

English | Passage | Class 6

Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow:

There was a time when all house-work was done by the women or girls of the household. Few husbands ever dreamt of washing up, preparing breakfast or tending the baby. Such duties were no concern of theirs. And normal school boy assumed that if help were needed in the home, his sisters would be called on to give it. The whole family supported the view that the male child could not or should not clean, mend, wash, cook or make beds.

Things are very different today. Doctors or barristers find nothing shameful in putting on an apron to help in the kitchen or nursery and even boast of being good at washing of clothes and personal linen.

The school boy is more often now than formerly expected to help his mother. One reason for the change is the shortage of domestic servants. Girls could once be found to do the hard work in middle and upper class homes for very moderate wages. Such girls nowadays work in factories. They earn more money than most householders can afford to pay. Thus the wife now does the household work herself with the aid of labour saving machines; and she expects some help from her husband.

Questions:

1. Answer the following questions briefly:

- (a) Who usually did all house work in the past?
- (b) Mention some household chores that women use to do in their house.
- (c) How did the whole family view the male child?
- (d) How are things different now?
- (e) Mention one reason that has brought this change today?

2. Find words from the above passage that mean the same as:

- (a) taking care of
- (b) took for granted
- (c) talk proudly
- (d) not excessive
- (e) hopes