

The Gender Game

Time: 25 minutes

Activity Objective:

Explore individual cultural values around gender

Materials:

Handout: The Gender Game

Activity:

Illustrate the meaning of these terms by playing the gender game. Pass out the worksheet without the answers and ask participants to complete it. Discuss the answers as a group, clarifying why the statement either refers to gender or sex. Ask participants as a large group to discuss how gender can impact reproductive health. Conclude by providing participants with a handout of gender-related terms.

Read the following statements and indicate whether they refer to “sex” or “gender.”

Sex	Gender	
X		1. Women give birth to children, men do not.
	X	2. Girls are gentle; boys are tough.
	X	3. Women in sub-Saharan Africa contribute an average of 70% of the labor for food production, yet rural women are poorer than men and have lower levels of literacy, education, health, and nutrition.
	X	4. Many women do not make decisions independently and freely, especially regarding sexuality and relationships.
X		5. Men’s voices change with puberty, women’s voices do not.
	X	6. Women’s risk for HIV infection is often determined by their

		partner's sexual behavior.
X		7. Women are biologically more at risk for HIV than men.
X		8. Women can breastfeed babies; men can bottle-feed babies.
	X	9. In ancient Egypt, men stayed home and did weaving. Women managed household affairs. Women inherited property, men did not.
	X	10. Most truck drivers are men.
	X	11. In 1999, a study in Uganda found that adolescent males thought having a child could enhance their status and prove their manhood.
	X	12. Of the estimated 6–7 million persons around the world who inject drugs, four-fifths are men.