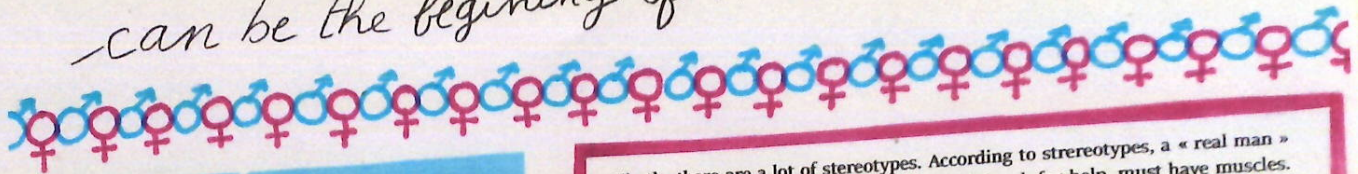


KNOWING GENDER STEREOTYPES

can be the beginning of Freedom and tolerance



BREAKING STEREOTYPES
is very good

Secondly these stereotypes feel natural so everybody believe that it's true. That's why it's dangerous !

As a matter of fact, people who don't respect stereotypes were discriminated against. For instance, a girl who never wears a dress but wears wide clothes, is called a « tomboy ». A boy who is focus in school is called an « intellectual » or a boy who plays with dolls is called a « gay person ».

Besides, women are supposed to be pretty, perfect, slim and men are supposed to be tall and have muscles. Because of that, young people will be complexed because for them it's the only model of beauty. And they are discriminated against.

Then, there are consequences at school. As a matter of fact, if you are a boy and if you think that maths or sciences fields are only for men, you will study that even if you want to be a dressmaker. In fact, stereotypes shape our preferences and career path.

After, representing women like a weak, vulnerable and passive people, encourages men to commit physical, psychological and sexual violences. It's dreadful ! Representing men like tough people encourages them to be addicted to alcohol and drugs. Men have more health problems than women. Men are more violent towards others and are more imprisoned ! Because of stereotypes, there are very often debates against men or against women. Besides the media influence our beliefs about people. Sometimes they use discription and comments which are false and unfair !

Firstly, there are a lot of stereotypes. According to stereotypes, a « real man » must earn a lot of money, can't cry, shouldn't ask for help, must have muscles. So he is supposed to be tough, sporty, aggressive, but he isn't supposed to be gentle, weak, and emotional ! Whereas, according to stereotypes, a « real woman » has to cook, must look after the children, should tidy and clean the house and she also can't fight and she can't earn more money than her husband. So she is supposed to be stupid, pretty and weak. Then she isn't supposed to be tough and sporty.

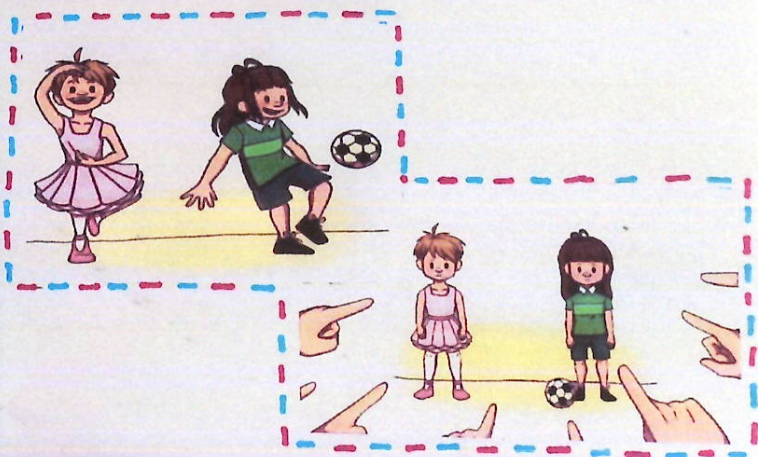
Unfortunately, the problem is that stereotypes don't stop here. They are everywhere !

For instance, when you go in a toy store, there ^{is} a department « for girls » with dolls, little kitchen... It means that girls must play with those toys. It's the same thing for boys with little cars, construction set, videogames...

After, according to stereotypes, boys are less attentive than girls. Therefore, they get lower grades than girls. Besides, boys study maths and science ; that's why there are most men in science, technology, mathematic, politic fields and they are better paid. At the opposite, girls study Arts and humanities. There are more women in teaching or social work professions. It's less paid for women.

We have the same things in sport. According to stereotypes, boys are supposed to play football, rugby, do combat sports whereas girls are supposed to do dance or music (arts activities). Make up is only for girls.

In arguments, women/girls most sulk a long time for nothing while men/boy don't make a fuss for nothing. Women need hugs and sweet words while men think more about sexual relations. And it's not finish, there are still many stereotypes.



Thirdly, to my mind, the definition of a man is just « a person who has male genitals » and for a woman, she has female genitals because it's biology!

Because YES whatever you are, you choose what you want to be, to become, to do ! And NO according to stereotypes !

For changing that, we have to break the stereotypes !

To begin with, we must acknowledge stereotypes. It's the most important thing and the most difficult to change mentalities ! Then be free build our lives according to our choices.

We can change some details in our education. We can for example suggest different activities supposed to be « for girls or for boys » to know what your child wants to do really and parents should support him in his choices ! Stop the sentences like « You're a real princess in your pretty dress », « Oh you're strong like Daddy » or « He's not very wise ! It's normal, it's a boy ». Besides, the media should break stereotypes. Maybe people will think differently.

