



Notes of chapter 8 - Reach for the top

Thinking about the Text

1. Answer these questions in one or two sentences each. (The paragraph numbers within brackets provide clues to the answers.)

1. Why was the 'holy man' who gave Santosh's mother his blessings surprised?

Ans: The 'holy man' was surprised since he had believed that Santosh's mother wanted a son. But grandmother told him that they did not need a son.

2. Give an example to show that even as a young girl Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable.

Ans: Santosh, from the very starting, lived life on her own terms.

She was not satisfied with the traditional method of life and was not willing to accept anything unreasonable. Where other children were wearing traditional Indian dresses, Santosh chose shorts.

3. Why was Santosh sent to the local school?

Ans: Although Santosh's parents could have sufficient money to send their kids to the best schools, she was sent to the nearby village school because of the predominant tradition in the family.

4. When did she leave home for Delhi, and why?

Ans: When she turned sixteen and was under pressure to get married, Santosh threatened her parents that she was never going to marry if she did not get a proper education. Consequently, she left home and joined a school in Delhi.

5. Why did Santosh's parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought into light by this incident?

Ans: When the parents of Santosh rejected the payment for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part-time to reimburse her school fees. Then, her parents decided to pay for her schooling in Delhi. This reveals that Santosh was a mentally strong girl and decided to work very hard to get herself properly educated.



II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).

1. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

Ans: From her room in Kasturba Hostel, she looked at the people going up the Aravalli Hills and vanishing after some time. On the inquiry, she found nobody except a few mountaineers, and she asked if she could join them. They agreed and even encouraged her to take climbing and so she later joined them on their climbing expedition. This was how she started climbing mountains.

2. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh's concern for her teammates?

Ans: During the Everest mission, Santosh showed enormous concern for her fellow climbers. Although she failed in rescuing the life of one of them, she did manage to rescue another mountaineer by artificial respiration.

3. What shows her concern for the environment?

Ans: Santosh was a passionate environmentalist. Her interest in the environment is obvious from the fact that she collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.

4. How does she describe her feelings at the summit of Everest?

Ans: Santosh asserted that her feeling at the top of Everest was "indescribable". Unfurling the Indian flag on the highest of the world was a marvelous second for her and she felt proud as an Indian.

5. Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. What were the reasons for this?

Ans: When Santosh Yadav first climbed Mt Everest, she became the youngest woman in the world to reach the feat. When she climbed Everest the second time, she became the only woman to have climbed it twice.

