

1. Understanding what is gender ?

We may have heard about gender in our grammar class in which we talk of masculine gender and feminine gender. Sociologists have used the same term to define social attributes of men/boys and women/girls.

- Gender refers to the socio-cultural definition of men and women, the way society distinguish men and women and assign them social roles. The definition becomes more clear when defined in comparison to sex.

2. What is difference between sex and gender ?

SEX	GENDER
• Sex is the biological difference between men and women.	• Gender is a matter of culture; it refers to the social classification of men and women into masculine and feminine qualities, behavior patterns, roles and responsibilities etc.
• Sex is natural.	• Gender is socio cultural and it is man made.
• Sex is biological. It refers to visible difference in genital and related difference in procreative function.	• Gender is a matter of culture; it refers to those traits, behavior and roles we acquire from our family, school, culture and society through a socialization process.
• Sex is constant. It remains same everywhere and at all times. A boy is a boy everywhere.	• Gender changes from time to time, place to place, culture to culture. For example a girl is one who keeps long hair. But in some other places or in some other time she may have short hair.
• Sex cannot be changed.	• Since gender is man-made, it can be changed.

3. What is Gender Discrimination?

Discriminating against a person on the basis of being a girl and boy is called gender discrimination. It is common that women and girls are usually discriminated in loading, education, job, mobility, in choosing a life partner etc. When a child is denied to go to the school just because she is a girl, or when a person is denied to go outside just because she is a girl. When a boy is not allowed to cook, collect water or firewood or wash dishes just because he is a boy, it is called gender discrimination.

4. What is Patriarchy?

- The word patriarchy literally means the rule of the father or the patriarch. Eg : Father is the head of the household, father is the bread earner ,the decision maker etc. This term has been extended to explain the kind of system that prevails in our society. It is usually the male members who take on the role of patriarch and dominate, which is male domination.
- Patriarchy is a social and ideological system which considers men to be superior to women, one in which men have more control over resources and decision making. Patriarchy is historically constructed and its forms, content and extent can be different in different contexts and at different times.

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in Homes

in Streets

in Campus

in Communities

Street Violence

Street violence refers to the use of physical force by individuals or groups within public spaces, the result of which may involve injury or death. Street violence takes a variety of different forms, including actual or threatened homicide, rape and sexual assault, robbery (with or without injury), and assault.

- 1. Eye Teasing:** Staring, brushing, catcalls, whistling, blocking the way, dashing, commenting, making kissing sounds etc. It is a form of sexual aggression that ranges in severity from sexually suggestive remarks, brushing in public places, catcalls, to outright groping. Eye-teasing has been a notoriously difficult crime to prove, as perpetrators often devise ingenious ways to attack women. It usually occurs in public places, streets, and public transport.
- 2. Sexual Abuse / Molestation:** Sexual abuse, also referred to as molestation, is the forcing of undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another. When that force is immediate, of short duration, or infrequent, it is called sexual assault. The term also covers any behavior by any adult towards a child to stimulate either the adult or child sexually.
- 3. Pornography:** Pornography use of obscene words, acts, pictures, photos and videos etc. that humiliate girls and women. It includes photographing and distributing pictures of women in nude, in intimate positions such as kissing and hugging etc. and showing it to girls physically, by E-mail, through letters, books etc..
- 4. SMS & MMS:** Texting is the act of sending of sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones. The term was first popularized around 2005, and is a portmanteau of sex and texting, where the latter is meant in the wide sense of sending a text possibly with images. Sexting involves teenagers sending explicit photographs of themselves to their peers.
- 5. Stalking:** Stalking is a term commonly used to refer unwanted, obsessive attention by individuals and sometimes groups of people to others. Following women on a regular basis, tapping their telephone, standing outside their house at all times etc. Stalking behaviors are related to harassment and intimidation.
- 6. Throwing Acid:** Mostly being carried out by boys who are spurned by girls, as an act of revenge.

Laws under Indian Penal Code (IPC)

- **Section 209 :** Obscene acts and songs, to the annoyance of others like:
a) does any obscene act in any public place or b) sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words in or near any public place.
Punishment : Imprisonment for a term up to 3 months or fine, or both. (Cognizable, bailable and triable offense)
- **Section 354 :** Assault or use of criminal force on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.
Punishment: 2 years imprisonment or fine, or both

- **Section 376 :** Rape

Punishment : Imprisonment for life or 10 years and fine

- **Section 509 :** Uttering any word or making any gesture intended to insult the modesty of a woman

Punishment : Imprisonment for 1 year, or fine, or both. (Cognizable and bailable offense)

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (1987)

- If an individual harasses another with books, photographs, paintings, films, pamphlets, packages, etc. containing 'indecent representation of women'; they are liable for a minimum sentence of two years
- A 'hostile working environment' type of argument can be made under this act. Section 7 (Offences by Companies) - holds companies where there has been 'indecent representation of women' (such as the display of pornography) on the premises guilty of offenses under this act.

Punishment : Minimum sentence of two years

Section 326 : Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means

Whoever, except in the case provided for by section 335, voluntarily causes grievous hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting, or any instrument which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, or by means of fire or any heated substance, or by means of any poison or any corrosive substance, or by means of any explosive substance, or by means of any substance which it is deleterious to the human body inhale, to swallow, or to receive into the blood, or by means of any animal, shall be punished with 1[imprisonment for life], or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

What You can do ?

- **Boys :** Speak up if you see anyone being harassed, be it your friend, class mate, sister etc. shout at the harasser and ask others to protest as well, don't be a silent observer, if you remain silent, the harasser thinks that you are approving of his behavior. Remember boys have many ways to show their masculinity and chivalry rather than cat calling and harassing girls on the street, in college campus etc. .
- **Girls :** If you have been harassed on the street / campus / homes / communities and want to file a police complaint. You can go to the nearest police station and file a First Information Report (FIR). It is your right to file an FIR. If you need help, call one of the help lines based in your city.

Police Emergency : 100 / Women Helpline : 2098 / Child Line : 1098

Remember, your silence will encourage the harasser to harass you more. You can be modest and ladylike even if you protest and challenge the harasser.