

## **SIECUS Teachings re. Gender Roles (*Guidelines, p. 40f.*)**

**Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, K-12 p. 40**

### Topic 2: Gender Roles

**Subconcept:** Cultures teach what it is to be a man or a woman.

**Developmental Messages:**

#### *Level 1 (Ages 5-8)*

- Girls and boys and men and women are capable of doing the same jobs.
- Boys and girls can do the same chores at home.
- Both mothers and fathers have important roles as parents.
- Boys and girls have many similarities and a few differences.
- Almost all adult jobs and careers are open to men and women.
- People often expect boys and girls to behave in a certain way.

#### *Level 2 (Ages 9-12)*

- Believing that all boys or all girls are or should be alike is a stereotype.
- Boys and girls share equal talents, characteristics, strengths, and hopes for their future.
- Individuals have different talents, strengths, and hopes for their future.
- Boys and girls receive messages about how they should behave from their family, friends, the media, and society.
- People often expect boys and girls to behave stereotypically.
- Some families have different expectations at home for their boy and girl children.
- Girls and boys can be friends and respect each other.
- Sometimes girls and women receive unequal or negative treatment because they are female.
- Sometimes boys and men receive unequal or negative treatment because they are male.
- Certain laws and rules protect women's and men's rights.

#### *Level 3 (Ages 13-15)*

- Attitudes about proper behaviors for men and women differ among families, cultures, and individuals.
- Accepting gender role stereotypes can limit a person's life.
- Young women and young men should be given the same opportunities.
- Laws protect a young woman's or young man's right to participate equally in athletic activities.
- Laws protect women's and men's rights to hold jobs and be paid fairly.
- Both boys and girls can begin to show they would like to date a person.
- In some families and cultures, there is a double standard about sexual practices.

#### *Level 4 (Ages 16-18)*

- Individuals can make their own choices about appropriate roles for themselves as men and women.
- Gender role stereotypes are harmful to both men and women.
- Sexual harassment is harmful to both men and women.
- Some people are still denied equal treatment on the basis of gender even though laws prohibit this.
- Gender role stereotypes can lead to such problems as low aspirations, low paying jobs, sexual harassment, date rape, and stress-related illnesses.