SOC 1101 - ELEMENTS OF SOCIOLOGY

## BLOG:

How men and women are impacted differently, or treated in society, because of their social status.



I've always wondered if men and women were treated differently in society based on their social status because almost everywhere you will hear conversations discussing whether men and women are equal, or if one side is just set up for more success compared to the other. An article titled "Gender, Interpersonal Power, and Social Influence" by Linda L. Carli states that, "Evidence indicates that men generally possess higher levels of expert and legitimate power than women do and that women possess higher levels of referent power than men do. These differences are reflected, to some extent, in the influence strategies used by men and women and, more clearly, in gender differences in social influence. Women generally have greater difficulty exerting influence than men do, particularly when they use influence that conveys competence and authority." The part where they talk about women generally having greater difficulty exerting influence makes sense in my opinion. For example, this is prevalent today, because when people see women in certain fields of expertise that are dominated they won't take her as seriously compared to a male figure in that same field. Also, some people view men as more capable when it comes to business decisions, and are more likely to choose them over a female because they feel that they will be more competent.

However, if this is the other way around then women will be favored more than males, but this depends on the department and what is being required (Women in the cosmetic department, or social media, and men in business, and leadership). Men in society are also expected to not express their feelings, and I am physically stronger compared to women. This is different for women who are expected by society to be more caring and loving while being better at parenting and maintaining their beauty. Then, there is the side of society that sees it bad for women to be with multiple men where they call them sluts or whores, but when a man does it it is fine and he is gassed up for his achievements. In the workforce, bosses are more likely to hire men compared to women, because they believe that men will take more time off compared to women even if they have a kid. Recently men have been able to take off work for 12 weeks from the New Parent Leave Act which allows them to bond, or take care of their newborn child.

## Honesty tops list of traits that people say society values most in men; physical attractiveness top trait for women

What traits or characteristics do you think people in our society ... [OPEN-END]

Value most in men	Value most in women
33% Honesty/Morality	35% Physical attractiveness
23% Professional/Financial success	30% Empathy/Nurturing/Kindness
19% Ambition/Leadership	22% Intelligence
19% Strength/Toughness	14% Honesty/Morality
18% Hard work/Good work ethic	9% Ambition/Leadership
11% Physical attractiveness	9% Hard work/Good work ethic
11% Empathy/Nurturing/Kindness	8% Professional/Financial success
9% Loyalty/Dependability	7% Loyalty/Dependability
8% Intelligence	7% Competence/Ability
5% Being family-oriented	6% Independence/Self-reliance
5% Politeness/Respectfulness	5% Strength/Toughness
	5% Politeness/Respectfulness
	5% Ability to multitask

Note: Only traits or categories cited by at least 5% of respondents shown. Respondents were allowed to mention up to three traits or characteristics for each question. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 8-21 and Sept. 14-28, 2017. "On Gender Differences, No Consensus on Nature vs. Nurture"

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(provided by https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2017/12/05/americans-see-different-expectations-for-men-and-women/)

This image shows how society views, and expects men and women to be, and among the top "professional/financial success" is almost number 1, because in society if you are a man who is not financially successful you will be seen as a failure and some women don't want to be with you since you won't be able to support them. However, if a woman is working a low-salary job and she is very attractive it won't matter all that much.

## **References:**

- Carli, L. L. (1999). Gender, Interpersonal Power, and Social Influence. Journal of Social Issues, 55(1), 81–99. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/0022-4537.00106</u>
- Parker, Kim, et al. "On Gender Differences, No Consensus on Nature vs. Nurture." Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project, 5 Dec. 2017, <u>www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2017/12/05/on-gender-differences-no-consens</u> <u>us-on-nature-vs-nurture/</u>.
- "Maternity Leave for Men: Everything You Need to Know." UpCounsel, <u>www.upcounsel.com/maternity-leave-for-men#:~:text=Most%20employers%20are%</u> <u>20required%20by</u>.
- 4. "Paternity and Maternity Leave in California." Finvisor, finvisor.com/parental-leave-california/.