

Chandraprabha Saikiani

1) Answer the following questions from the lesson to check your comprehension :

a) Who was Chandraprabha Saikiani ?

Ans:- Chandraprabha Saikiani was a great social reformer from Assam. Her parents were Ratiram Majumdar and Ganga Priya.

b) What did Chandraprabha do to educate the girls of her village ?

Ans:- Chandraprabha gathered the girls of her village and taught them what she learnt in her school.

c) Which two incidents show us how Chandraprabha fought for the rights of girls ?

Ans:- Chandraprabha compelled the authorities to allow all girls of all religions to avail the hostel facility. She also uprooted the system of bamboo screens between men and women in public meetings.

d) On what occasion did Chandraprabha Saikiani inspire women to come out from behind the bamboo screen ?

Ans:- In the Assam Sahitya Sabha session at Nagaon Chandraprabha Saikiani delivered a very powerful speech and inspired women to come out from behind the bamboo screen.

e) What steps did Chandraprabha take to eliminate the caste system ?

Ans:- Chandraprabha fought for the entry of everyone irrespective caste, gender and class into the famous Hayagriva Madhab temple in Hajo.

f) What was Chandraprabha Saikiani's in the freedom movement of India ?

Ans:- Chandraprabha Saikiani took Active part in India's freedom movement. She spread the message of Khadi, boycott of foreign clothes, removal of untouchability, banning of opium and other social evils to the mass people.

2) Work in pairs and complete the following sentences with information from the lesson :

a) At a time when society did not allow young girls to step out of home, she fought

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Ans:- At a time when society did not allow young girls to step out of home, she fought to make formal education available for girls.

b) In those days girls' school did not exist, so Chandraprabha

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Ans:- In those days girls' school did not exist, so Chandraprabha did not mind wading through mud to attend a school which only had boys and was situated several kilometers away.

c) Chandraprabha and her sister were awarded

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Ans:- Chandraprabha and her sister were awarded a scholarship to study in Nagaon Mission School.

d) In order to eliminate the evils of the caste system, Chandraprabha fought for the entry of

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Ans:- In order to eliminate the evils of the caste system, Chandraprabha fought for the entry of everyone irrespective of caste, gender and class into the famous Hayagriva Madhaba temple at Hajo.

e) Being inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Chandraprabha

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Ans:- Being inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Chandraprabha joined the freedom movement of India.

3) Read the following sentences and find a word from the text to replace the underlined part.

a) Chandraprabha Saikiani was a famous and respected social worker from Assam.

Ans:- Renowned.

b) She tried to get rid of all the cultural or religious restrictions against women that prevailed during those days.

Ans:- Taboos.

c) Chandraprabha refused to accept and questioned the prevailing custom of women sitting behind bamboo screens in public meetings.

Ans:- Challenged.

d) She was strong in her attitude against society's restriction and her protest against the norms of society was not confined to a particular incident.

Ans:- Stanchly.

e) Whenever she saw any injustice, her desire to resist authority rose to the occasion.

Ans:- Rebellious spirit.

4) Listen to your teacher read out the first paragraph of the lesson. As you listen, complete the table below with information about Chandrababha Saikiani :

a) Chandrababha Saikiani – A social reformer from A.....

b) Birth – March

c) Father –

d) Mother –

e) Sister –

**f) School – A school which only had
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Ans:- a) Chandrababha Saikiani – A renowned social reformer from Assam.

b) Birth – 16 March 1901.

c) Father – Ratiram Majumdar.

d) Mother – Ganga Priya.

e) Sister – Rajnirabha.

f) School – A school which only had boys and was situated several kilometers away.

5) There are seven paragraphs in the lesson Chandrababha Saikiani. Choose the appropriate description for each paragraph.

a) The first paragraph is about :

i) Chandraprabha Saikiani's childhood.

ii) Chandraprabha Saikiani's birth as the social reformer.

iii) Chandraprabha Saikiani's career as a school teacher.

Ans:- ii) Chandraprabha Saikiani's birth as the social reformer.

b) The second paragraph is about :

i) Chandraprabha Saikiani's preparation to be a school teacher.

ii) Girl's education vs boy's education.

iii) Chandraprabha Saikiani's efforts to get an education just like the boys of her village.

Ans:- ii) Girl's education vs boy's education.

c) The third paragraph is about :

i) Her fight for freedom.

ii) Her fight for the rights of girls.

iii) Her fight against British rule.

Ans:- ii) Her fight for the rights of girls.

d) The fourth paragraph is about :

i) Formation of Assam Pradeshik Mahila Samiti.

ii) Chandraprabha Saikiani's protest against restrictions imposed on women.

iii) Chandraprabha Saikiani's speech at the Assam Sahitya Sabha meeting.

Ans:- i) Formation of Assam Pradeshik Mahila Samiti.

e) The fifth paragraph is about :

i) The caste system of India.

ii) Chandrababha Saikiani's visit to Hajo.

iii) Chandrababha Saikiani's protest against the caste system.

Ans:- i) The caste system of India.

f) The sixth paragraph is about :

i) Chandrababha Saikiani's meeting with Mahatma Gandhi.

ii) Chandrababha Saikiani as the freedom fighter.

iii) The punishment Chandrababha Saikiani received for being a freedom fighter.

Ans:- i) Chandrababha Saikiani's meeting with Mahatma Gandhi.

g) The seventh paragraph is about :

i) Chandrababha Saikiani's rebellious spirit.

ii) Chandrababha Saikiani's imprisonment.

iii) Chandrababha Saikiani's motivation to join the freedom movement.

Ans:- iii) Chandrababha Saikiani's motivation to join the freedom movement.

6) Discuss in groups and share what you have learnt about :

a) The condition of women during the days of Chandrababha Saikiani.

