



What is Gender Analysis?

- examines the differences in women's and men's lives, including those which lead to social and economic inequity for women, and applies this understanding to policy development and service delivery
- is concerned with the underlying causes of these inequities
- aims to achieve positive change for women

The term 'gender' refers to the social construction of female and male identity. It can be defined as 'more than biological differences between men and women. It includes the ways in which those differences, whether real or perceived, have been valued, used and relied upon to classify women and men and to assign roles and expectations to them. The significance of this is that the lives and experiences of women and men, including their experience of the legal system, occur within complex sets of differing social and cultural expectations'.

Gender analysis recognizes that:

- women's and men's lives and therefore experiences, needs, issues and priorities are different
- women's lives are not all the same; the interests that women have in common may be determined as much by their social position or their ethnic identity as by the fact they are women
- women's life experiences, needs, issues and priorities are different for different ethnic groups
- the life experiences, needs, issues, and priorities vary for different groups of women (dependent on age, ethnicity, disability, income levels, employment status, marital status, sexual orientation and whether they have dependents)
- different strategies may be necessary to achieve equitable outcomes for women and men and different groups of women

Gender analysis aims to achieve equity, rather than equality

Gender equality is based on the premise that women and men should be treated in the same way. This fails to recognize that equal treatment will not produce equitable results, because women and men have different life experiences.

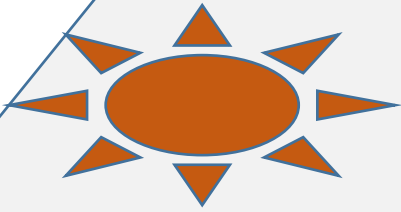
Gender equity takes into consideration the differences in women's and men's lives and recognizes that different approaches may be needed to produce outcomes that are equitable.

Gender analysis provides a basis for robust analysis of the differences between women's and men's lives, and this removes the possibility of analysis being based on incorrect assumptions and stereotypes.

Inequality between women and men undermines all development goals. When women and girls lack access to education, information and services, their health and rights suffer. When women and girls do not have full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, their ability to contribute economically, socially and politically to their communities is severely constrained.

To achieve goals of gender equality, which underpin all other development objectives, it is critical to guarantee women and girls access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to sexual and reproductive health services. These services must go beyond access to contraceptive methods to integrate other actions across sectors, such as sexual and reproductive health education.

Sustainable, meaningful and rights-driven development will be possible only by addressing gender inequality, which denies women and girls the opportunity to make decisions about their bodies and live free from violence.

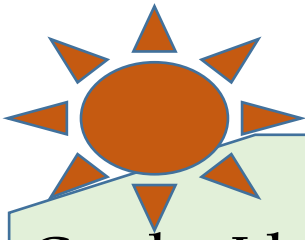


Definition of Sexuality

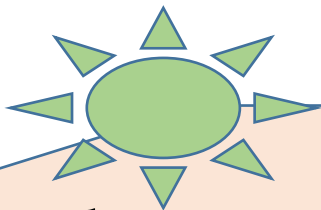
1. Sexuality is much more than body parts and sex (though it includes these things, too).
2. Sexuality includes our gender identity (the core sense that we are female or male).
3. Sexuality includes gender role (the idea of how we should behave because we are a female or male).
4. Sexuality includes our sexual orientation (heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual).
5. Sexuality includes how we feel about our bodies. We call that “body image,” and poor body image can have a profound effect on our ability to have healthy relationships. A person with poor body image may not think they deserve a good partner, and so they may be willing to settle for someone who will not respect them or who may even abuse them.
6. Sexuality includes our sexual experiences, thoughts, ideas, and fantasies.
7. Sexuality includes the way in which the media, family, friends, religion, age, life goals, and our self-esteem shape our sexual selves.
8. Sexuality includes how we experience intimacy, touch, love, compassion, joy, and sorrow.
9. We can quote: “Sexuality is expressed in the way we speak, smile, stand, sit, dress, dance, laugh, and cry.”

In short, sexuality is an integral part of who we are, what we believe, what we feel, and how we respond to others.

Which means that whether you like it or not and whether you say anything or not, you will have a strong influence on the sexuality of your children. Silence may even speak louder than words

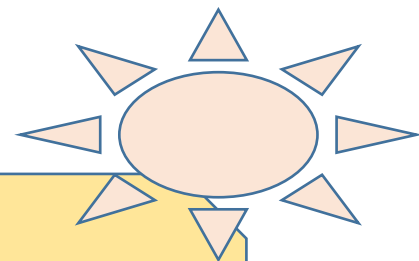


Gender Identity is one's personal experience of one's own gender. One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.



Gender expression

External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.



Sexual Orientation

An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.