

Journey to Adulthood Through Gender Issues and Identity

Big Idea:

Gender expectations, family roles, culture, and society can influence how people experience the journey to adulthood differently.

Learning Goals

By the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- ✓ explain how gender expectations affect development
 - ✓ identify how family and society influence gender roles
 - ✓ connect Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology to gender issues
 - ✓ discuss how gender expectations may change across cultures
 - ✓ apply theories to real-life situations
-

Part 1: Adulthood and Gender Expectations

Definition

Gender roles:

Expectations that society places on people based on gender.

Important idea:

Gender expectations can affect:

- responsibilities

- opportunities
 - education
 - independence
 - career choices
 - relationships
-

Examples

Traditional expectations:

Male	Female
Financial provider	Caregiver
Independent	Family-focused
Strong emotions hidden	Caring and emotional

Modern expectations:

Shared Expectations

Both parents work

Shared childcare

Shared financial responsibilities

Equal opportunities

Class Discussion -Mini Case

Case:

Sarah wants to become an engineer.

Some family members support her, but others believe engineering is more suitable for men.

Discussion:

1. What challenge may Sarah face?
 2. Is this biological or social?
 3. Which discipline explains this?
-

Part 2: Gender and Factors Affecting Adulthood

Factor	Gender Connection	Example
Education	Opportunities may differ across cultures	Girls may face pressure regarding educational choices
Employment	Gender expectations may influence careers	Some jobs are viewed as "male" or "female"
Family relationships	Families may have different expectations	Older daughters helping with caregiving
Living arrangements	Expectations for independence can vary	Some cultures expect women to remain at home longer
Career goals	Gender stereotypes can influence decisions	Male nurse or female pilot

Discussion

Do gender expectations influence:

- What do people study?
- When will people become independent?
- Future responsibilities?

Why?

Part 3: Linking Gender Issues to the Three Disciplines

Anthropology

Focus:

Culture and traditions influence beliefs about gender.

Question:

How do cultures define gender roles?

Sociology

Focus:

Society and family influence expectations.

Question:

How do social expectations shape gender roles?

Psychology

Focus:

Thoughts, identity, emotions, and behaviour.

Question:

How do gender expectations affect self-esteem and identity?

Part 4: Gender Issues in Families

Families often teach children ideas about gender.

Examples:

Children may learn through:

- parents
 - siblings
 - media
 - religion
 - culture
 - school
-

Traditional Example

Father:

- works outside the home

Mother:

- manages household responsibilities
-

Modern Example

Both parents:

- work
 - cook
 - care for children
 - share responsibilities
-

Class discussion- Case Study Activity

Case:

David enjoys cooking and wants to become a chef. Some relatives believe cooking should be a hobby and expect him to choose a different career.

Answer:

1. What gender expectations exist here?
 2. Which discipline best explains this?
 3. How could this affect David's development?
-

Part 5: Foundational Theory Connections

Theory	Gender Connection	Example
Psychodynamic	Early experiences influence beliefs	Children observing family roles
Humanist	Self-esteem and personal growth	Choosing a career despite stereotypes
Symbolic Interactionist	Identity forms through interactions	Peer pressure affecting identity
Sociocultural	Culture shapes development	Cultural expectations about responsibilities

Conflict Theory	Power and inequality affect experiences	Unequal expectations for men and women
Feminist Theory	Gender inequality affects experiences	Different opportunities by gender

Lesson Summary

- ✓ gender roles are influenced by culture and society
- ✓ people may experience adulthood differently because of gender expectations
- ✓ Anthropology studies cultural influences
- ✓ Sociology studies social expectations
- ✓ Psychology studies emotions and identity
- ✓ theories help explain gender experiences