



## What Students Say.....

One of the most neglected and yet common problem haunting the Indian schools, is gender bias. Although our Constitution states that both the genders are equal in capability and have equal status in society, is it really so? In Indian society, women are supposed to be delicate under the thumb of men, and men are supposed to be the pillars of society. This is the reason why we need to understand the importance of Gender Sensitivity in our society. Before we delve deeper into the topic, it is important for us to understand the true essence of Gender Sensitivity.

For India to be truly democratic, the virtue of sensitivity must be inculcated in our population. This is possible only by educating the future generation, that is, our current youth- at the school level about this. The way in which the modern world is shaping up it is the need of the hour is for women to work shoulder to shoulder with men. However, the inequality felt by us in the society starts at the school level which is the root cause. For this problem to be solved, the mentality of teachers must be altered and notions about the particular behaviour which girls or boys must follow need to be diminished. The girls' behaviour should be altered from shy to bold and from delicate to strong. Similarly, the boys must be changed from authoritative to believers of equality. However, why is it necessary for us to go out of the way and ensure that gender sensitivity is truly prevalent in our society? This is because, as social animals, we need to be sensitive about the feelings of others and the embarrassment caused by not practising what we preach in real life. That is, we sermonize others about equality but in day to day life, it is somehow from the school level hammered into us that, obviously girls can't be boys and boys can't be girls. Hence, if anyone tries to move out of the shell of notions formulated about their gender, they are considered to be uncivilized, arrogant and those of undesirable character. In the words of John F. Kennedy, *"Every area of trouble gives out a ray of hope: and the one unchangeable certainty is certain or unchangeable"*. More importantly we need to realize our hopes and make people more gender sensitive at the school level so that our citizens can be competitive at the world level.

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Although the concept of gender sensitization can be established at almost any stage and level, its implementation at the grassroot level i.e. in schools, can certainly have a very beneficial impact because when children understand what is good and what is bad for others as well as their counterparts, then the whole concept of gender sensitization would be understood by them and, till the time they reach adulthood and they will be the masters of gender sensitization. They would possess an excellent moral character, perfect social instincts and sincere manners and etiquettes- somethings which our society earnestly needs in these times. Now, talking about its implementation in schools, the teachers should first get to know what the