

The Sacred Turtles of Kadavu

Activity I Debate :

"Are Women Empowered in our society" ?

FOR : Looking down history, we can see that women were the weaker species, always dependent on MAN to receive their needs. In the modern days, she has become independent and also has earned a lot of legal rights to affirm her position in the society. Women are safe from harassment to a certain extent. The story of the two women from 'Namuana' happened in ancient days. There were no laws to protect them then. Yet God listened to the cries of the ladies and came to help them. Women's voices are always heard if they are ready to raise their voices. Today the situation is different. Women are educated and empowered. They are aware of their rights. Women are ready to react and resist any problem with the help of police and law. Women can travel freely. They can take up jobs. Women's Cell looks into the matters of women. Thus women have become ready to stand and fight against all crimes against them. Even the introduction of the 'She Taxi' is to promote them to come into the forefront.

AGAINST :

The newspapers of all languages are full of news of violence and crime done against women. Women are not yet safe in society. Rape, harassment, murder and dowry problems still exist even today. Women are still a weaker sex. The laws, even though written in print are not able to protect each woman. Some women are not aware that they are being tortured. Male dominated society does not allow them freedom. The fate of the women of Kadavu is not different from what is happening today. Women still remain helpless. They are discriminated from childhood itself. They are neglected to come forward in the fields of politics and govt. services. Actually the male society must promote and protect them from harm. Men should learn to respect women as mother, wife, sister and daughter and not see them as sexual objects.

Activity II A RITUAL POPULAR IN OUR LOCALITY

A ritual very popular in Kerala is the 'laying of floral carpets' during the festival of Onam. A small statue of 'Onathappan' or King Mahabali is placed at the centre of the floral carpet. Flowers are thrown and scattered around the statue to welcome Mahabali for his annual visit. This is done to keep fresh the memories of the ancient legend of King Mahabali and Vamana. When Vamana was about to push King Mahabali down to the underworld, King Mahabali asked for permission to visit his subjects every year which was promptly granted. This has resulted in the ritual of laying floral carpets to welcome Mahabali Thampuran. The colourful spread of flowers remind us of the colour and happiness Kerala experienced during his rule. Imitation of old practices promote brotherhood among natives.

Extended Activities : Activity III Conversation.

Me: Good Morning, is this the office of "Holiday Inn" - travel agency?

Agent: Yes, sure it is, what can I do to help you, sir?

Me: I'm calling from Trivandrum, and I would like to know whether you arrange trips to Delhi and Agra during the summer vacations.

Agent: Yes, sir, we do arrange trips to Delhi and Agra concentrating on the Taj Mahal and associated areas. We arrange train or air tickets to Delhi and from there our bus takes you to various tourist sites.

I: And your charges please?

Agent: We charge Rs 6000/- per person, for a week's stay in Delhi.

I: What are other services you provide?

Agent: Once you are in Delhi, we cater to all your needs. We arrange boarding and lodging in Holiday Resorts, and we have permission from governmental agencies to visit the Parliament and Planetariums.

I: Oh! that's wonderful, when do you start the bookings?

Agent: By the first week of March. Do book early and pay the advance amount of Rs 1000/- per person.

I: Okay sure. I shall book my tickets as early as possible.

Agent: Thank you Sir, we shall do everything to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

Activity IV

classmate

Date _____

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Extended Activities : Introductory Speech

Q. 1. SCRIPT OF SPEECH INTRODUCING A TOURIST SPOT

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,
Welcome to Delhi, the land of the Emperors and Kings of India. The Royal State with all its glory and heritage, offers each tourist a feast for the eyes and a thought for the brain. And here, specially in Agra, the land of the Taj, you are in front of the 'Crown of Palaces', a white marble mausoleum, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj is widely accepted as the jewel of Muslim art in India, and a masterpiece of world heritage and culture. The construction of the Taj began in 1632 and was completed in 1648 and the gardens around it were finished in 1653. The Tomb or place of rest of Mumtaz is in the centre of the Taj. Four minarets frame the tomb, each one at each corner. The marble dome of the Taj is the most beautiful structure always called Onion Dome, the top decorated with a lotus design, and friends, the white colour symbolises the purity of love and peace of their love. At the top it is situated on the banks of the river Yamuna. Ladies and Gentlemen, let us

move forward into the Taj with all
silence and respect for the Emperor
Shah Jahan and his late Queen. May
their souls rest in peace. This piece
of architecture is the crown of Mughal
architecture and is a wonder of the
world.

Enjoy your viewing please do
not take cameras into the Taj. There
are cameras installed inside. Please
abide (follow) the instructions provided.
Co-operate with us. Enjoy your holiday.
Thank you.