

CONCEPT OF GENDER AND SEX

Gender is the range of characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between, masculinity and femininity. Gender refers to the economic, social, political, and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being women and men. The social definitions of what it means to be a woman or a man vary among cultures and change over time. Gender is a socio cultural expression of particular characteristics and roles that are associated with certain groups of people with reference to their sex and sexuality.

Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, attributes and opportunities that any society considers appropriate for girls and boys, and women and men. Gender interacts with, but is different from, the binary categories of biological sex.

Gender is the culturally and socially constructed role, responsibilities, privileges, relations, expectations of women and men, boys and girls. because these are socially constructed, they can change over time and differ from one place to another.

So Gender includes:

- Social differences between men and women
- Manifested in different role, qualities and behaviours of women, men, and society as whole.
- Vary with race, caste, class, ethnicity, religion, relation position, situation, age time.

Sex refers to biologically defined and genetically acquired differences between males and females, according to their physiology and reproductive capabilities or potentialities. It is universal and mostly unchanging, without surgery.

sex is the biological make-up of male and female people. it is what we are born with and does not change over time nor differs from place to place.

so sex includes:

- Biological differences between men and women.
- Not vary with race, caste, class, ethnicity, religion and time.
- women's ability to give birth, breast feed.

SEX vs. GENDER

SEX	GENDER
Biological characteristics (including genetics, anatomy and physiology) that generally define humans as female or male.	Socially constructed set of roles and responsibilities associated with being girl and boy or women and men, and in some cultures a third or other gender.
Born with.	Not born with
Natural	Learned
Universal, A-historical No variation from culture to culture or time to time.	Gender roles vary greatly in different societies, cultures and historical periods as well as they depend also on socio-economic factors, age, education, ethnicity and religion.
Cannot be changed, except with the medical treatment.	Although deeply rooted, gender roles can be changed over time, since social values and norms are not static.
Example: Only women can give birth. Only women can breastfeed.	Example: The expectation of men to be economic providers of the family and for women to be caregivers is a gender norm in many cultural contexts.

EXCERCISE SEX vs. GENDER:

Statements about men and women

1. Women give birth to babies, men don't. (S)
2. Girls are gentle, boys are rough. (G)
3. In one case, when a child brought up as a girl learned that he was actually a boy, his school marks improved dramatically. (G)

4. Amongst Indian agriculture workers, women are paid 40-60 per cent of the male wage. (G)
5. In Europe, most long-distance truck drivers are men. (G)
6. Women can breastfeed babies, men can bottle-feed babies. (S)
7. Most building-site workers in Britain are men. (G)
8. In ancient Egypt men stayed at home and did weaving. Women handled family business. Women inherited property and men did not. (G)
9. Men's voices break at puberty; women's do not. (S)
10. In one study of 224 cultures, there were 5 in which men did all the cooking, and 36 in which women did all the housebuilding. (G)
11. According to UN statistics, women do 67 per cent of the world's work, yet their earnings for it amount to only 10 per cent of the world's income. (G)
12. There are more women than men in the caring professions such as nursing. (G)
13. Men are susceptible to prostate cancer, women are not. (S)

SEX -GENDER-SEXUALITY

SEX

Biological traits that society associates with being male or female.

GENDER

Cultural meanings attached to being masculine and feminine which influence personal identities. Eg. Man, women, Transgender, intersex.

Sexuality

Sexual attraction, practices and identity which may or may not align with sex and gender. eg. Heterosexual, Homosexual, Bisexual, queer.

The relation is expressed graphically:

