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Characteristics of the concepts of "sex" and "gender" in the psychological literature

Many authors use the term "sex" and "gender" as synonymous, however, it should be noted that these terms are not identical.

Sex is a set of anatomical and physiological characteristics of the organism, which provides fertility. It enables you to distinguish the birth of male and female individuals. Thus, the term "sex" refers to biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.

Biological sex has the following two manifestations:

- Genetic sex (manifested through a set of sex chromosomes);
- Anatomical sex (includes physical differences between men and women)

In addition to biological differences between men and women, there is also social. In this aspect worth talking about the concept of "gender".

Gender is a social and cultural construct that indicates the social aspects of relations between the sexes.

People are born male or female, but how to be men and women they are taught in society through education, training, human relations.

Sh.Bern defines "gender" in a narrow sense and gives it the name of "social sex". According to this gender is socially determined roles, identity of areas of men and women action that do not depend on biological sex differences, and the social

organization of society. They indicate the regulatory requirements and expectations that a culture makes to "correct" the male or female behavior and which serve as a feature for assessing masculinity / femininity person.

Masculinity is a normative idea about physical, mental and behavioral characteristics that are specific to women and men.

I.Kon says that there are three values of masculinity:

- 1. Masculinity is a combination of behavioral and mental traits, characteristics and properties that are objectively men unlike women.
- 2. Masculinity is a combination of social perceptions, attitudes about who people are and what qualities he attributed.

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3. Masculinity is a regulatory standard of man.

Femininity is a property of the individual, which involves matching women own psychological gender, compliance female sex-role norms, the typical female behavior, values and attitudes.

Masculinity and femininity are fundamental categories through which the reveals the essence of the concept of "gender identity".

Gender identity is the experience of their own roles according to gender, the totality of social norms and behavior, characteristic representatives of particular sex (or those attributed to members of a particular gender or socio-historical or socio-cultural situation).

An important contribution to the development of psychology of gender made S.Bem who indicated that masculinity and femininity are not opposed to each other, and the person can simultaneously have both features. She thinks that the best way is to incorporate the best features of both gender roles.

Based on research S.Bem gender theory proposed scheme stating that the children establishment of gender is based on social stereotypes that exist in society.

Thus, delimitation of the concepts "sex" and "gender" is important because most of the differences between men and women caused by reasons that are not biological, but social. And according to this there are three main categories: biological sex, social sex (gender) and psychological sex.

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