Ans:- During the days of Chandrabhabha Saikiani the condition of women were pitiful from the point of view of social rights. Women had to sit behind a bamboo screen in public meetings.

b) Chandrabhabha Saikiani's role in the freedom movement.

Ans:- In the freedom movement Chandrabhabha Saikiani spread the message of khadi, boycott of foreign clothes, removal of untouchability, banning of opium and other social evils.

7) Let's learn some grammar :

In this lesson you have come across verbs that use 'to' before them –

a) She was inspired to join in the freedom movement.

The form "to join" is a non-finite verb generally known as the to-infinitive.

The to-infinitive can also be used as the subject of a sentence as in –

b) To keep the guest waiting is not good.

It can also be used as the complement of a sentence –

c) It is not good to keep the guest waiting.

Now practise using the to-infinitive.

Combine these sentences by using to-infinitives. The first one is done for you –

a) I will visit the book fair. I will buy a few novels.

Ans:- I will visit the book fair to buy a few novels.

b) We are going to Puri tomorrow. We will visit the Jagannath Temple there.

Ans:- We are going to Puri to visit the Jagannath Temple there.

c) She started a small school for girls. She would help them to overcome the taboos against women.

Ans:- She started a small school for girls to help them to overcome the taboos against women.

d) She delivered a very powerful speech. She demanded the removal of the prevailing customs of women sitting behind bamboo screens.

Ans:- She delivered a very powerful speech demanding to remove the prevailing customs of women sitting behind bamboo screens.

e) She and her sister were awarded a scholarship. They will study in Nagaon Mission School.

Ans:- She and her sister were awarded scholarship to study in Nagaon Mission School.

8) You must have come across English words which have different forms. One word can be used to form several other words, and such words usually go to a different word class. For example, look at the following word web where you will see different forms of the word beauty.

Beauty Noun

Beautify Verb

Beautiful Adjective

Now complete the word webs with other forms of the words given in each web below :

i) Time Noun.

Timed Verb.

Timely Adverb.

ii) Eagerness Noun.

Eager Adjective.

Eagerly Adverb.

iii) Rebellion Noun.

Rebel Verb.

Rebellious Adjective.

iv) Movement Noun.

Move Verb.

Movable Adjective.

v) Patriot Noun.

Patriotically Adverb.

Patriotic Adjective.

vi) Education Noun.

Educationally Adverb.

Educational Adjective.

9) a) Have you heard of CEDAW? The full form of CEDAW is the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. CEDAW is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. Described as an internal bill of rights for women, CEDAW was ratified by 189 countries. Some of the important features of CEDAW are :

– Governments shall take concrete steps to eliminate discrimination against women.

– Governments shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that women can enjoy basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

– Governments shall take appropriate measures to eliminate sexist stereotypes.

– Women will have the right of vote, to participate in forming and implementing governmental policies.

– Women will have the right to represent the country at an international level.

– Women and girls should receive career and vocational guidance and have access to education opportunities at par with men or boys.

Look how things have changed since the days of Chandraprabha Saikiani ! Today governments themselves have undertaken the task of eliminating discrimination against women. But the government alone cannot succeed in this task unless women become aware of their rights.

i) Work in small groups to find out more about CEDAW on the internet and write down some more important features of CEDAW. (You can search www.un.org.)

Ans:- Do yourself.

ii) Based on your reading, prepare a poster on the topic – ‘Let’s stop discrimination against women’.

Ans:-

- Eliminate discrimination against women.
- Treat Men and women equally.
- Ensure equal rights for women as men.
- Ensure political and social rights to women for a happy world.

b) Now that you have learnt about Chandraprabha Saikiani and the norms of society women had to follow, choose any one of the topics below and write a short essay. You can work in small groups.

i) Chandraprabha Saikiani as a social reformer.

ii) The different challenges that women faced during the time of Chandraprabha Saikiani.

iii) Chandraprabha Saikiani fought a hard battle for herself and her younger sister in order to receive an education as good as the one the boys in her village were receiving.

Ans:- i) Chandraprabha Saikiani as a social reformer.

Chandraprabha Saikiani was a renowned social worker of Assam. During her days discrimination towards women was the norm of society. She felt very unhappy at this and determined to fight for the causes of women. First she fought for girls right for education. Next she was the person who removed bamboo screen from the front of the women in public meetings. She also paved the way of easy entry of women in the famous Hayagriva Madhaba temple at Hajo.

c) Think of yourself in the place of Chandraprabha Saikiani and list some ideas to eradicate taboos against women that are still present in our society today.

Ans:- Discrimination against women has gone down in our society now adays.

i) But still they should be given equal status to men. And for this public opinion should be moulded.

ii) Not rules are sufficient but public awareness should be ensured to protect girl child.

iii) More and more girl's school be created.

iv) Steps should be taken for their higher study.

v) Representation in political field in a better ratio should be ensured.

vi) Legislation of laws for the correct implementation of the schemes for women empowerment.

10) Your teacher will divide the class into five groups (A, B, C, D and E) and assign paragraphs to each group.

Group A – Paragraph 2, Group B – Paragraph 3, Group C – Paragraph 4, Group D – Paragraph 5. Working in groups :

a) Look up the dictionary to find out the meaning of the word ‘skit’ .

Ans:- Short piece of humorous writing.

b) Read the given paragraph very carefully. Using the information provided in it, write out dialogues to make a skit. Develop the characters and also try to design the backdrop. Then act out the skit in front of the class.

Ans:- Do yourselves.

c) Prepare a slogan on the issue highlighted in the paragraph. Write the slogans on chart paper and hang them around the class. Here is a sample slogan.

Happy Women, Healthy Women !

Stop Female Foeticide !

Ans:- Save Girls, Save Nation !