



Exploring Enculturated Concepts of Gender: Discussion & Essay

UNSDG 5 Assignment #2

Now that you have explored terminology and descriptions related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG) of Gender Equality (5), let's talk about implications of gender bias and how you may (or may not) have been personally impacted by these topics. There are 3 parts to this assignment:

- I. In class lesson and video (10 min)
- II. Small group, in class short story & discussion (20 min)
- III. Individual, at home short essay writing assignment (one week)

Everyone has a gender identity. Not categorical "2 choice" option, but a spectrum experience. All people have had experiences influenced by their gender identity, and been the recipient of experiences based on other's perceptions of your identity.

I. Lecture & Video

Video Link:

Defined Concepts:

Gender refers to the cultural, social, and psychological meanings that are associated with masculinity and femininity. Gender is both biological and socialized. Many gender differences reflect different experiences in enculturation, rather than genetics.

Gender identity is a person's psychological sense of being male or female.

Sex refers to the biological category of male or female as defined by physical differences in genetic composition and in reproductive anatomy and function.

Gender roles are the behaviors, attitudes, and personality traits that are designated as either masculine or feminine in a given culture.

Gender stereotypes are the beliefs and expectations people hold about the typical characteristics, preferences, and behaviors of men and women.

Ambivalent sexism is the concept of gender stereotypical attitudes that encompasses both positive and negative qualities.

Hostile sexism refers to the "negative" element of ambivalent sexism, which includes the attitudes that women are inferior and incompetent relative to men.

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Benevolent sexism is the “positive” element of ambivalent sexism, which recognizes that women are perceived as needing to be protected, supported, and adored by men.

Implicit Bias, also known as implicit social cognition, refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.

II. Small Group Work

Each student will need ability to take individual notes.

Step One: Hand out a copy of the short story to each member of your group. Take a few minutes to read the story silently. When done, BEFORE you talk with your group, take a moment to highlight or take notes on phrases, words, or ideas that catch your notice.

Step Two: You have 10 minutes for a small group discussion. Please encourage every member of your small group to share. Consider focusing on the following questions:

Does anything in the story stand out for you?

Did you find bias (if you did) because you were “looking for it”? Would you have noticed this in a real world setting?

Have each group member quickly write down 3 words to describe the experience of the **offender** and then the **recipient** of the exchange. Share your “word” choices with the group.

III. Individual Essay

DUE DATE: _____

You will have one week to write a **2-3 page short essay** applying what you have learned about gender roles, stereotypes, and biases to your personal experience. Your essay will have 2 parts:

1. What is **your experience** with gender? You can write a short essay response about a singular memory/example, or more generalized thoughts. Is your gender identity in line with how you believe others’ “see” you? How do you feel about others’ impressions of your gender?
2. Share a personal experience in which YOU have been the offender (knowingly or unknowingly) and acted in a biased or stereotypical way toward another person based on gender. This experience may be toward a person with a similar gender identity to your own or someone who is a different gender from you. What happened? Is this something you knew at the time may have been uncomfortable for the recipient? Would you handle it any differently today versus when it occurred?

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Your essay submission **must be APA style**. You can earn an additional 5 points toward your grade by entering the words, phrases, and ideas written **during your group discussion** and create a “word cloud” to add to your cover page. Word clouds can be created at wordle.com OR worditout.com.

