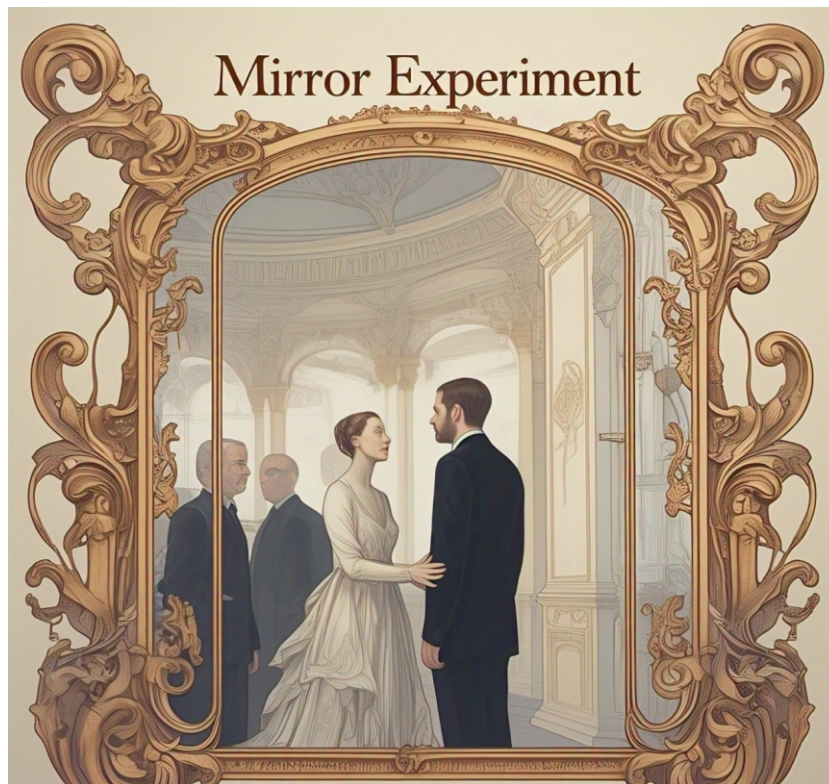




**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

### **The Mirror Experiment – SDG 5 – Gender Equity**



In a busy city filled with tall buildings and new technology, a social experiment was about to begin, which was called the mirror experiment, and the goal was to find out if people could truly be equal. The plan was that men and women would switch their roles in society completely. Women would get jobs in business, science, and even politics while men would be given the tasks of caregivers and helpers. The aim of the experiment was to show what would happen to society if both men's and women's roles were reversed.

Victoria Godlove, a young journalist, was lucky enough to be given a role in the experiment. She was always curious about how men and women were treated differently in society, and she had been given an opportunity to finally research about it. She soon moved to Amba; a special city created to hold the participants of the experiment. The entire city was being watched by the rest of the world yet the participants had no contact with the people from the outside world.

In Amba, she soon started to experience what it would be like to live in society without any restriction. She was given the role of CEO of a tech company, a role which was only given to men in the real world. At first, she loved the respect and power that came with the position, but soon she started to see the other side of things.

At the same time, Alex Quinn, who used to be a successful lawyer, was given the position of a stay-at-home dad of two kids. He had a really hard time adjusting to this new life. He often struggled with the problems of feeling useless, and felt that all of his past success meant nothing anymore. He never expected to feel so lost when his role reversed.

Victoria, who was writing a story about the experiment, decided to interview Alex because she became interested in how he was coping with the new life. She learned how hard it was for him. He even said, “I always thought everything was fair.” He soon came to realize how much easier it had been to be a man in the outside world. “I realize how much I used to take my power for granted,” he stated.

As Victoria spent more time in Amba, she realized that reversing the roles did nothing. Even though women were in charge, they were starting to treat men the same way men had treated women before without really listening to their opinions or respecting their work. The experiment wasn’t solving anything; it was just showing how easily power could be misused by anyone regardless of gender.

As time went on, some men started to protest and said that the experiment was unfair, while some women started doubting if the experiment was really working. Victoria saw this and decided to organize a meeting.

At the meeting, Victoria stood in front of the crowd. “Switching roles isn’t enough to make things equal,” she said. “What we’ve seen here is that transferring the power just made the women start to misuse the power. Real equality would mean treating people fairly regardless of their gender, and valuing their contribution.” After the meeting, everyone realized that Victoria was right. It wasn’t enough to simply trade places. True equality meant making sure that everyone, no matter their gender, had the chance to succeed and be respected for their talents.

By the end of the year, The Mirror Experiment was over. It didn’t create perfect equality, but it helped people understand that swapping roles wasn’t the solution. They needed to change how they valued people, both at home and in the workplace. Victoria went back to her job with a new story to tell, and Alex returned to his life with a new perspective on what equality really meant.

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## Author

**Name:** Shruti Chandra

Grade 8 Cambridge Lower secondary 3 student I am interested in writing short stories and creating art, with strong analytical thinking, drawing, and painting skills. Skilled communicator with a passion for creative expression. Hopes to pursue a career in the medical field.



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