Implicit Attitudes Towards Gender

Objective:

• To teach students to be aware of their hidden biases in our extremely gendered world.
• To encourage students to critically think about the words that we associate with genders and the implications of those associations.

Process:

• Write down the below words on the blackboard in no particular order. You can add more words specific to the students context.
  engineer; police officer; teacher; nurse; cricket; lipstick; cooking; driving; money; shopping; farming; caring; crying; anger; dancer; strong; maths; mechanic
• Give a pair of blue and pink sheets to each student. Ask them to copy the words from the backboard and write them in blue or pink sheets as they like.
• As a facilitator, make sure they do not copy from their partners. You can tell them to trust their instincts and write the words in any or both of the two sheets, and that there is no right or wrong answer.

What You Need:

• Blue and pink coloured sheets
• Sketch-pens
• Pencils
Process:

- Once they are done writing, ask students to tell you the basis of pink and blue coloured sheets, if they think there is any.
- Then pick students randomly to tell the words one by one either in the pink or blue sheet, and for every word ask the students to raise their hands if it is in the same coloured sheet. Ask them why they put it in that respective colour and not the other colour.
- Without explicitly talking about gendered roles, ask them to imagine a doctor and a teacher in their head and whether they imagine it to be a male or a female. Question them on this.
- Ask for any examples from their life that will help them relate to the notion of roles being defined on the basis of gender.