



### **GENDER**

- SEX

  BIOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVENESS

  GENDER
- REFLECT CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS OF ALONG SEX LINES
- ALL SOCIETIES TREAT MALES AND FEMALES DIFFERENTLY
- MOST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SEXES HAVE TO DO WITH CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS RATHER THAN BIOLOGICAL REALITIES

# DIFFERENCES

- MALES AND FEMALES OF THE HUMAN SPECIES ARE SEXUALLY DIMORPHIC (NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCES)
- SOME OF THESE DIFFERENCES
- FEMALES HAVE WIDER PELVISES; WHILE MALES ARE TYPICALLY TALLER
- FEMALES HAVE MORE TOLERANCE FOR PAIN; MALES HAVE GREATER SHORT-TERM STRENGTH
- FEMALES ARE STRONGER AND HEALTHIER AT BIRTH; MALES ARE HEALTHIER IN OLD AGE
- WOMEN STOP GROWING SHORTLY AFTER PUBERTY; MEN GROW AFTER PUBERTY

## GENDER ROLES

WHY DO SOCIETIES DEVELOP SUCH HIGHLY SPECIALIZED DIVISIONS OF LABOR ALONG GENDER LINES?

#### • STRENGTH THEORY

- HOLDS THAT THE GREATER STRENGTH MALES, AND THEOR SUPERIOR CAPACITY TO MOBILIZE STRENGTH IN QUICK BURSTS OF ENERGY, HAS BEEN CITIED AS THE REAONS FOR UNIVERSAL OR NEAR-UNIVERSAL PATTERNS OF DIVISON OF LABOR BY GENDER
- COMPATIBILITY WITH CHILD CARE THEORY
  - WOMEN' S TASKS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN THOSE THAT DO NOT REMOVE THE WOMAN FROM THE HOUSEHOLD DUE TO TASKS ONLY WOMAN CAN PERFORM FOR CHILDREN · BREAST-FEEDING FOR TWO OR MORE YEARS

## **OTHER THEORIES**

#### • ECONOMY OF EFFORT THEORY

- IF EFFORT IS EXPENDED COLLECTING MATERIALS, IT MAKES SENSE THAT THAT GROUP SHOULD WORK WITH THE MATERIAL, CONVERTING IT TO ITS FINAL FORM

• EXAMPLE: COLLECTING WOOD FOR WEAPONS

#### • EXPENDABILITY THEORY

- MEN WILL TEND TO DO THE MORE DANGEROUS WORK IN A SOCIETY BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE EXPENDABLE; WOMEN CAN HAVE SEX WITH MORE THAN ONE MAN

## **CONTRIBUTIONS BY GENDER TO SUBSISTENCE**

- STEREOTYPICAL SITUATIONS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
- MALES ARE THE BREADWINNERS WHILE THE FEMALE IS THE HOUSEHOLD MANAGER AND PRIMARY CHILD CARE PERSON BUT THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE!
- WHO CONTRIBUTES MORE TO A FAMILY'S SUBSISTENCE?
- PRIMARY SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES
  - FOOD GETTING ACTIVITIES ALREADY DISCUSSED: HUNTING, FISHING, HERDING, AND SO FORTH
  - SECONDARY SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES
  - MANY ACTIVITIES INVOLVED PREPARATION AND PROCESSING FOR EATING AND STORING FOOD STUFF
  - FOR EATING AND STORING FOOD STOPP IN SOME SOCIETIES, HORTICULTURE VIELDS MORE CALORIES THAN MEAT FROM HUNTING TRADITIONALLY, ONE OF THE JOBS WOMEN PERFORM IS CROP TENDING

## **LEADERSHIP**

- IN ALMOST EVERY SOCIETY, MALES DOMINATE THE POLITICAL SCENE
  - IN 85 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRIES SURVEYED IN ONE CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY, ONLY MEN SERVED
  - WOMEN SELDOM PARTICIPATE IN WARFARE ACTIVITIES

.

