



Gender Equality for Sustainable Development

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Overview

- What is Gender
- Differences in rights and access
- Gender Equality and why it matters
- Gender and SDGs

What is GENDER?

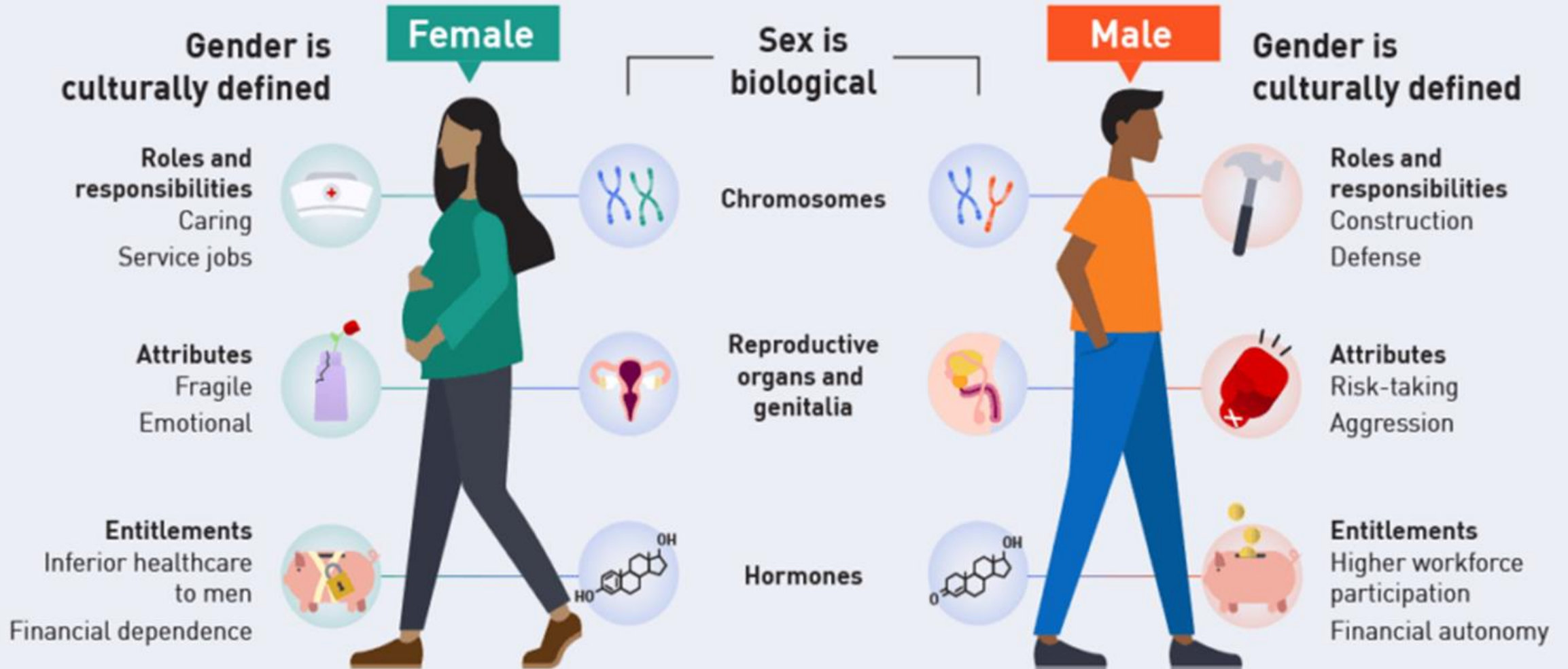
Quick top key points

- ***Gender*** refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.
- This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other.
- As ***a social construct***, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.

Gender vs. sex

- Gender interacts with but is ***different from sex***, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs.
- Gender is hierarchical and produces inequalities that intersect with other social and economic inequalities.

Sex vs Gender



THE LANCET

Source: Lancet Series on Gender Equality, Norms and Health. Paper 1, 2019

Differences in access, rights and knowledge

- Due to **gender roles**, women and men have disparities in economic opportunities, access to productive resources and knowledge; engage differently in household care and public life and decision-making processes.
- Women **don't enjoy the same rights** as men to land and other key resources that are crucial for poverty reduction, food security and economic development.
- The different roles women and men have leads to different bodies of knowledge about different issues so **women have their unique understanding and talents.**

Gender Equality

Gender Equality refers to the **equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities** of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same, but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend whether they are born female or male.

Gender Equality implies that the **interests, needs, priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration**, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men.

Gender Equality is *not* a women's issue only, but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen as a precondition for and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

Why does GE matters

- Regardless of where you live in, gender equality **is a fundamental human right**. Advancing gender equality is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting the health, education, protection and the well-being of girls and boys and women and men.
- Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also **half of its potential**. But, today gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates social progress and is a key factor of **the persistence of poverty**.
- When women and men do not have equal access to resources or equal opportunities to take part in decision-making, **there are direct economic and social costs**.

Gender and SDGs

- Gender equality is integral to achieving a wide range of objectives pertaining to **Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030**, from faster economic growth and poverty reduction to food security and environmental sustainability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction, and peaceful and inclusive societies.
- Improving gender equality, both in terms of **balanced participation in decision-making** and **substantive influence on decisions**, has a profound intrinsic value to people-centered sustainable development.



Thank you

