# 2.5 Women in Hinduism



#### Women in Hinduism

 In the Hindu law book (The Laws of Manu) there are contradictory views on women



# View #1

 Women must be honoured, and adored by their fathers, husbands and brothers, and brothersin-law who desire welfare.

 Where women are honoured, there the Gods are pleased, but where they are not honoured,

no sacred rite yields reward

#### View #2

 By a girl, young woman, or even by an aged one, nothing must be done independently, even in her own house.

 In childhood a female must be subject to her father, in youth to her husband, when her lord is dead, to her sons. A woman must never be independent

#### Passage # 1

What does the first passage suggest?

Women hold a place of honor in the home

Sacred duty of the men to honor and provide for them

#### Passage #2

What does this passage tell us?

 Secondary to and dependent on the men in their life

 This passage seems to reflect the reality of most Hindu women, especially those in lower levels of society

 Not encouraged but is allowed in today's Hindu world

 More women are working outside the home and gender roles are changing but......

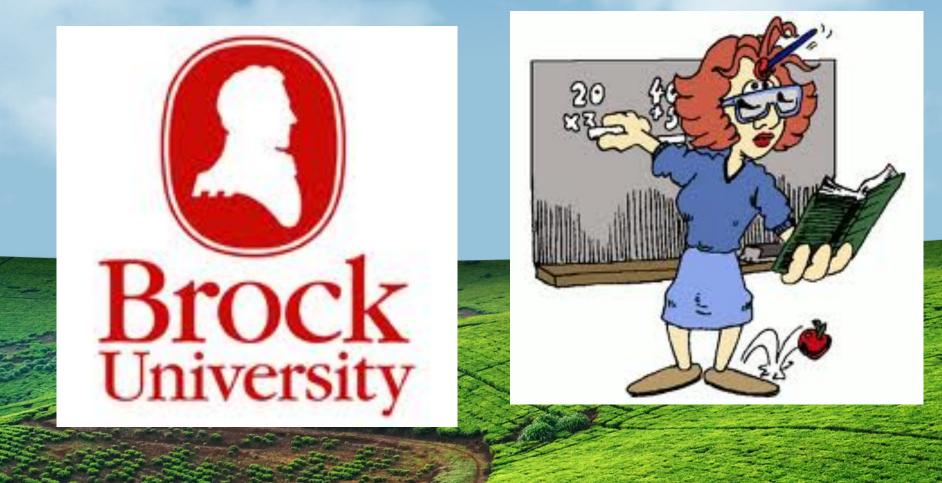
Women still carry the bulk of the household duties

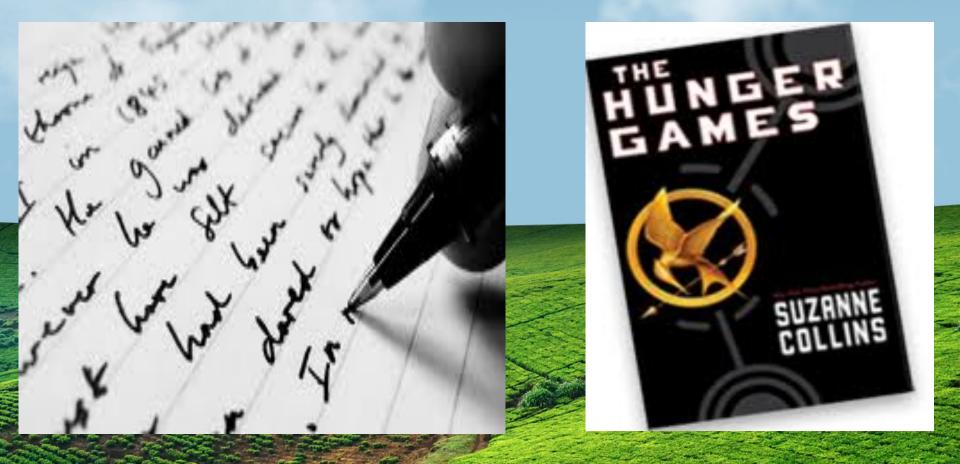
 Government, educational and religious institutions are providing better opportunities for women to develop literacy skills and participate in work force

Hindu women from the privileged classes
have been working and excelling for years

Higher class women working as









### **Check Your Understanding**

• Pg 129 #'s 1-4

 In #2 You do not have to indicate significance of Ganesha

