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CDP: Gender as Social Construct

The term Gender as Social Construction refers how gender is socially constructed and this term represents that the society and culture create the roles, and these roles are what is generally considered ideal or appropriate behavior for a person of that specific gender

The modern English word Gender comes from the Middle English word gendre. It also comes from Latin word 'Genus' both of the words mean kind, type and sort. Gender is a grammatical term only to talk out of a person's of masculine or feminine meaning of male or female sex is either a jocularity or blunder

Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.

Gender and sexuality are not just personal identities; they are social identities. They arise from our relationships to other people, and they depend upon social interaction and social recognition

Sex are the biological traits that societies use to assign people into the category of either male or female, whether it be through a focus on chromosomes, genitalia or some other physical ascription

Gender is more fluid - it may or may not depend upon biological traits. More specifically, it is a concept that describes how societies determine and manage sex categories; the cultural meanings attached to men and women's roles; and how individuals understand their identities including, but not limited to, being a man, woman, transgender, intersex, gender queer and other gender positions. Gender involves social norms, attitudes and activities that society deems more appropriate for one sex over another. Gender is also determined by what an individual feels and does. The sociology of gender examines how society influences our understandings and perception of differences between masculinity (what society deems appropriate

behaviour for a man) and femininity (what society deems appropriate behaviour for a woman), Sex and gender do not always align

Some Factors in Explaining Gender are

Gender Equity: Gender equity is about giving every individual, boy or girl, the same opportunities of access.

Gender Equality: Gender equality is a distribution-oriented concept referring to uniformity between men and women: every person has the same rights and gets exactly the same access and opportunities

Gender mainstreaming: Gender mainstreaming is a strategy to achieve gender equality

There are many examples of the different traits and attributes that males and females are socialized to accept as their own in society. Female children, for the most part are encouraged to be cooperative, compassionate, caring, and nurturing; largely in preparation for roles as wife and mother. Male children, in contrast, are socialized toward independence, assertiveness, competition, and achievement; they are often expected to suppress their emotions and feelings, especially ones that are tender or relate to value.

Gender norms (the socially acceptable ways of acting out gender) are learned from birth through childhood socialisation. We learn what is expected of our gender from what our parents teach us, as well as what we pick up at school, through religious or cultural teachings, in the media, and various other social institutions.

DIFFERENCES

- **Gender differs from society to society.**

Sex is same in all societies they are universal such as it is only women who give birth to children all over the world.

- **Gender can Change with history.**

Sex never changes with history.

- **Gender can be performed by both sexes.**

Sex can be performed by only one of the sexes.

- **Gender is socially & culturally determined.**

Sex is biologically determined.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

How will you justify the establishment of a coeducation school system?

- To increase the gender sensitivity**
- To follow the western pattern of schooling
- To develop all school on similar understanding
- To promote gender equality

A single gender school may cause

- (a) restricted socialisation.**
- (b) open socialisation.
- (c) gender insensitivity.
- (d) gender sensitivity.

Which of the following statements best illustrates the gender stereo-type?

- (a) All women are nice, gentle and emotional.**
- (b) Women can handle both work and family.
- (c) Women are equally competent like men.
- (d) Both men and women can be good teachers.

What could be the important characteristic of gender equality?

- (a) Women's reservation in education
- (b) Increment in educational performance
- (c) Providing equal opportunity to both men and women**
- (d) Providing analytical work to women

Gender discrimination is a _____ problem.

- (a) social**
- (b) cultural
- (c) regional
- (d) economical

What is the popular reason for accepting women as teachers?

- (a) Gender parity
- (b) Gender disparity
- (c) Gender stereotype**
- (d) Gender immunities

A boy was pointed out by his friends on his crying that "he should not cry like a girl." The reason of this comment could be

- (a) primary socialisation.**
- (b) crying is considered as the behaviour of girls.
- (c) secondary socialisation.
- (d) neutral behaviour.

An androgynous personality

- (a) has a balance of what are generally considered masculine and feminine traits**
- (b) tends to be assertive and arrogant
- (c) adheres to stereo typical gender roles prevalent in the society
- (d) refers to men with feminine traits

Grading, coding, marking and credit accumulation systems are some of the examples of_____

- (a) symbolizing position of children in the class
- (b) depicting the academic progress in report card**
- (c) scoring procedure of assessment of learners' achievement
- (d) evaluation procedure of answer sheets of the examination

Gender is a/an

- (a) innate quality
- (b) social construct
- (c) biological entity**
- (d) physiological construct

A famous school in Bangalore provides special treatment for girls by asking them to prepare a song for interschool competition. This treatment shows:

- (a) Progressive thinking
- (b) Regressive thinking
- (c) Gender bias**
- (d) Normal approach

The statement "women are less intelligent than men" is a

- (a) correct statement.
- (b) relatively correct statement.
- (c) gender biased statement.**
- (d) universally correct statement.

In an elementary classroom it is important to_____the experiences that a child brings with her.

- (a) ignore
- (b) build on**
- (c) deny
- (d) neglect

Which of the following is central to the concept of progressive education?

- (a) Belief in the capability and potential of every child**
- (b) Standard instruction and assessment
- (c) Extrinsic motivation and uniform assessment parameters
- (d) Textbook centric learning

Children acquire gender roles through all of the following, except

- (a) socialization
- (b) culture
- (c) tutoring**
- (d) media

When a teacher considers boys as naturally better at mathematics than girls, it shows that the teacher is:

- (a) ethical
- (b) gender biased**
- (c) moralistic
- (d) right-minded

Gender discrimination in a classroom

- (a) does not affect the performance of the students
- (b) may lead to diminished effort or performance of the students**
- (c) may lead to enhanced effort or performance of the male students
- (d) is done more by the male teachers than their female counterparts

Girl students

- (a) learn questions on Mathematics well but face difficulty only when they are asked to reason them out
- (b) are as good in Mathematics as boys of their age**
- (c) perform less competently in spatial concepts than boys of their age
- (d) possess more linguistic and musical abilities

Retrieving hidden objects is an evidence that infants have begun to master which of the following cognitive functions?

- (a) Intentional behaviour
- (b) Object-permanence**
- (c) Problem-solving
- (d) Experimentation

Which one of the following will not be avoided by good textbooks?

- (a) Gender equality**
- (b) Gender disparity
- (c) Social responsibility
- (d) Gender biases

Social roles designated to women are known as

- (a) gender role attitude.
- (b) gender identity.
- (c) gender discrimination.
- (d) gender role stereotype.**

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