

Objectives:

1. Explain the difference between gender identity and gender role.
2. Describe gender differences in personality and cognitive abilities.

I. Introduction

- A. Your _____ greatly impacts how you _____, _____, _____, and _____. It can influence your thoughts and what others think about you. Psychologists want to know if there are major differences between males and females.

II. Gender Roles

- A. _____ is someone's physical sex. A person's _____ is the set of behaviors that _____ considers proper for each sex. Between the ages of 2 and 3, children learn to label themselves as _____ or _____. By age 5, most have learned their gender role. They have learned how people of their gender are expected to _____.
- B. Gender roles are mostly defined by the _____ in which a person lives. Gender roles are different from society to society and roles can _____ in a society over _____.
- C. _____ are oversimplified or inaccurate _____ about the way men and women should behave. For example, the idea that men should be rugged and women sensitive is a stereotype. Today women no longer have to spend most of their adult lives raising _____. Women often have _____ outside the home just like men do. It is no longer necessary to expect women and men to fit old stereotypes.
- D. Given new changes in acceptable societal gender roles, psychologist _____ argues that people should accept new _____ roles—that is roles that involve a flexible combination of traditionally male and female characteristics. Bem argues that men and women should not be stuck with strict gender stereotypes. Adolescents should be able to define themselves according to their _____, _____, and _____.

III. Gender Differences

- A. Besides the physical differences, studies have found that _____ between males and females do exist. It is important to note that these studies exist between _____ of males and females. _____ may or may not exhibit these differences.

B. Mednick and Thomas found that males are more _____ than females, especially in academic areas stereotyped as “masculine” such as math and science. Even when females score the same, or higher, than males, females tend to _____ themselves as less confident than males.

C. Aggression is an area where males and females are very different. _____ means hostile or destructive behavior. Females are more aggressive in what they _____. Males are more aggressive in how they _____. The differences in aggression may be caused by different amounts of a substance in the body called _____. People with _____ of this substance tend to be more aggressive. Boys have less of this than girls. Also, boys are encouraged to be aggressive. Starting at an early age, society encourages boys to be _____ and to settle _____ through aggression.

D. Another gender difference is found in the male and female _____ styles:

Men:

1. _____
2. _____

Women:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

E. Studies have also shown that there is no difference between males and females in _____ (language) and _____ skills. There is also no difference in _____ skills.

IV. Origins of Gender Differences

A. How gender differences develop is one of the many questions that falls into the _____ versus _____ issue. Psychologists have argued that differences between the sexes is _____ while others claim it is due to differences in our _____. Today, most psychologists agree that both nature and nurture influence gender differences.

B. The _____ of gender role development stresses the role of anatomy, hormones, and brain organization. Supporters of this idea claim that gender differences are a result of behaviors that have evolved over time. For example, men have become aggressive and dominant while women adopted caring, warm, and sensitive traits.

C. Sigmund Freud’s _____ suggests that gender differences happen because boys identify with their fathers while girls identify with their mothers.

D. The _____ emphasizes the role of social and cognitive processes on how we perceive, organize, and use information.

Example: Children learn their gender roles by observing others and imitating parents, friends, teachers, etc. Through positive rewards and punishments, children are taught to behave according to gender stereotypes.

E. The _____ - _____ proposes that children learn gender roles by interacting and learning from their experiences. As they do this, children learn different sets of standards for male and female behavior. Once a child identifies themselves as a male or female the child begins to organize behavior around this concept. The child begins to acquire _____ that are consistent with his or her perceived gender. These preferences are called a _____.

V. Changing Gender Roles

A. The _____ of women and men in society are changing. Before 1960, few women worked outside the home. They generally _____ and quit work to raise children. By the mid-1980s, most women had jobs outside the home. Jobs provide a sense of _____ as well as _____.

B. Studies show that women do not _____ in their jobs as quickly as men. These inequalities may be due to _____ against women. Women may also have missed promotions and salary increases by taking time out to raise children. Another possibility is that _____ has taught women to set different _____ than men.