

Gender script of today's educated young adults

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Abstract

The objective of the present study was to explore gender script (gender identity and gender constructions- own gender perceptions, cross gender perceptions) of today's educated young adults. The gender identity of the respondents was assessed using masculinity (M) and femininity (F) subscales of Bem Sex Role Inventory or BSRI (1974). A semi structured interview schedule was developed to study gender constructions, that is, own gender perceptions and cross gender perceptions of the respondents. The efforts were made to expand and refine gender identity by exploring respondents' implicit gender constructions. For this respondents were provided some cue phrases of 'a typical boy/girl', 'social restrictions for boys/girls', 'gender norms and who makes it?' etc. around which they had to build their answers and/or descriptions based upon their experiences, or else, interpretations of experiences. The qualitative analysis revealed that more males are androgynous while more females continue to be feminine and gender script somewhat nontraditional in males but definitely traditional in females. Gender script once formed is rigid, therefore persistent efforts are required to amend or alter this script. Modern egalitarian outlook is thus the need of the changing times which can be attained through a multi pronged approach.

Keywords: *Gender script, gender identity, gender constructions, and educated young adults.*

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