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Three Approaches to Gender

- (1) **Avoidance**: implying that the importance of gender in professional relationships was recognized but minimized by comparing gender with aspects, such as personality and neutrality;
- (2) **Simplification**: implying that gender related problems were easy to address, or already solved;
- (3) **Awareness**: implying that the respondent was interested in gender issues or had some insights in research about gender.

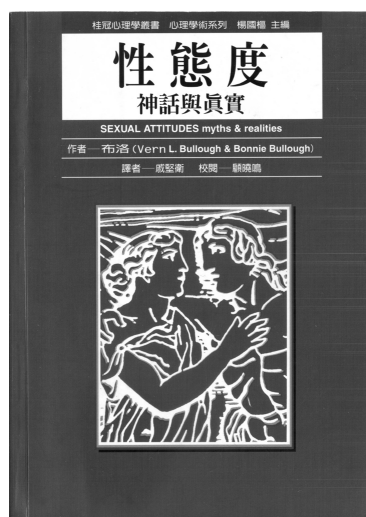
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Three Approaches to Gender

Faculty development programs on gender need to address and reflect on **attitudes** as well as **knowledge**.

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月 經 的 論 述



關於婦女不變的次屬地位的最有影響的代言人或許是克拉克（Edward H. Clarke），他是哈佛大學的藥物學教授和美國藝術和科學學院（American Academy of Arts and Sciences）的成員。1873年，他寫了一部嚴肅的著作，名為《性別教育：女生有平等好的機遇嗎》（*Sex Education: or, A Fair Chance for Girls*）其中有如下一段話：

女人，出於繁衍的便利，天賦一套唯她特有的器官，它們的複雜、精密、交感性和力度是造化中的奇蹟。如果調養得當，它們就是她的精力和力量的源泉；如果它疏於保養，它們就會報復其主人，使她的心理和身體虛弱和患病^⑤。

一個女孩每天的學習時間不能超過四小時，在特殊情況下最多也只能五小時，她必須為自己的整個生理發育留餘地……如果她動用腦力的強度像男生一樣，大腦或特殊的器官（指生殖系統）會受損傷^⑥。

Definitions of Sex and Gender

Sex

- Genetic/physiological or biological characteristics of a person which indicate whether one is male or female

Definitions of Sex and Gender

Gender

- Refer to women's and men's roles and responsibilities that are socially determined
- Related to how we are perceived and expected to think and act as women and men because of the way society is organized, not because of our biological differences.

Sex Difference vs. Gender Difference

- **Sex differences:** biological differences between males and females
- **Gender differences:** a result of social role difference between men and women
- **Gender roles** have an impact on the health of men and women

How to recognize the difference?

- If you know that the difference is 100% biological, it's a **Sex Difference**...
- Everything else must be considered a **Gender Difference**...

Sex Difference vs. Gender Difference

- **Sex differences:** 皮下脂肪
- **Gender differences:** 肉毒桿菌素
- **Gender roles have an impact on the health of men and women**

女生的皺紋代表老化

男生的皺紋代表老成

3 good reasons why medicine should engage with concepts of sex and gender

- (1) Sex and gender influence health and well being throughout the entire life of an individual**
- (2) Understanding the implications of sex and gender difference in patients is vital for good clinical practice**
- (3) Teaching medical students evidence-based clinical best-practice**

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Gender Bias

- (1) Gender blindness**
- (2) Male bias**
- (3) Gender role ideology**
- (4) Gender inequality**

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Gender Blindness

**Not taking gender under consideration
when it is relevant...**



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Gender Blindness

- Expected physiological similarities between men and women → Extrapolation of research findings conducted in male populations to female patients
- Without gender-disaggregated data, a gender analysis cannot even take place

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Gender Blindness

- A large body of evidence exposed sex differences in health and illness.
- Evidence of sex difference in coronary heart disease(CHD): age of onset, manifestation of symptoms...→ Evidence-based guideline for the prevention of heart disease in women
[American Heart Association (AHA) since 2004~]

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Male Bias

An observer error exposed in medical research which follows from a male perspective and habit of thought

[Pinn 2003; Doyal et al. 2003]



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Male Bias

Male bias has had consequences on the choice and definitions of problems that are studied, the methodology used to collect and interpret data as well as theories and conclusions drawn from data [Rosser 1994]

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Male Bias

- Ranking of disease
- Relegating women's health issues to reproductive health, pregnancy-related illness and mental disorders...

