

12 HIS AND HER COLLAGES

Aim

To examine gender stereotypes and sexual discrimination worldwide

Time

1 hour

Materials

Magazines and brochures, art materials, 2 large pieces of paper.

What to do

- Sit participants in a circle. Ask each participant in turn to say and complete the following two sentences, depending on whether they are male or female.

For Boys: *Because I am a man I must ...
If I were a woman I could ...*

For Girls: *Because I am a woman I must ...
If I were a man I could ...*

- Divide the magazines among participants and ask them to cut out pictures from the magazines. Ask them to divide these pictures into two piles- those they connect with boys/ men and those they connect with girls/ women. Ask them to stick all the pictures they associate with males on one of the large pieces of paper and all the pictures they associate with females on the other piece of paper.
- Ask for two volunteers (ideally one female and one male). Ask the female volunteer to lie on the collage of pictures connected with girls/ women and ask the male volunteer to lie on the collage of picture connected with boys/ men. Draw around the bodies with thick black pen, cut out their body outlines and pin the two bodies on opposite walls.
- Read out the questions below. Ask participants to stand by the male body if they think the answer is male and the female body if they think the answer is female.

Discussion Questions

- What items/ images/ colours did participants associate with boys or men and what with girls or women? Why? Where do these connections come from?
- Do these images portray what males and females are really like?
- Why are there such worldwide inequalities between men and women? Are these fair?

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QUESTION	ANSWER	FACT
Worldwide who earns more, men or women?	Men	Women earn 75% of men's income
Worldwide, do men or women work longer hours?	Women	In virtually every country in the world women work longer hours than men yet share less in the economic rewards.
Worldwide, do more girls or boys die before the age of five?	Girls	More girls die before the age of 5 than boys
Who owns more of the world's property, men or women?	Men	Women own only 1% of the world property
In Africa who does more of the agricultural work, men or women?	Women	In Africa, 75% of the agricultural work is carried out by women.
Worldwide can more women or men read and write?	Men	Two thirds of the world's population who are illiterate are female
Are most of the world's poor female or male?	Women	Over 70% of the world's poor are female.

* Facts taken from *Spiced Up* (NYCI, 2004).