

The Individual and Society

Gender Role Socialisation

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

2 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that gender role socialisation is a significant part of our social identities.
- Students should appreciate that gender role socialisation is merely an example of one formative factor in socialisation.
- Students should recognise that there are a number of agencies of socialisation.

Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of relevant vocabulary. Also you should be aware of the following concepts and ideas

- Gender
- Feminism
- Patriarchy
- Feminist research methods
- Biological determinism
- Social identity
- Stereotyping

Additional reading and references

Many textbooks provide separate sections on gender, but others tend to put gender under sections on 'the family'. Use the Index and chapter headings for guidance.

GCSE textbooks are very useful for this topic and you should refer to as many of these as possible.

Remember that gender socialisation affects men as well and women and that any view which sees women as 'the victims' of gender socialisation is not really a complex enough analysis.

Ken Browne (1998) *An Introduction to Sociology 2nd Edition* Polity Press p 86 – 103.

Jorgensen *et al* (1997) *Sociology: An Interactive Approach* p 77 ff.

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* Chapter 4

Personal Development ideas

- Ask men and women what they feel are the 'correct' behaviours for each of the biological sexes. It might be useful to interview people in the Sixth form.
- Ask parents what their views are on the differences between male and female children.
- Consider attitudes towards those who break with gender stereotypes such as homosexuals. How do people view trans-sexuality and homosexuality in broader society? Are we tolerant of difference?

Overview of the debate

- How do we gain a sense of appropriate gender behaviour?
- What do feminists bring to sociology?
- What are the socially appropriate ways for the genders to behave?
- How are gender roles learned?
- What impact does gender have on life chances and expectations?

Revision tips

- Return to your notes on socialisation and social identities and revise them carefully.
- Be certain that you have a list of the main agencies of socialisation and that you understand how each has influenced gender.
- Make sure that you understand the significance of feminism to sociology and to society in the post war years.

What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and made good notes.
- Photocopies of other people's notes to supplement your own.
- Notes made in lessons.
- A detailed essay plan to one or more of the following titles. This should be handed in for assessment:
 1. Men are the new victims of gender socialisation. Discuss.
 2. Evaluate the impact of feminism on sociology.
 3. To what extent can it be argued sociologically that the genders participate equally in contemporary British society?