident and quiet, whereas her son is very assertive, aggressive and highly competitive and also very independent minded.

Household work
Her daughter helps her with the household tasks. Her son is too small to help she says. Her husband never helps her. Her mother in law never allows him to do anything. But she says she would ask her son to help his wife with the domestic tasks.

Character
Purnima feels that a girl's character needs to be pure and refined. A minor blot might lower the prospects of marriage. Hence one needs to be extra careful about the daughter's reputation. For boys this concern is not there.

Sociability
Her daughter is more sociable than her son and she likes it this way because she believes that as daughters have to get married and go to another house, they need to be social to get along with everybody.

**Marriage and family**
She would like her daughter to be married by the time she is 25 or 26 and her son whenever he settles down. She would not like either of her children to remain unmarried because she feels that loneliness is a terrible feeling. She would not allow her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies. But similar thoughts would not prevail in the case of her son. She would ask her daughter to be polite and respectful to her in-laws. She does not know what to tell her son in this regard. She feels that both husband and wife should share equally in the setting up a home. But what happens is that it is expected that a wife is instrumental in setting up a home and the husband ends up doing nothing.

**Occupational roles**
The choice of the children’s occupational roles is best left to them says Purnima. She does not think that it is necessary for her daughter to work before marriage. But she should be well qualified. She would like her daughter to take up teaching.

**Cinderella complex**
Purnima says she would never be able to take up a job that offers her a better pay and position than her husband. First it would create massive ego problems for her husband, secondly it would create ripples in the family. Her in-laws will never like it. She believes that girls are dependent on men because they see that a male member heads their family, and they see that their mothers are dependent on their fathers for everything. Hence they come to feel that this is the way it is.

4.23 **CASE STUDY OF PRACHI**

**Socio economic profile**
Age – 34 years.
Educational qualification – M.A, M.phil, P.hD.
Occupation – Teacher.
Family of orientation – Nuclear family.
Family of procreation – Nuclear family.
Children and ages – One daughter and one son aged 7 and 5 years respectively.

Introduction
Prachi in her early thirties is a mother of two young children. She has very pleasant memories of her childhood and adolescent days. Her parents were very encouraging in every respect she says. They did not believe in imposing anything on the children, rather they believed in explaining the pros and cons of every aspect to the children and then leaving the decision making aspect to them.

Toy play
Her daughter used to play with dolls and kitchen sets. And now her son plays with those dolls and kitchen sets. Her daughter used to play with cars and blocks. She herself gave these toys to the children. There is nothing inherent about toy selection by children feels Prachi.

Emotions
Her son is more emotional than her daughter. He cries at the drop of a hat. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with both of them. She believes that both daughters and sons have an equal capacity to empathise with their parents.

Peer group
As of now she is not overtly concerned about her children's peer group. But once they grow up some concern would be there for both of them, just in case they happen to get into affairs and things like that. She would like her children to learn to prioritize certain things. First they should settle down in life. Then they can choose their life partners.

Leisure activity
Both her children go out to play or watch television during their free time.
Behaviour patterns
She wants both her children to be soft spoken, polite, well behaved and to be pleasing in their manners. She would not tolerate misbehaviour in either the son or the daughter, says Prachi.

Psychological attributes
While both her children are confident, mentally strong, competitive and assertive, she describes her daughter as very aggressive.

Household work
As both her children are small, they help in whatever little way they can. Her husband shares equally in all the household tasks. He cooks, serves dinner, takes care of the kids. She does not see the necessity of telling her children anything in this regard. They are seeing for themselves what their parents are doing and there can be no better way of learning than this, feels Prachi.

Character
Prachi feels that both men and women should have a refined and good character. But she might not allow her daughter to go out as often as the son. A girl becomes an easy prey because of her physical vulnerability. But this is a mere safeguard says Prachi.

Sociability
Both the son and daughter are sociable and she likes it this way says Prachi.

Marriage and family
There is no particular age by which she would like her children to get married. It would not bother her also if they choose to remain single. Delay in her children’s marriage would never bother her and if her daughter was interested in going abroad for further studies, she would definitely allow her to go despite her having attained the marriageable age. She would ask both her children not to hurt anybody’s sentiments in the new home and to be sociable and get along with everybody. Both the husband and wife play an equally important role in setting up the home according to Prachi.

Occupational roles
Prachi would like to leave the decision in this regard to her children. As she says: "Let them decide for themselves what interests them and what career they would like to pursue".

**Cinderella complex**

Prachi says that if she was better placed than her husband in terms of pay and position then there would be absolutely no problems whatsoever and her husband would be very happy about it. She does not believe that a girl craves for male support. Rather she believes that both men and women need each others support and they crave for it.

### 4.24 CASE STUDY OF JAYANTI

**Socio economic profile**

**Age** – 39 years
**Educational qualification** – M.A, M.Phil
**Occupation** – Doctor
**Family of orientation** – Nuclear family
**Family of procreation** – Nuclear family
**Children and ages** – One daughter and one son aged 13 and 5 years respectively.

