

I Can Take Care of Myself

Once upon a time, there was a mother rat who wanted to get her young daughter married as soon as possible, to the most powerful being that she could find. 'Who is the most powerful being on earth?' she asked herself. She saw the bright sun god travelling across the sky, and thought, 'Surely, all beings depend on the sun. The sun god is the most powerful being on this earth.' She asked the sun god, 'Are you the most powerful being on this earth?' He smiled, 'No, there is one greater than me to help the creatures - it is the rain. Without the rain, no crop or tree would grow. There would be no water on earth.'

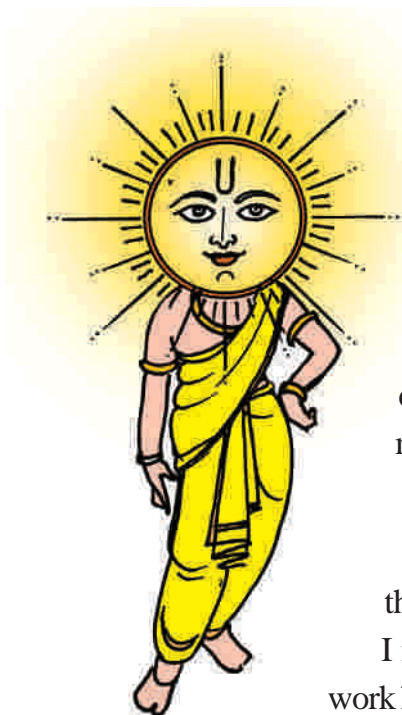


Just then, it began to rain. She thought, "How wonderful the rain is! It makes the whole land green. It makes the rivers flow. Surely, the rain god is the most powerful being on this earth. She asked the rain god, 'Are you the most powerful being on this earth?'

He smiled, 'No, there is one greater than me to help the creatures- it is the mountain. Without the mountain, there would be no protection for the creatures of this earth. The mountain blocks the clouds, and lets the water flow safely for the people and all life in the valleys.'

She looked around, and saw the beautiful blue mountain. She thought, "How big and strong the mountain is! It withstands all winds and storms. It protects the earth and its creatures. Surely, the mountain god is the most powerful being on this earth. 'She asked the mountain god, 'Are you the most powerful being on this earth?' He smiled, 'No, there is one greater than me to help the creatures-it is the worm. Without the worm, the earth would be hard and nothing would grow in the soil. The earthworm is the greatest friend that living beings can have.'





Just then, she saw her daughter coming towards her. She asked her mother, 'What are you doing?'

'I am trying to find out who the most powerful being on earth is', said the mother.

'Why?' asked her daughter. 'I want you to marry him and be safe,' said the mother.

'Why would I need to marry to be safe?' asked the daughter. 'To be safe, I need to know how to take care of myself.'

'You are small. You need protection', said the mother rat.

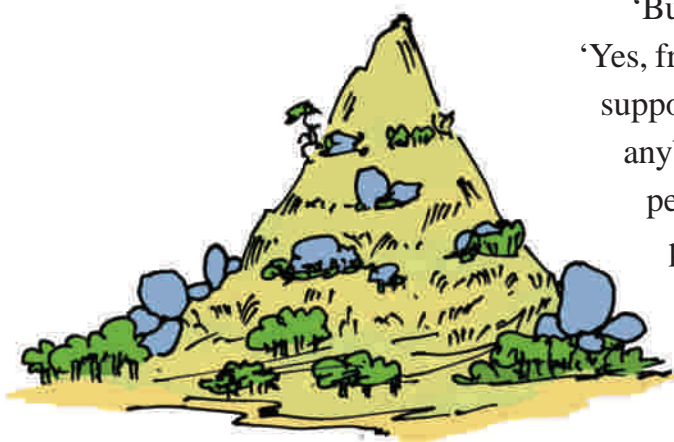
'The best protection is to be able to protect oneself,' said the daughter. 'To protect myself, I need to learn to be strong and work hard.'

'But why would you need to work? If you marry someone rich and powerful, he will support you', said the mother rat. 'Who is rich and powerful, *amma*?' asked the daughter. 'The truly powerful being is one who can take care of oneself and those she loves. One is truly rich, if one is rich in love. I want to be powerful myself, so that I can take care of myself and those that I love.'

The mother rat was confused. 'What will you do?' she asked. 'I will learn to stand on my own feet. I will find work to do that supports me, and my family. For that, I need to learn more about the world, and learn to live in it as a good creature. Let me first learn to take care of myself.'



'But don't you need help?' asked the mother rat. 'Yes, from you, *amma*!' said the daughter. 'Help me support myself. I am not interested in marrying anybody, rich or powerful. Depending on another person's power, position or prosperity does not promise peace and security in the long run. One has to depend on the power within oneself to seek the target in one's life.'





