Cover page

Gender & Sexuality (Mod 13-14)

Genders are different in a variety of ways. Some differences are small, and others are more dramatic. It has been known that men are more likely to show aggression, and are also more accepting to war. Males tend to dominate social power, and have high salaries in jobs that were traditionally for men. On the other hand women are more interdependent, caring, and listening. A woman is also 5 times more likely to claim responsibility for their children than a man.

Gender differences are affected genetically, as well as physiologically. Both a boy and a girl are genetically the same until about 7 weeks after conception, then the father determines your chromosome (X or Y), which in turn determines your sex. From there physical changes occur during puberty, and sex hormones start to kick in. These hormones help you develop your physical features, and propel you toward adolescence. As children grow up, they begin to organize ideas/actions into “boy things” and “girl things”. This is called the social learning theory, which states that children observe and imitate others. Gender roles contribute heavily on the way people view men and women. Some societies have differing opinions on who the “dominant” sex is, and therefore have a completely different interpretation on what it means to be a man or a woman.

Physiological and psychological influences affect our sexual feelings and behavior. Unlike food, sex is not a need. One may feel strong sexual urges, but these are due to sex hormones that are found in men and women, these are known as testosterone and estrogen, respectively. These sex hormones affect development, bring us into adolescence during puberty, and activate sexual behavior. Females are more affected by increased levels of estrogen, while a man’s sexual stimulations can cause increase in testosterone. Altogether hormones do affect men and women’s sexual desires. Sexual dysfunctions impair one’s ability to go through, or complete, the sexual response cycle. The brain can dramatically alter sexual desires. Teen pregnancy occurs for a multitude of reasons. Teen pregnancy can be due to minimal communication on birth control, guilt, alcohol, and media. Factors that predict sexual constraint are high intelligence, religious engagement, “father presence”, and participation in service learning programs. As you can see, both genetics and our environment gradually shape who we are, and how we react to specific stimuli.

Language & Intelligence (Mod 25-27)