

A Study of Gender Awareness among College Students in Delhi

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Abstract : Gender is a social construction resulting in defining roles and responsibilities to be carried out according to masculine and feminine traits. The main aim of the study was to explore gender awareness among college going students of Delhi. The objectives of the study were to find out (i) the understanding of the term gender and roles and responsibilities associated with male and female as masculine and feminine traits in our society. (ii) Gender images representing the attributes and characteristics attached to particular gender. (iii) Gender discrimination prevailing among girls and boys in our society. (iv) Gender stereotypes resulting in gendering with respect to religion, culture, family and media. The sample of the study consisted of 100 undergraduate college girl students. The findings of the study stated that the students had this understanding that sex is a natural phenomenon and gender is socially constructed. Gender defines the roles and responsibilities among two sexes. On a gender image, students concluded that males are represented as powerful members of society showing physical strength and violence, force and society gave the power to men oppress and subjugate women in society that's why women are treated inferior and given a secondary position in society. On gender discrimination, girl students stated that they faced discrimination at all levels such as family, media, education, workplace etc. There is a strong prevailing gender stereotype among girls and boys with respect to religious practices, choice of career, preference of child etc. This study concluded that students were aware of gendered practices in various domains of life. The study helped to interpret the notions and perceptions of students towards gendering of social spaces and in their lives.

Keywords : gender, gender awareness, gender role, masculinity and femininity

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