

PASSAGE 8

Ought women to have the same rights as men? A hundred years ago, the answer in every country in the world would have been, "No." If you had asked, "Why not?" you would have been told, scornfully and pityingly, that women were weaker and less clever than men, and had worse characters. Even now, in the Twentieth Century, there are many countries where women are still treated almost like servants, or even slaves.

It is certainly true that the average woman has weaker muscles than the average man. Thousands of years ago, when men lived in caves and hunted animals for food, strength of body was the most important thing; but now, in the Twentieth Century, brains are more important. Strength of body is still needed for a few kinds of work, but the fact that such kinds of work are not well paid shows that the Twentieth Century does not think that muscles are of very great importance.)

What about women's brains? Of course, in countries where girls are not given so good an education as boys they know less (But in countries where there is the same education for both, it has been clearly shown that there is no difference at all between the brain of the average woman and that of the average man.) There have been women judges in Turkey, women ambassadors in America, women ministers in the British government and women University professors in many countries. And among the greatest and strongest rulers of England were Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria.

But women can do one thing that men cannot: they can produce children. Because they, and not men, do this, they usually love their children more, and are better able to look after them, since they are more patient and understanding with small children. For this reason, many women are happier if they can stay at home and look after their house and family than if they go out and do the same works as men do. It is their own choice, and not the result of being less clever than men.

QUESTIONS

1. Choose SIX of the following words or phrases and give for each of them another word or phrase of similar meaning to that in the context:

ought

well paid

understanding

scornfully

know

look after

average

ambassadors

not the result of

• Ought - should

• not the result of - Happening due to

• well paid - lavishly earned

• look after - take care

• average - ordinary

• ambassadors - representatives

2. Give brief answers to the following questions using ONE COMPLETE sentence for each. Use your own words as far as possible, but your answer must be based only on the information in the piece.

- (a) Why would you have been told a hundred years ago that women ought not to have the same rights as men?

It was considered that women not ought to have the same rights as men because they were considered weaker, less clever, and of worse character as compared to men.

- (b) Why was strength of body important thousands of years ago?

Strength of body was important thousands of years ago because all crucial chores like hunting animals for food, and living in caves required physical strength.

- (c) How can we see that it is no longer so important?

Physical strength is no longer important because it is an era of brain and education, and those who are superior in these qualities thrive more.

- (d) What work does the writer mention that women have done as well as men?

Writer mentions that in countries where equal education has been provided to men and women, women have performed equal to men, and there is no difference between the brain of the average man to that of average woman.

3. What does the writer think about the brains of women compared with those of men? Do not use more than 50 words in your answer.

Writer thinks that there is no difference between the brain of average women to that of average man, and they have performed equally well in education, when given equal opportunities. Writer mentions that it is in contrast with earlier belief that women are less clever as compared to men.