Child and Parents—Gender Equality
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Children are very delicate beings, whom we should care for like flowers. Our future depends on our investment in our children's education, as they will determine the future of society. A person's character is formed up to the age of six, and this formation gradually becomes fixed by the age of seven or eight. Given this, we can understand the importance of early education. It develops their character, intelligence, and history.

This education begins in the family, where children prove to be excellent imitators. In this environment they explore their surroundings, taking note of everything around them, and then start the process of active production. For this reason, parents should take good care of their children, paying particular attention to their behavior, remembering that they as parents will accompany their children throughout their childhood. Parents should also consider what kind of toys and clothes they give their children.

Usually, gender-based differences begin in the family before the child is even born male or female. Then comes the confirmation by the doctor that the baby is a girl or a boy; naturally, for the father, a baby boy is always welcome. Then begins the purchase of outfits for the child, differentiated by gender: pink or red if it's a girl or blue if it's a boy. Nevertheless, the baby's arrival is celebrated regardless of its sex.

Every family tries to provide the best care for their children. But often they cannot avoid making gender distinctions when purchasing gifts for their children. Not only family members but also relatives and friends will give gifts according to gender. Girls receive beautiful dolls, hairclips, and make-up mirrors, while boys receive cars, balls, footballs, and bicycles.

Tales and stories also play an important role in the raising and educating of children. Their impact is inevitable. Yet even in tales and stories we can perceive gender differences, as depicted in "Cinderella," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and so on. These fairytales are known worldwide, with generation after generation raising their children on them. The characters in these fairytales are often women who look after the family and do housework. Girls, largely, grow up with these fairytales and sometimes even commit them to memory. Do you think that fairytales can affect the formation of children's characters, which, as mentioned above, are generally formed up to the age of six?

Stereotypes can also be found in textbooks, both in the illustrations and in the stories. The mother cooks, the father reads the newspaper, the grandmother knits a

sweater, the brother plays with a ball, while the daughter look after her younger sister and plays with her dolls.

School books with text and illustrations not only shape children's environment and family life but also affect their social life and future, such as their future choice of profession. Women are predominantly depicted as teachers, nurses, mothers, and housewives.

Nowadays younger generations have to approach these distinctions with more care. Baby clothes and colors are often chosen these days without making gender-based distinctions. Boys can dress like girls in hazel or other colors. Children are also free to choose which toys they want to play with. As a parent, I could buy my daughter a train, a carriage or an electronic toy, without giving it a second thought. I could equally buy the same things for my son. New parents now take more care when choosing fairytales and stories to read to their children, so as to avoid gender-based stereotypes.

Parents today help their children in their future professional choices. Without undue reservation, they can help their daughters choose any profession for which they have the ability—whether a doctor, a pilot, a mechanic, or a construction engineer—and educate their children without gender distinctions. As Confucius said, "Educated people always have high goals. Small tasks occupy small people."