Comprehension

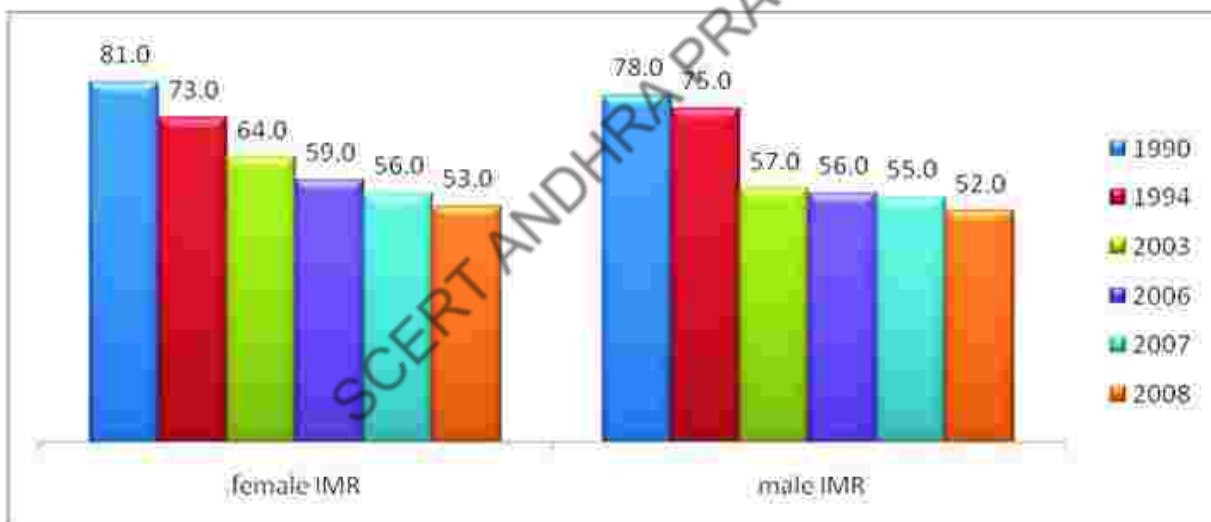
Answer the following questions.

1. What do you think is the most important thing to learn to live well ?
2. What are the skills or qualities that would help you to be independent in your life?
- *3. Do you agree/ disagree with the daughter of the mother rat?
Give reasons for your response.



Study Skills

- I. Observe the data given in the bar diagrams related to male and female infant mortality rates (IMR) in India over the years 1990 to 2008 and answer the questions given.



(Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation National Statistical Organisation - Website: www.mospi.gov.in)

1. In which year is the difference in infant mortality rates between male and female the highest?
2. In which case and in which year do we find a sudden decrease in the IMR?
3. What will happen if there is a wide gap in IMR between male and female?
4. What, according to you, may the reasons be for the female IMR being higher than the male IMR?
5. What may the reasons be for the decrease in IMR over the years?

6. Do you think there could be a further decrease in the IMR after 5 years?
7. What, according to you, may the reasons be for the death of more than half of both male and female infants?

II. Group work.

Discuss the above questions in your group and write an analytical report on the Infant Mortality Rates in India.



Oral Activity

Work in pairs and debate on the following proposition.

“Reservation in education, employment and legislature will empower the women.”



Project Work

- A. Interview some female members in your family and neighbourhood with the following questions.**

Would you like the girls in the family to take up a job after they have received education?

If yes, give some reasons.

If no, give some reasons.

- B. Work on the following items.**

Note down whether the woman you have interviewed is educated or uneducated; working / not working; married / unmarried.

Sl.No.	Name	Working		Not working		Opinion
		Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	

- C. Based on the above information write a paragraph on ‘Woman Empowerment’.**

Self Assessment

How well have I understood this unit?

Read and tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
I read and understood the text:			
A. Bonsai Life			
B. Bonsai Life			
C. I can Take Care of Myself			
I was able to understand and use the phrasal verbs given under 'Vocabulary'.			
I was able to frame idioms given under 'Vocabulary'.			
I was able to understand and identify subject and predicate given under 'Grammar'.			
I was able to write a poster given under 'Writing'.			
I was able to understand the debate given under 'Listening'.			
I listened to and understood “Education of the Girl Child is a Burden” and answered the questions given under 'Listening'.			
I was able to participate in a debate given under 'Oral Activity'.			
I was able to interview the neighbourhood women given under 'Project Work'.			

Grammar Family

Parts of Speech

There is a family in London whose surname is Grammar. There is a couple, Mr. Noun and Mrs. Verb. The couple has three children: a son, Pronoun and two daughters, Adverb and Adjective. The son (Pronoun) has to do all the work of his father in his absence. The two daughters love each other but there is a difference in them. Adjective loves her father and brother and keeps praising them. Adverb loves her mother more and she always modifies her when there is a need. There are two servants in the family, Preposition and Conjunction. The preposition is the chief servant. He is the official servant of his master. He is the family servant and looks after every member of the family. The Interjection joins the family in times of joy and sorrow.