

The Individual and Society

The changing nature of gender in society

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

2 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that gender role is not static but is changing in society.
- Students should appreciate that there are a number of theories to account for these changes in the nature of gender.
- Students should develop a degree of reflection to understand the significance of these changes in their own and other people's lives.
- Students should recognise that gender affects social behaviours and personal interactions, but that it is also part of a larger social and economic argument which is taking place in society.

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
- Resistance theory
- The notion of 'other'

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.

*Collect photocopy and print out of detailed data that breaks down behaviour and economic activity on the basis of gender. Use **Social Trends** and other books of statistical data. Look at Government Websites.*

Write to the Equal Opportunities Commission for information about gender patterns in the economy.

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 how gender behaviours have changed over the years.
- Look at Websites devoted to gender studies. Some may be blocked because of the possibility of dubious materials and others may have dubious materials which have slipped through the system. Be extremely sensible in your access of these sites and do not use the sites when there are young people in the LRC or put dubious material or site information into your folder.
- Collect data on gender and life chances.

Overview of the debate

- What do feminists bring to sociology?
- What impact does gender have on life chances and expectations?
- How have gender patterns of behaviour changed?
- Is there a New Man? What are his characteristics?
- An understanding of the view that gender is a socially constructed rather than a biological phenomena.

Revision tips

- Return to your notes on socialisation and social identities and revise them carefully.
- Make sure that you understand the significance of feminism to sociology and to society in the post war years.
- Understand why some of the changes have taken place in gender patterns.

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.
- Data on changing gender patterns.
- A list of possible suggestions as to why gender patterns are changing.