[Davis 1988; Nicolette & Jacobs 2000; Searle 1998]

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Male Bias

Tendency to use men as the standard even in diseases affecting both men and women, leading to the treatment of female symptoms as outliers (“atypical”) of regular syndrome...

[Davis 1988; Hoffman 2000; Alexanderson et al. 1998]

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Male Bias

- (1) 醫療界的父權意識將“月經”疾病化
- (2) 男性觀點對過去性侵害防治觀念的影響
- (3) 義大利總理使用女性官員



Gender Bias

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Gender Role Ideology

**A health care worker's attitude towards
male and female patients and doctors**

[Verdonk et al. 2007]

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Gender Role Ideology

- Doctors' gender stereotyping towards patients may be seen as a risk factor for inappropriate care.
- Unawareness of gender-specific communication styles may lead to communication problems in the physician-patient relationship. [Bylund and Makoul 2002]

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Gender Role Ideology

- Differences exist in the way masculinities and femininities impact on health.
- Gender roles and expectations vary greatly across contexts, cultures, socio-economic groups, and age.
- Male pursuit for sexual functioning vs. female pursuit for body image and beauty

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Gender Role Ideology

- (1) 對男、女病人之刻板印象會影響醫師的診療及態度
- (2) 恐慌症的男患者可能較容易被認為是心肌梗塞
- (3) 女性性功能障礙較不被重視
- (4) 男性憂鬱症可能被忽略或低估 “男兒有淚不輕彈”

Gender Bias

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Gender Inequality

Discrimination on the basis of a person's sex in opportunities, in the allocation of resources and benefits, or in access to services. [WHO 2002]



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Gender Inequality

- Gender equity: Gender differences in needs and power should be identified and the imbalance between the genders must be addressed and rectified. [WHO 2001]
- Approach aiming towards gender equity and equality is called 'gender mainstreaming'

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Gender Inequality

- Incorporation of sex and gender factors in research design and the inclusion of women in clinical studies to provide basic fundamentals for gender-specific health care. [WHO 2001]
- Integration of gender considerations must become standard practice in all policies and programs of WHO.

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Gender Inequality

- Gender awareness: a gender-sensitive attitude, knowledge and insight in the full meaning of gender for health and illness
- Acknowledgement of existing gender inequalities
- Aims towards gender equity

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Gender Inequality

(1) 男、女性功能障礙醫藥資源的懸殊

- Gender inequality ?
- Where is the gender difference in need and power ?
- imbalance between the genders must be addressed and rectified

A Gender Perspective in Medicine

- **From the patient perspective**
the differential roles that maleness and masculinity and femaleness and femininity play in men and women health
- **From the provider perspective**
the ways in which the gender of the provider impacts on the health care event
- **From an educational perspective**
the gendered nature of medical education/ texts/ teaching styles

Tools for Identifying Gender Issues

- **How would this scenario be different if the players were male/female?**
 - Presentation be different ?
 - Treatment be different?
 - Evidence of research?
 - Outcomes be different?
 - Consultation be different?
 - Situation reasonable?

Tools for Identifying Gender Issues

- **How would this scenario be different if the players were male/female?**
 - Presentation be different ?
 - Treatment be different?
 - Evidence of research?
 - Outcomes be different !!!
 - Consultation be different?
 - Situation reasonable?

Encourage your students to look critically at the literature

- Dose the disease affect both men and women?
- Were both men and women included in the study? If not, why not?
- Is the data presented in a sex disaggregated way?
- Understand that if both men and women are not reported on that the evidence may only tell part of the story and further evidence should be sought...

Of course men and women are more alike than they are different?

However....

- Subtle differences may have profound consequences for health.
- Where evidence of difference is available we should use it.
- If it is not available, it is unavailable rather than that it is not different.

一個月到底有幾天？

- 30 天 (大部分人的習慣...) → 一年 360 天
- 28 天 (健保局) → 一年 336天
- 31 天 (大部分的月份是31天) → 一年 372天
- $365 \div 12 = 30.41666...$ 天
- 您的答案呢？

**Thanks
for
Your Attention**