

GENDER & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

SEX AND GENDER



Sex and Intersex

Sex- A Person's biological status.
Typically male, female, or
intersex



Intersex- People with atypical
chromosomes makeups that mixed
male & female characteristics

About 1 baby in 2000 are born visibly
intersex



Discuss!!!

Many intersex children undergo gender assignment surgery to “normalize” them.

There are no official figures, but experts think that more parents are deciding AGAINST surgery- still minority



Should parents be allowed to choose gender assignment surgery for their child?

Gender

Gender- The feelings and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person's sex

Cisgender- A person whose sense of personal identity & gender corresponds with their birth sex



Transgender- A person whose sense of personal identity & gender DOESN'T correspond with birth sex

Non-binary- Umbrella term for gender Identities that are neither male nor female

Gender-fluid- Person who does not identify themselves as having a fixed gender

GENDER ROLES

Masculinity

BRAINSTORM

What are the messages in our society about what it means to be “male”?



In our society men are supposed to be...



BRAINSTORM



**MEN ARE
SUPPOSED TO
BE....**

*Aggressive.
Independent.
Not easily influenced.
Dominant.
Active.
Worldly.
Not easily hurt emotionally.
Decisive.
Not at all talkative.
Tough.
Less sensitive to other's feelings.
Not very desirous of security.
Rarely cries.
Logical.
Analytical.
Cruel.
Blunt.
Not nurturing.*

Femineity

BRAINSTORM

What are the messages in our society about what it means to be “female”?



In our society wome are supposed to be...



BRAINSTORM



**WOMEN ARE
SUPPOSED TO
BE....**

*Not aggressive.
Dependent.
Easily influenced.
Submissive.
Passive.
Home-oriented.
Easily hurt emotionally.
Indecisive.
Talkative.
Gentle.
Sensitive to other's feelings.
Very desirous of security.
Cries a lot.
Emotional.
Verbal.
Kind.
Tactful.
Nurturing.*

Discussion



**What are the dangers
of gender
stereotypes?**



Understanding the Complexities of Gender

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRcPXtqdKjE>



Constructionist Approach

In the U.S. we tend to classify people as male or female, but most sociologists use a....



Constructionist Approach- The belief that gender is constructed or created by a people in society.

Gender Benders

Different cultures have different classifications, for example...



Berdaches or Two-Spirits- Native Americans who assume the dress & social status of the opposite sex



Hijras- Biological males who live in North India & reject masculine identity-recognized as 3rd gender by some governments

Egalitarian Society

Historically, women were limited to the demands of bearing & raising children

Contrary to popular belief, in hunting & gathering societies women provided most food through gathering



Egalitarian Society- Society that lacks social ranking & provides equal prestige (respect) & access to resources



Patriarchy

When civilizations began, men became powerful by controlling the distribution of resources



Patriarchy- Form of Social Organization in which males dominate females



Sources of Information About Masculinity and Femininity

- ♂ Family
- ♂ Religion
- ♂ Peers (friends)
- ♂ School/Education
- ♂ Books/Graphic Novels
- ♂ Music
- ♂ Sports
- ♂ Advertisements
- ♂ Movies/TV etc. (stories, fiction)
- ♂ News/Reporting etc. (real, non-fiction)
- ♂ Social Media – Chat
- ♂ Influencers
- ♂ Nature
- ♂ History
- ♂ Government

Gender Role Socialization

Socialization- The Process of learning to behave in a way that is acceptable in your society

Gender role socialization occurs through 4 main agents...

1. Families

2. Schools

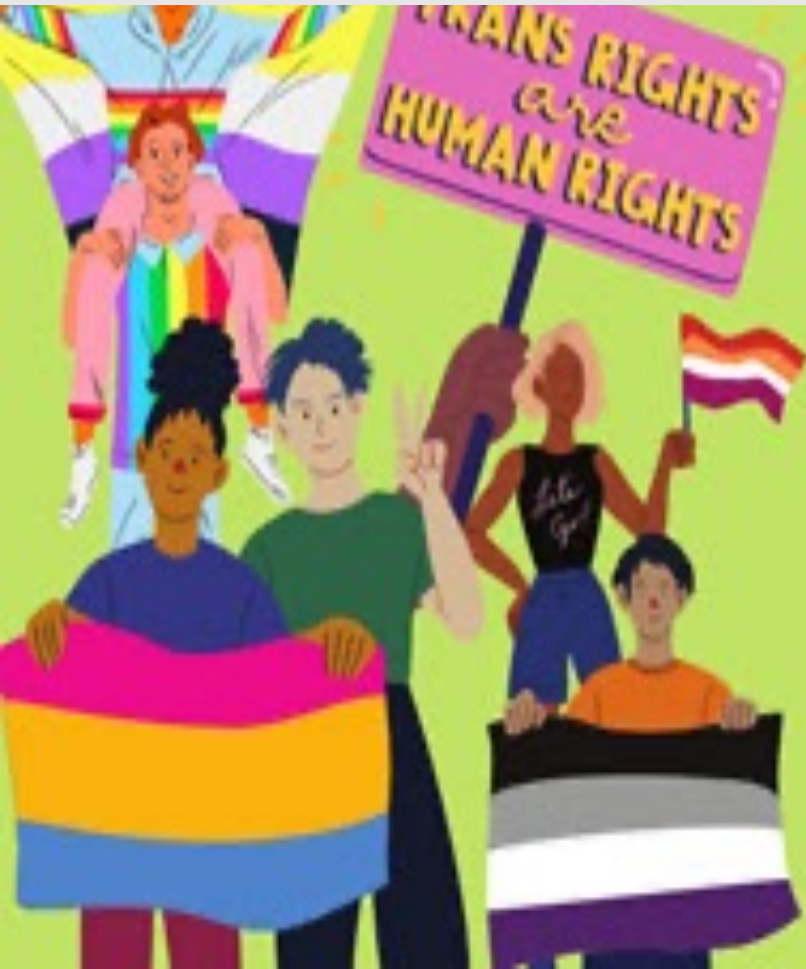
3. Peers

4. Media



Families

**Usually the primary source of socialization
& greatly impact gender role
socialization**



**Children learn behaviors & meanings
through social interaction &
internalize the expectations of those
around them**

Schools

Research shows that teachers treat boys and girls differently



Children may learn there are different expectations of them, based on their sex



Peers

People in the age group, important agent of socialization



Kids are rewarded by peers when they conform to gender norms & stigmatized when they don't

Media

All forms, portrays gender roles in a highly stereotypical manner



Media has an enormous influence on people's perceptions



The Beauty Myth

Coined by Naomi Wolf- Idea that being physically attractive to men is the key to women's happiness

Women are taught to measure their worth in terms of physical appearance

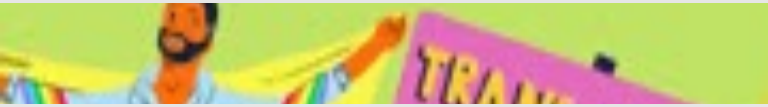


Men are more likely to measure their worth in terms of achievement



Media Stereotypes

White males have traditionally taken most roles



Minorities were locked out until the early 1970s



There have been some positive shifts toward more diverse representation, but often women still receive roles based on sex appeal