**Introduction**

Jayanti in her late thirties, is a doctor by profession. She has cheerful memories of her childhood days. However her parents were very strict with her very much unlike what she is with her daughter today.

**Toy play**

Jayanti used to give her daughter dolls to play with and she gave her son cars because he asked for them. She feels that nowadays children get a lot of ideas about toys by watching television and seeing different magazines. There is nothing inherent about it she says.
Emotions
Her daughter is more emotional than her son. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her daughter, as she happens to be the older of the two. However she feels that both sons and daughters are equally empathetic towards the parents.

Peer group
While her son has peers of both the sexes, her daughter has same sex peers. She would not mind she says if in future her daughter's peer group comprised of boys as well. But she should not go out with the boys says Jayanti.

Leisure activities
Her daughter keeps herself confined to books during her free time, whereas her son loves to go out says Jayanti.

Behaviour patterns
Jayanti asks her daughter to be feminine and gentle in her everyday interaction. She asks her to sit properly and not to keep her knees apart, to be soft spoken etc. She tells her son to be polite to others.

Psychological attributes
Jayanti describes her two children as confident, mentally strong and competitive. Her daughter is neither assertive nor aggressive. However her son is very assertive and aggressive she says. Aggressive behaviour on the part of her son is something that she strongly disapproves.

Household work
Her children help her with the household task, whenever she asks them to. Her husband lends her a helping hand whenever he is free.

Character
While she believes that both son and daughter should have a clean character, she might exercise some extra caution in her daughter's case as any hint of romantic attachment on her part would mar her chances of marriage.

**Sociability**
Jayanti's son is more sociable than her daughter. She describes her daughter as an introvert who keeps to herself. She hopes that gradually her daughter would open up.

**Marriage and family**
She would like to see her daughter married by the time she is 25 or 26 and son when he is 29 or 30. She would be concerned if either of her children decide to remain single or their marriage gets delayed beyond a certain age. However she would never allow marriage to come in the way of her daughter's career says Jayanti. She would tell her children that they should adopt a spirit of compromise and accommodation when they get married. She believes that both the husband and wife should share equally in the setting up of a home.

**Occupational roles**
She would like her children to decide what careers they would opt for. However given a choice Jayanti would like daughter to become a doctor. But she wants her daughter to be financially secured before getting married.

**Cinderella complex**
Jayanti says that if she was better placed than her husband in terms of pay and position then there would be absolutely no problems whatsoever and her husband would be very happy about it. She does not believe that a girl craves for male support. Rather she believes that both men and women need each others support and they crave for it.

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4.25 **CASE STUDY OF REENA**

**Socio economic profile**
Introduction
A lecturer by profession, Reena is in her early fifties. She hates the idea of being a working woman. She finds herself terribly burdened she says and feels like quitting. For the same reason she does not want her daughter to work.

Toy play
Reena’s children never liked to play with toys. Her daughter used to play with books and her son with stones and sticks. But she believes that there is something inherent about gender specific selection of toys by children.

Emotions
Her daughter is more emotional of her two children says Reena. She shares her innermost thoughts and feelings with her son, as she understands him better. She feels that both sons and daughters are equally empathetic towards the parents.

Peer group
Her children, both of them had peers of both the sexes. There was never any concern on this account says Reena.

Leisure activity
While her son loved to freak out her daughter used to read during her free time.

Behaviour patterns
Psychological attributes
Reena describes her two children as confident, mentally strong and competitive. Her daughter is neither assertive nor aggressive. However her son is very assertive and aggressive she says. Aggressive behaviour on the part of her son is something that she strongly disapproves.

Household work
Her children help her with the household tasks especially her son says Reena. But her husband rarely helped.

Character
Reena is of the firm opinion that it is imperative for a girl to have a spotless character. But a similar expectation does not operate in the case of the boy. Hence she was always extra careful about her daughter's character.

Sociability
Reena says that it looks good if girls are sociable. People like it that way she says. However in her case her son is sociable, while her daughter is not. Hence she was very concerned about her daughter. She always told her that she would learn to get along with people.

Marriage and family
Her daughter got married at the age of 24. Reena believes that a girl should be married by a particular age and if she crosses that age then it becomes difficult to get a suitable groom for her. Life for a single girl is fraught with danger. Hence she would never have allowed her daughter to remain single. She had asked her daughter to be polite and respectful to her inlaws. She would never have allowed her marriageable age daughter to go abroad for further studies, says Reena. Managing a home is the wife's responsibility alone says Reena.

Occupational roles
Reena says never wanted her daughter to work after marriage. In fact seeing her mother's difficulties, her daughter was herself averse to the idea of working. However her daughter's in laws asked her to continue working.
Cinderella complex
Reena says she would never ever accept a job that offers a good pay and position than her husband's not so much because her husband would mind, but because she herself will find herself triply burdened. Yes, she believes that women always seek and hanker for male support and protection.