

Conversation on Gender Sensitivity with Children in Lockdown



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Friends, the world is going through a lockdown at this time. With this, cases of domestic violence have suddenly increased. On the contrary, many types of crimes have come down.

It is an unfortunate time, but the family is together at this time.

Why not make this time a little better in terms of Gender Sensitivity?

We can try these 15 days of conversation during the lockdown. Apart from this, we can also use this material to sensitize the family.

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Conversation-1

Test the news

You can start talking to children (boy or girl) on any news of any newspaper or channel.

You have to do?

You can encourage them that they can speak without hesitation. Try that when you are talking, all the family members are with you, after dinner or tea, you can do the same.

Make every effort to understand any and everything, do not make negative comments.

You can also try to speak in a friendly manner without hesitation.

- You can add an order of conversation by talking about their friends.
- You can encourage them that they like your comment or talk to bad, good and less good.
- If the child asks you the same question about yourself, then answer honestly.

Conversation-2

In the house, children (boy or girl) get used to getting small things done. like-

- Cleaning the lentils/ pulses,
- Taking water by itself and keeping the utensils in a proper place,
- Serving food, cleanliness,
- Organizing rooms, belongings and books,
- Lifting and fixing dry clothes,
- Making them aware of the names and identities of the items kept in the kitchen - name-recognition of pulses and vegetables, names of utensils, names of spices and their different uses.
- If your child is around 14 years old, encourage them to learn how to make tea and cook food.
- First, stand with them or keep them standing together while cooking so that they learn safety and precautions.

- The division of work should not be done based on boy and girl, if children are doing this, then you should talk to them on the ability to work.
- Get all this work and identification done as a partner in your work.
- Refrain from preaching. Try them, do all the activities with opportunity, sports and cooperation.

Conversation-3

At home, you can talk about the things happening around you. Such as *sewing - embroidery - weaving, cooking, washing clothes, driving trucks, working on machines, computers, software, farming* etc.

You can add to the conversation-

- Who generally does these tasks? If the respondents associate a particular work with a particular gender, then you can ask them the reason.
- Then talk about the qualifications, skills, abilities, training, etc. related to these jobs.
- You can question whether they want to correct their earlier answer or not. If this is the case or not, ask the reason in both the cases.
- You can remind that only the one who can achieve the qualifications can do the work.
- You must tell them to rethink their point. You can remind that if work is linked with merit, then why is it seen in the society that particular work has been linked to a particular gender.
- You should also talk about modern professions such as Chef, Cook, Fashion-Designer, Watchman, Driver, Teacher, Engineer, Doctor etc. and the identities associated with these professions.

Use of technology

Reason
Example

Conversation

Logic

Conversation-4

Change role

You can also play a game of 'Changing Your Role' with them for one day. Through this game, it'll not only increase their understanding of sexuality and mutual relationships, but they will also get a sense of responsibility.

You have to do?

- In this game, you will do the work of your husband/ wife, which s/he does every day and s/he will do your work.
- If children are two or more, share them with both of you as equal members. In the case of one child, let the child decide with whom he will play.
- Then the next day, the whole family should talk about this whole activity, like what did they experience? What felt different?

Role of children	
Decider	Decisive Referee



Conversation-5

If children are small, talk to them on Good and Bad Touch. Even if they are teenagers, you can also expand the conversation-

What can you do?

- Talk to them to learn to say yes and no to your friends.
- Don't do anything you dislike under anyone's pressure.
- Similarly, you should not force your words on anyone.
- Tell your friends about the importance of your consent.
- Prepare children to share their feelings with their friends.
- Communicate with children to develop such signs, so the people around you can understand what you do not like.
- Learn to say no.

- Please also convey, what do you like and what not?
- Communicate with all on like and dislike.

Conversation-6

Who will do the household work?

Make a list of daily work in your home together with everyone. Divide the list into 4 parts. Paste the list somewhere in the house.

Like-

List-1

Name of work	Time is taken in work completion	Who does that work?	I can/will also do this work (Keep the last column blank, Name)
Cooking			
Washing clothes			
Cleanliness			
Iron clothes			
Bring vegetables			
.....etc.			
.....etc.			

Conversation-7

Household work, whose work?

Make a list of all the work done in the house. In addition to the list of previous work, you can include occasional work and once or twice a week. like-

- Daily chores - cooking, washing, cleaning, etc.
- Sorting of occasional work- maintaining trees, sewing clothes, buttoning, cleaning fans, washing curtains and sofa covers, etc.
- Work was done once or twice a week- ironing clothes, cleaning the courtyard, fixing the cupboard, cleaning the door mesh, shopping for household items etc.

List-2

Daily work	Occasional work	Occur once or twice a week	Name of the doer

Conversation-8

Cost of work

Now re-create the third list

- Create a column in front of all the work
- Write in this column the amount that could have been spent if these works were done by a professional or outside.
- Withdraw this money as per the month.
- See how much money you have to spend per month?
- How much money comes in the house through salary and other means?
- In this money, add the amount written in the empty column in the third list.

List-3

Daily work	Occasional work	Occur once or twice a week	Name of the doer	If they had got this work done from outside, how much money would have been spent

Conversation-9

Teach respect for others.

- Thank the children for the work done by them.
- Encourage them to do the same with some excuse.
- Teach respect for the work done by someone else.
- Teach an appreciation of the work done and the decision made by the sister or brother.
- Teach respect for habits, behavior and privacy etc. of those living among themselves.

