

Welcome. I'm Durva Prabhu assistant professor from Government, College of Art, Science, and Commerce, Khandola. Today we will be studying about introduction to gender and identity. In this module we will be focusing on concepts of gender. This paper is for second year BA. The paper code PS3103, title of the paper is psychology of gender and identity. In this module we will be studying about concepts of gender identity that is sexuality, gender roles, gender, role attitudes and gender Stereotypes. At the end of this module student will be able to differentiate between sex and gender, explain the different concepts of gender, and differentiate between various concepts of gender.

As we can before we get into the actual concepts of gender. It is important that we understand the basic difference between the two terms, that is, sex and gender. Now whenever we fill any application or form, there is a checkbox which asks for your gender or sex. In some forms it is mentioned sex, whereas in some forms it is mentioned gender. When we see that we actually go and mark our responses saying whether it is male, female or the other gender. But it is important to understand whether these two terms actually mean the same or not. Now when we say sex it is biologically defined, genetically acquired differences. As in, the individual is born with these differences. These are basically the anatomical differences that will identify or differentiate males and females from each other. This basically includes primary sexual characteristics and secondary sexual characteristics of an individual. These differences are universal and unchanging unless and until a person opts for surgery. For example, male or female in Goa will be having the same sexual characteristics as a male and female in some other part of the country or other part of the world. Unless and until a person feels that he is not comfortable in the biologically assigned sex, only then if he opts for surgery, then only the sex will be changed. Otherwise it is unchanging, unless and until a person dies.

Now when we come to gender, it is a social aspect of sex as in the other roles and responsibilities determined by society for that particular sex. These roles and responsibilities are learned overtime from our parents or other elders in the house or society. Now as in when the individual is growing up and he learns a different things from society is as he is collecting different information. This gender can change as the person is growing.

Now we come back to concepts of gender. The first concept of gender that we will look into is sexuality. Sexuality refers to a person capacity for sexual feelings. Sexuality is about your thoughts, your attractions, and behaviour towards other people. Sexuality is a part of you, which is expressed through your sexual activities and relationships. It is represented in terms of feelings, behaviours, and your sexual identity. Sexuality can be Heterosexual wherein a person is attracted towards people of the opposite sex. It can be homosexual, wherein a person is attracted to people of the same sex. It can be bisexual referring to person's sexual attraction towards both the genders. Person's sexuality can also be asexual, where individual will have complete absence of any sort of sexual attraction towards any of the genders. It can also be questioning. Questioning where in people may be unsure about their sexuality and they may prefer calling themselves as questioning. By then they'll try to explore the sexuality which suits best to their personality.

Next concept of gender is gender roles. A gender role is also known as sex role. It is a social role encompassing a range of behaviours and attitudes that are generally considered acceptable appropriate or desirable for a person based on that person's biological or perceived sex. These are basically expectations concerning the roles males and females should fill, and the way they should behave in society. Gender roles influence a wide range of human behaviour, often including the clothing a person chooses, the profession of person pursues and the personal relationship person enters, how we're expected to act, speak, dress, groom and conduct ourselves is based upon our assigned sex. For example, women are generally expected to dress in typically feminine ways and be very polite, accommodating and nurturing. Various men are generally expected to be strong, aggressive and bold. Every society, ethnic group and culture has gender role expectations, but they can be very different from one group to another. They can also change in the same society overtime. As in the new generation when they're growing up. They learn new things from different areas and they try to change the gender roles which are there in their particular culture, society.

Gender role attitude refers to views that are held by a particular individual regarding the roles men and women should play in their society. The support that they show towards these traditional gender roles, For example, no matter how we say that men and women are equal still there is a large majority of people who support that women are responsible for taking care of family. So this is an example of the gender role attitude that people hold.

Now next concept of gender is gender stereotypes. A stereotype is a widely accepted judgment or bias about a person or group even though it is overly simplified and not always accurate. Now when we talk about gender stereotype, it is cultural beliefs about differences between men and women. There are various areas where gender stereotypes are observed in terms of personality traits, for example women. are always expected to be accommodating and emotional, whereas men is always expected to be self confident and aggressive in terms of domestic behaviour. Woman will is always expected to take care of the family, children, cook and clean the home while men is often asked to take care of the finances or the work in terms of outside the houses. In terms of occupation, people are quick to assume that women should choose to pursue occupations such as teachers and nurturing nurses, which involves very calm kind of occupations. People are quick to assume that woman should opt for teachers and nurses and similar kind of occupation where in their personality traits are highlighted. Various men opts for pilot, doctors and engineers where in their traits of competence, aggressiveness is highlighted in terms of physical appearance. Women are expected to be very thin and graceful. Men are expected to be tall and muscular. Men and women are also expected to dress and groom in ways that are stereotypical to their gender. Now, if you have noticed in slides the colour which are used to denote women, and men which are pink and blue respectively. These colours are also a kind of stereotypes that we have in our mind. Now, gender stereotypes when exaggerated, it can make a relationship between people difficult. They don't allow people to fully express themselves and their emotions. As a result, the person might find issues in his psychological well being. It can affect his psychological well being to a greater extent.

Glossary.

References.

Thank you.