

Growing up as Boys and Girls

Q1. What role was assigned to young boys and girls in the Samoan islands?

Ans. Roles of boys and girls in the Samoan islands

- i. Both boys and girls looked after their younger siblings.
- ii. But by the time a boy was about nine years old, he joined the older boys in learning outdoor jobs like fishing and planting coconuts.
- iii. After the age of fourteen or so girls also went on fishing trips, worked in the plantations and learnt how to weave baskets.
- iv. Cooking was done in special cooking houses where boys were supposed to do most of the work while girls helped with the preparations.

Q2. Discuss the initiatives taken by the government to promote equality between the male or female.

Ans. Government recognises that burden of child-care and housework falls on women and girls. This naturally has an impact on whether girls can attend school. It determines whether women can work outside the house and what kind of jobs and careers they can have. The government has set up anganwadis or child-care centres in several villages in the country. The government has passed laws that make it mandatory for organisations that have more than 30 women employees to provide crèche facilities. The provision of crèches helps many women to take up employment outside the home. It also makes it possible for more girls to attend schools.