- For this, they can be taught by greeting each other.
- They can also be asked to do the same by anyone with food, water or any help.
- Teach them to wish Good morning, birthday etc.



- You can make some greeting cards at home together.
- Gift items can be made by decorating useless bottles and items beautifully at home.

Conversation-10

Stop me

One day, you can do a 'Don't Stop Me' activity. In this activity *You choose four hours throughout the day in which you will interrupt each other on small matters.*

What can you do?

- You can interrupt another person for any purpose.
- Laugh at him or make fun of him.
- Once the activity is over, you can talk for four hours, on interrupting each other.

- Why did interruption look bad? If you like something, talk about the reason as well.
- Then you relate this activity to how a girl wears clothes, how it should look/feel like interrupting or sarcasm or commenting etc. to her.
- If the child asks you the same question about yourself, then answer honestly.
- Should this type of interruption be considered to interfere in one's personal life? Or what kind of interruption would interfere?
- You can talk about ¹² how a girl will feel when someone interrupts or teases on personal

Conversation-11

Which is big: work or money?

Apart from home, talk about the importance of other people works at home. Nowadays in lockdown when no outside helpers are available to help you in the house. Then it would be best to talk on this subject.

What can you do?

- Such household chores that you get done by helpers outside the home, write them separately or remember them.
- Now add the additional burden from those works to the remuneration given to them, talk about it.

To communicate and think

- You can talk that the work done by them is not just about the money. Along with money, they also need respect, connectedness and a sense of belonging.
- Talk about how they will survive if they do not give them remuneration without working at this difficult time?



In this way, you can connect them with a sense of connection and respect with the people around you.

Conversation-12

Feels bad

Talk about the use of disrespectful words and expressions.
like-

People can be easily seen abusing in public places like bus stops, street buses, trains, metro, offices etc.

What do you do?

- Talk about the behavior of such people.
- Can you talk to the male members of your house whether any of them do this?
- If yes, how can we stop such habits now?

Conversation-13

Yes, everyone in my yes

You can repeat the activity you like. This conversation is an extension of Conversation-5.

- What do they like and dislike?
- Can you force another's choice on you?
- Is it okay to impose your choice on others?
- Does anyone have the right to make friends/companions etc. of their choice?
- Talk about such incidents in which people often attack a girl because the girl rejects the friendship of the boy.
- You can also talk about such violence which happens only because the man does not like that no woman or girl has obeyed him.
- Talk to them about the violence done by the people around them.
- Talk to them about when someone commits violence?
- When or why does someone want to overpower someone?
- Talk about how this type of behavior can be eradicated?
- What kind of threat to society by this behavior?

Conversation-14

Our identity

You talk about 'us and our identity'.

- What is the identity of being a boy or a girl?
- Does anyone have any right to create this identity?
- If not, then how can the identity is given by nature be big or small?
- Talk on the leaf and the leaflet. Why is a leaf called a leaf and a leaflet called a leaflet? Talk about the reason.
- After the talk, ask whether the leaflet could be called a small leaf or a small leaflet and a leaf could be called a big leaf or a big leaflet?
- Talk if being male and female is just a physical or external identity, then something small, tender, delicate is called feminism and hard things are called masochism - is it not against nature?
- Why do we put the pressure of social identity on physical identity?
- Talk to your husband about what hurts or teases them? Has he cried or wanted to cry?
- Has he cried in front of anyone or not, why?

- Discuss that the man does not have chest pain - is this statement correct? If not, why?
- Does crying really cause weakness? Should grief be suppressed or somehow manifested?
- In the same way, openly talk to the children on the perceptions of society for girls or women.

Conversation-15

Decide yourself, your agenda

It can also be done...

Make your inquiry List (according to the number of house members....)

I do so much/ it every day.

Wife	Husband	Daughter/ Son	Daughter/ Son	Others

Ask questions

- Do I divide work based on gender?
- Do I leave the household work to female members?
- Do I understand that a man is physically stronger?
- While purchasing toys/ clothes of the children, do I see that I have to buy this for the boy or the girl?

- Do I choose colors, fragrances, cosmetics etc. based on gender?
- Am I in favor of deciding the higher-level education of my sons and daughters based on gender?
- Do I have different opinions about the boy or the girl being out of the house?
- Do I not have the ability to carry my things because I am a woman, so I am sure by giving it to my husband or fellow man?
- Do I feel safe outside only when I am with male members?
- Do I consider it safer to drive by a male partner on the highway?
- Do I feel safe taking my little male member out of the house?
- Do I have different opinions about sons and daughters in decision making?
- Do I also see in the sharing of household work that this work is related to a boy or a girl?
- Etc. etc.

A never-ending conversation that continues even after lockdown. Your issue...

Thank you

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Author's introduction



Dr. Rakesh Singh

- Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Delhi, Central Institute of Education etc.
- Worked for about 27 years in various educational posts in Delhi Education Department, Delhi Administration, Delhi.
- Voluntary retirement in May 2018.
- Work in education-related movements and slum areas, since the beginning.
- Prepared textbooks, modules, papers, a curriculum for Universities, NCERT, SCERT, DIET and other institutes as well as participated in academic writing, workshops, lectures at various higher levels on Education, Language and Gender subjects.
- Currently Head of Department of Education, Gender, and Youth at Manjari Foundation.

- Work on several important projects related to Learning Lab, Women Resource Center and education in backward and remote areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh etc. at Manjari Foundation.

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Thanksgiving



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