



## ERASMUS PROJECT

### BASIC VOCABULARY AND GENERAL CONCEPTS:

- **Feminism**

Current of thought in permanent evolution for the defense of equal rights and opportunities between both sexes.

It is a different way of understanding the world, power relations, social structures and relationships between the sexes.

This new way of observing reality, from the perspective of women, is the motor that is producing more changes in

the present century, in the system and social values, getting institutions to modify their social and economic policies.

Simone de Beauvoir speaks of feminism as a way of living individually and fighting collectively. Feminism aspires to a society in which the integration of individualities takes place once the stereotypes of the sex-gender system have been overcome. It defends that women and men have the same rights and, in this way, can participate equally in all social structures. Equality does not pretend to homogenize but to recognize the diversity of women and men. Feminism is committed to the meaning, the meaning that is given to the fact of being a woman, by the recognition of values that have traditionally been considered as feminine giving them authority and social power, regardless of patriarchal structures. (Words for Equality, Basic Neighborhood Library)

- **Male Chauvinism**

Devaluation behavior towards women. It is characterized by the emphasis on virility, strength and disinterest in domestic affairs

on the part of males. The unequal distribution of the exercise of power over other men or other women leads to the asymmetry in the relationship between the two.

The processes of socialization of culture have legitimized the belief in the superior position of man: personal power and self-affirmation in possession of the reason and strength of man and the definition of women as inferior to his service. (Words for Equality, Basic Neighborhood Library)



- **Gender**

The feminist research of the 70s shows that the concept of sex is not valid to explain the differences in activities between men and women in different cultures throughout history. The concept of gender is then elaborated and introduced as a category of analysis that makes it possible to differentiate and separate the biological, attributed to sex, from the cultural, determined by gender.

In short, gender and, consequently, gender relations are "social constructions" that vary from one society to another and from one time to another, and therefore, as such, susceptible to modification, reinterpretation and reconstruction. (Words for Equality, Basic Neighborhood Library)

- **Patriarchy / Patriarchate**

System or social organization of masculine domination over women that has been adopting different forms throughout the history.

- + **Sexism**

Theory based on the inferiority of the female sex that is determined by the biological differences between men and women. The construction of a symbolic order in which women are considered inferior to men implies a series of stereotyped behaviours and attitudes that lead to the subordination of one sex with respect to the other. Some authors establish differences between male chauvinism and sexism, since while machismo is an unconscious attitude -in the sense that when a person with macho behaviors is explained their attitude, he/she can choose to abandon them- sexism represents a conscious attitude that promotes domination and subordination of the female sex with respect to the male.

- **Equality**

Aspect concerning equality in any situation. (Europe gender perspective guide, European Carrefour)

- **Equality of right**

Formal equality before the law. Equalization of men and women through legislative measures. In the European countries of democratic regimes, it is after the First World War that the principle of equality before the law is restored and women are given the right to education, paid work and voting. In Spain, the principle of legal equality is not firmly established until the 1978 constitution.



- **Factual equality**

Real and effective parity between men and women. The mere enactment of legal equality is not enough to change the customs and structures of inequality. The positive action mechanism aims to actively work and counteract the inequalities of departure so that equality of opportunities between men and women becomes a reality.

- **Gender equality**

Gender equality is understood as a relation of equivalence in the sense that people have the same value, regardless of their sex, and therefore they are equal.

The idea of equality has been a protagonist for years in most of the demands of women and women's movements. The principle of equality between men and women is one of the least developed in terms of what recognition of fundamental rights and freedoms means.

Human rights continue to be violated and with special impunity those of women. Nowhere in the world has the treatment of women been equated to that of men.

- **Gender Violence**

The United Nations Declaration defines this violence as "any act of violence based on belonging to the female sex that has or may result in physical, sexual or psychological damage or suffering to women, including the threats of such acts, the coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether it occurs in public or private life. "

The aggressions of all kinds suffered by women is another manifestation of the inequality that exists between women and men. The violence that is based on the supposed superiority of one sex over another, which affects the entire social organization, becoming one of the most serious political and social problems of today, is still part of everyday reality.

The number of women killed or mistreated throughout the planet by their husbands or partners is so significant and widespread that recognition of it is necessary and this leads us to talk about gender violence: domestic violence, sexual assault, mutilation, etc. . (Words for Equality, Basic Neighborhood Library)

- **Feminization of Poverty**

Phenomenon that gives name to a generalized situation in most of the countries and that makes women visible as a collective that constitutes the majority of the poor population of the planet. Poverty and the adjustment policies of the countries have a direct impact on the participation of women in the labour market and in their access to the economic and social resources

offered by the welfare state, promoting laws and administrative practices that limit the access of women to economic resources. Thus, people who inhabit the Fourth World



(pockets of poverty in developed countries) and places of social expulsion are primarily women. (Words for Equality, Basic Neighborhood Library)

- **Positive Action**

The Committee for Equality between women and men of the Council of Europe defines this concept as "strategies designed to establish equal opportunities through measures that allow contrasting or correcting those discriminations that are the result of social practices or systems".

