Inequalities of Gender & Age
Chapter 10

Section 1
SEX & GENDER IDENTITY

Defining Male & Female

What are little boys made of?
Snips and snails
And puppy dog tails
That’s what little boys are made of.

What are little girls made of?
Sugar and Spice
And everything nice.
That’s what little girls are made of.

Gender Vocabulary

Biological determination
The principle that behavior differences are the result of inherited physical characteristics.

Gender Identity
A sense of being male or female based on learned cultural values.

Research shows that in spite of what most people believe, just the opposite is true. In one study, men talked on the average of 10 minutes more than women about an engraving.

Research as determined that women are no more likely than men to touch other people; “touchiness” is a function of personality and modeling, not gender.

Research does bear this finding to be true. Men tend to take up more space than women.

Women are more likely than men to touch each other.

Women use less personal space than men.

Are male and female brains different?

Do such biological differences lead to differences in social behavior?

Recent research indicates that the brains of men and women are slightly different in structure. Men show more activity in the area of the brain tied to adaptive evolutionary responses and women in emotional expression. Women also tend to use both sides of the brain when performing a task and listen with both ears. Men are more likely to use the left side when performing a task and listen with the right ear.

What can we conclude from studies about male and female behaviors?
Are male and female brains difference?  
Do such biological differences lead to differences in social behavior?

Biology, Culture, and Behavior

How do biologists view behavior?

Are male and female brains difference?  

Do such biological differences lead to differences in social behavior?

Most sociologists feel that gender-related behavior is not related to biology. Margaret Mead found that both sexes were conditioned to be cooperative, unaggressive, and empathetic in the tribes she studied.

How do biologists view behavior?

What can we conclude from studies about male and female behaviors?

Are male and female brains difference?  

Do such biological differences lead to differences in social behavior?

In general, researchers investigating behavioral differences between the sexes have not been able to prove that any particular behavior has a biological cause. While biological characteristics exist, they can be modified through social influences.

How do biologists view behavior?

What can we conclude from studies about male and female behaviors?

---

Focus on Theoretical Perspectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theoretical Perspective</th>
<th>Social Arrangement</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>Gender-based division of labor</td>
<td>Women are expected to perform household tasks for the benefit of society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Theory</td>
<td>Patriarchy (male domination)</td>
<td>Women are denied high status occupations for the benefit of men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbolic Interactionism</td>
<td>Favoring males over females in the classroom</td>
<td>Few females believe they can become scientists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women as a Minority Group

Sexism
A set of beliefs, attitudes, norms and values used to justify sexual inequality

Isn’t sex discrimination disappearing?
Yes and No
There have been many improvements, but still more to come.

Occupational & Economic Inequality

What kinds of jobs are women doing?
Occupational sex segregation
The concentration of women in lower-status positions
Do women earn less than men?
YES
Are all occupations affected?
YES
How do American women fare globally?
Women earn more in Australia

Legal & Political Inequality

• What are some biases in law?
  – Some states do not allow women to keep their surnames
  – Limit the number of hours women can work and the kinds of work they can do
  – Title VII nullified such laws

• How do American women stand politically?
  – Very involved, participate on many levels
  – Zwiegenhaft & Domhoff point out that women are now part of the power elite