

MODULE 49 GENDER DEVELOPMENT

GENDER

- GENDER is the socially constructed roles and characteristics by which a culture defines male and female.

HOW ARE WE ALIKE? HOW DO WE DIFFER?

- 45 out of 46 chromosomes are exactly the same.
- Men admit to more AGGRESSION than women do. This aggression gender gap pertains to harmful physical aggression, rather than indirect or verbal rational aggression such as ostracism or spreading rumors.
- Men prefer to work with things where women would rather work with people.

THE NURTURE OF GENDER: OUR CULTURE

- Culture's shape power in GENDER ROLES, the social expectations that guide men's and women's behavior. In psychology, as in the theater, a ROLE refers to a cluster of prescribed actions, the behaviors we expect of those who occupy a particular social position.
- Among industrialized countries, gender roles and attitudes vary widely.
- GENDER IDENTITY is a person's sense of being male or female. SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY assumes that children acquire this identity by observing and imitating others' gender-linked behaviors and by being rewarded or punished for acting in certain ways themselves. GENDER TYPING is the acquisition of a traditional masculine or feminine role.
- Gender schema is the framework for organizing boy-girl characteristics.
- TRANSGENDER is an umbrella term describing people whose gender identity or expression differs from that associated with their birth sex.
- Note that gender identity is distinct from sexual orientation (the direction of one's sexual attraction). Transgender people may be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or asexual.

BE ABLE TO ANSWER: What are gender roles, and what do their variations tell us about our human capacity for learning and adaptation?

PRACTICE FRQ: What are gender roles? What are gender schemas? How does social learning contribute to the formation of each?