- IN 88 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S SOCIETIES, WOMEN HAVE NEVER SERVED ACTIVELY IN WAR THINK ABOUT SOME OF THE EXPLANATIONS ABOUT WHY
- THE DIVISON OF LABOR IS SO STRUCTURED
- EVEN IN MATRILINEAL SOCIETIES, MEN USUALLY OCCUPY POLITICAL OFFICES
  - IF WOMEN HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR HOME AND JOIN THE MAN'S FAMILY AFTER MARRIAGE, SHE WILL BE A STRANGER TO THE COMMUNITY

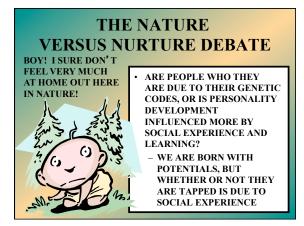
  - IF A STRANGER, THEN UNTRUSTWORTHY IN THE POLITICAL

## **RELATIVE STATUS OF** WOMEN IN SOCIETIES

- WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE VARYING DEGREES OF GENDER STRATIFICATION IN THE WORLD?
  - THE MORE ACTIVITIES WOMEN TAKE PART IN WHEN IT COMES TO PRIMARY SUBSISTENCE, THE HIGHER THEIR STATUS IN THE SOCIETY IN SOCIETIES WHERE WARFARE IS VERY IMPORTANT.
  - MEN WILL BE GIVEN HIGHER STATUS IF POLITICAL BEHAVIOR RECEIVES HIGH STATUS,
  - THEN MEN WILL BE GIVEN HIGHER STATUS THIS IS THE CASE IN MOST SOCIETIES WHERE POLITICS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED
  - IF A COUPLE'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS DETERMINED BY FEMALE KIN GROUPS, FEMALES HAVE HIGHER STATUS

### PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES

- MEAD'S STUDIES IN NEW GUINEA HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM MORE RECENT RESEARCH
- PERSONALITY DIFFFERENCES NOW
  - SUGGESTED BY STUDIES: BOYS TRY TO HURT OTHERS MORE OFTEN THAN
  - GIRLS BOYS EXHIBIT MORE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR
  - THAN DO GIRLS, EVEN IN CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES
  - GIRLS TEND TO NUTURE ONE ANOTHER WHILE BOYS TEND TO COMPETE, EXERTING DOMINANCE
  - BOYS TEND TO PLAY IN LARGER GROUPS THAN DO GIRLS



## **SEXUALITY**

- SEXUAL BEHAVIOR WILL VARY GREATLY AMONG SOCIETIES BECAUSE IT, LIKE MOST ELEMENTS OF CULTURE, IS RELATIVE NORMS CHANGE AND SEX IS GOVERNED BY A SOCIETY'S VALUES, NORMS, AND LAWS
- TYPES OF CULTURAL CONSTRAINT
- PREMARITAL SEX CAN LEAD TO MANY DYSFUNCTIONS FOR A SOCIETY LIKE OUT OF WEDLOCK BIRTHS, TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, AND SO FORTH - EXTRAMARITAL SEX
  - I NAMANI AL SEA MOST SOCIETIES THAT HAVE NORMS AGAINST EXTRAMARITAL SEX WILL APPLY THEM UNEVENLY; WOMEN ARE HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD THAN MEN
- SEX WITHIN A MARRIAGE
- AMERICAN SOCIETY HAS VERY FEW NORMS OR LAWS GOVERING THE TYPE AND FREQUENCY OF SEX IN A MARRIAGE
   LAWS AGAINST SODOMY ARE STILL ON MANY STATE'S' LAW BOOKS
- EAR AGAINST SMOOT ARE THE OF SMALL STATE 5 EAR BOOKS
  HOMOSEXUALITY
   ACCEPTANCE VARIES FROM SOCIETIES WHERE IT IS OPENLY ACCEPTED TO
   SOCIETIES WHERE IT IS A SEXUAL TABOO