## **Gender Stereotypes**

We could define gender stereotypes as the way in which we understand and / or construct people in two categories (male / female), attributing to them the characteristics and roles that

they must fulfill only because they are women or men.

The organization and structure of a society is built on gender stereotypes. In patriarchal societies such as ours, gender stereotypes assign servile roles to women and degrade their characteristics, generating a devalued and disrespectful perception of the feminine. Gender stereotypes thus ensure unequal power relations between the sexes, conferring women a subordinate role with respect to men.

### **What role do gender stereotypes play in our societies?**

Both women and men grow up internalizing the gender stereotypes that help them to be recognized within the category of man and / or woman. Thus, both internalize positive stereotypes, dominant and active (if one is a man) or negative, subordinate and passive (if one is a woman), since they are considered appropriate for each of the gender status.

### **What role do gender stereotypes play in patriarchal societies?**

The subordination and exclusion of women in patriarchal societies take place through the application of ideas, symbols and stereotypes, without any kind of critical sense. Just for the sake of being a woman or a man.

### **What is the purpose of identifying and reflecting on gender stereotypes?**

Naming, identifying and detecting the damage caused by gender stereotypes is the only way to recognize them in order to eradicate them and achieve a fairer and more egalitarian society.



# How can we do it?

Identifying stereotypes, naming them and determining the damage they cause. Here are some examples:

Types	Definition	Prejudices/ associated values	Examples	Consequences
<b>Sex</b>	They focus in the physical and biological differences between men and women	Women are weak, fragile vulnerable, /men are strong, courageous, hardened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Women can not exercise certain professions, they lack strength and / or value</li> <li>-Women need protection for their vulnerability.</li> <li>-Men cannot feel afraid, nor be vulnerable</li> <li>-Women have to be weak and fragile</li> <li>- Women must be submissive, obedient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-prohibition, for women, of access to professions as pilot, firefighter (in some countries it still persists)</li> <li>-In many cultures women can not go out alone. They have to go in a group or accompanied by a man of the family.</li> <li>-If you are a man and you are afraid, you are a "ladybug"</li> <li>-If you are a woman and strong, you are a "tomboy"</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual</b>	They grant to men and women different sexual characteristics: the sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Societies treat women as the sexual property of men</li> <li>-Promiscuous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In many countries, rape within marriage is not possible. The woman must</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-If a woman dresses with provocative clothing, she cannot complain about what might happen to her.</li> <li>.. It's provoking.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Sexual Roles</b></p>	<p>in the women is a part of procreation. In men, sexuality and procreation are two different things.</p> <p>They confer to men and women different papers in society in</p>	<p>behaviour is condemned in women, but applauded in men</p> <p>-Sex in women is circumscribed to marriage and family</p> <p>-Women are the primary caregivers of the children and the family - The men are the</p>	<p>always be willing to satisfy the needs of her husband.</p> <p>-Until not many years ago, adultery as a crime only existed in Spain as for women, not for men.</p> <p>-Women must be virgins when they get married.</p> <p>-Women must be discreet and demure</p> <p>-Women must take care of the domestic chores and must look</p>	<p>-If a woman talks to a stranger, she wants something ...</p> <p>-A woman who has sporadic sex is a whore -A man who has many sexual relationships is very "macho"</p> <p>-Men can touch or say phrases of sexual content to strangers in the street, especially if they are provoking-</p> <p>-If a woman says "no" and despite it, she is raped, maybe it's because she didn't say "no" when she should, or that she has not resisted as much as she should have done.</p> <p>-Unequal distribution of housework. Women spend much more time than men doing them.</p>
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<p><b>Compound</b></p>	<p>function of their biological differences.</p> <p>In them they mix gender stereotypes with others, for example, of race, of disability of social status. They usually reflect false preconceptions on subcategories of women</p>	<p>suppliers of food and material goods</p> <p>-The fundamental role of a woman is to have children</p> <p>-If you are a woman and a lesbian, you cannot be a good mother</p> <p>-If you are a woman and black, sure you are "easy"</p>	<p>after the descendants.</p> <p>-Men must work and bring money home.</p> <p>-Women should have children to be complete.</p> <p>-Taking care of a sick family member is a woman's task (even if it is the husband's father)</p>	<p>-If you have to leave work to take care of the children, it is the woman who does it.</p> <p>-Girls choose university studies related to the care of people, in a much higher proportion than boys.</p> <p>-Men have difficulties to enjoy their paternity leave</p> <p>-Women's salaries are lower than those of men doing the same job.</p>
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### How can we identify gender stereotypes?

To be able to identify the stereotypes that are behind many behaviours, roles, prejudices,

attitudes, it can be useful to ask oneself before any of the above circumstances:

-What generalized opinions, or preconceived ideas are held in these circumstances about men and women?

- To what extent do they condition that opinion, behaviour ...?



- Is it an opinion that assigns a physical attribute, a sexual role, a gender behaviour to men and women?

-In your case, what are those attributes, roles or behaviours?

**Once we have identified them, what can we do?**

Once we have identified, classified, and analyzed its consequences, we can propose behaviours, attitudes,

ideas and even legislative measures that help eradicate these stereotypes.