|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency of Gender Socialisation: Peer Group** | | When providing example, please reference the source of the information as follows: Name, Date (for example, Smith, 1979). | |
|  | **Examples of Male Socialisation** | | **Examples of Female Socialisation** |
| **SelectiveExposure** | **\*** There is evidence of selective exposure to particular group norms and values:   * **Sexuality**:   Males (especially young males) are encouraged to have girlfriends, be heterosexual and sexually active   * **Appearance**:   Men are increasingly concerned about how they look (hairstyle, clothes, fashion, etc.).   * **Masculinity**   Males are allowed a wide range of appearances related to social identities of masculinity  **Hegemonic masculinity** – stress on specific and identifiable ways of “being male” in our society (tough, unemotional, heterosexual…) | | \* There is evidence of selective exposure to particular group norms and values:   * **Sexuality**:   Females (especially young females) are encouraged to have a boyfriend, be heterosexual and not sexually active   * **Appearance**:   The importance of how you look (pretty, clean, stylish, appropriately dressed and so forth) is reinforced by the peer group.   * **Femininity**:   Women are allowed a restricted range of appearances, related to social identities of femininity  **Hegemonic femininity** – stress on specific and identifiable ways of “being female” in our society (tender, emotional, heterosexual…) |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Examples of Male Socialisation** | **Examples of Female Socialisation** |
| **Modelling** | \* Tendency to copy other males on wide range of masculine issues:  Sports – same football team, same kinds of equipment  Styles – for example, particular types of hairstyle.  Fashions – a range of male-related clothes etc.  \* Men may not copy each other as much as women because peer norms and values stress “masculinity” involves degree of individuality and not always being part of a crowd.  \* Male behaviour is more often associated with “gang behaviour”. That is, being part of an identifiable group (usually male-dominated) that shares a range of norms and values (a male subculture)  The importance of the peer group does not appear to decline even when men are in sexual relationships. | \* Female behaviour tends not to involve large groups. Rather, small, close-knit groups are the norm.  McIntosh, for example, notes how girls tend to have a “bedroom culture” ( ie mixing with friends in privacy of the home) rather than the “street culture” favoured by males (ie associating with friends in public places). However:  Clothes / fashion: evidence of way group pressures force women into conformity to group norms (eg. What is worn, when it is worn)  Competition: This is especially true in the race to “attract and keep” a man. Peer group is important here because it pressurises women to compete against each other for male approval. Importance of peer group tends to decline if female has a boyfriend. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Examples of Male Socialisation** | **Examples of Female Socialisation** |
| **Reward and Punishment** | \* Men tend to resort to physical violence more easily. May be because of great levels of aggression or because men are not encouraged to resolve situations verbally.  \* Men forgive each other more easily after fights, etc.  \* Men use touching behaviour (touch on the shoulder / back or ruffle of each other’s hair) to express their friendship and show they are comfortable with each other. However, touching must not be too close, too intimate or too prolonged since this may suggest homosexuality (still a taboo sexuality in many male peer groups)  \* Status within a peer group usually involves displaying stereotyped characteristics of masculinity: being the toughest, for example.  \* Male gossip used as from of social control.  \* Reputation is very important to males – this is usually related to sexuality (in terms of “conquests”) but also to respect / status with a group.  “Men are not encouraged to show their emotions. They are rewarded for not being emotional (something associated with femininity) | \* Women tend to be more verbal than men and often use silent treatment (sending someone to Coventry) as a form of social control / punishment.  \* Female gossip used as from of social control (how someone looks, who they are associating with, etc.).  \* Reputation is very important to females – this is often related to sexuality (may be important to avoid derogatory sexual labelling – slag, slapper, etc.)  \* Women more likely to reward each other by hugging and kissing (in non-sexual ways).  \* Women are encouraged to show their emotions. They are punished if they are unable / unwilling to show expected emotions in certain situations. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Examples of Male Socialisation** | **Examples of Female Socialisation** |
| **Nurturance and Identification** | \* Boys are encouraged to play “masculine” sports / activities (football, rugby, basketball etc.).  These activities usually involve:   * Competition * Aggression * Athleticism * Physicality * Individuality within the team   \* It’s rarely acceptable for males to show public emotion (crying, sympathy etc.)  \* Males are encouraged to be more aggressive in their behaviour. Not encouraged to share personal problems with peers.  \* To have “female conquests” is a source of status. | \* Girls are encouraged to pursue “feminine activities that express creativity.  These activities usually involve co-operation – rather than competition - with others. The main exception here is over male relationships (women encouraged to compete against each other for male attention).  \* Encouraged to shop, gossip, be clean, well-presented, neat.  \* Expected to be more emotional and to share / talk through personal problems with peers. |