

IX Gender

A. What is Gender

1. Gender is another category of classifying humans reflecting not just biological, but also social differences between men and women.

2. Social concepts of what is "masculine" and what is "feminine" vary across space and time.

B. The Gender Gap

1. The differences in social, economic, and political power and opportunity between men and women.

C. Patterns Related to the Gender Gap.

1. High maternal mortality rates, or death rates among women giving birth. In poorer regions women are 100 to 600 times more likely to die giving birth than women in wealthier countries.
2. High female infanticide rates, the murder of female infants.
 - a) Occurs in regions where families want male children to carry on the family name.
Ex) China's one child policy.
3. Dowry death: occurs when a bride is murdered by her husband's family b/c her father refused to pay her dowry.
Ex) 1980's India, now on the decline
4. Women were not given the right to vote (enfranchisement) until the 20th century.
5. Gender imbalances also exist, men outnumber women
 - a) Contributes to high rates of male depression b/c men can't find mates, causes inc prostitution rates, drug use and HIV infection.
6. More parity between men + women the higher level of a country's development.