

УДК 378.18"3752"

**Natalia Rudenko****PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES ANALYSE  
OF GENDER IDENTITY**

*Sociological and psychological approaches to the gender identity problem are studied.*

**Key words:** *gender identity, gender roles.*

**Руденко Н. Психологічний підхід до аналізу гендерної ідентичності.**

*Розглядаються соціологічні та психологічні підходи до проблеми гендерної ідентичності.*

**Ключові слова:** *гендерна ідентичність, гендерні ролі.*

**Руденко Н. Психологический подход к анализу гендерной идентичности.**

*Рассматриваются социологические и психологические подходы к проблеме гендерной идентичности.*

**Ключевые слова:** *гендерная идентичность, гендерные роли.*

The gender roles we each carry out are highly individualistic, built on our biological and physical traits, appearance and personality, life experiences such as childhood, career and education, and history of sexual and romantic interactions. Each element influences perceptions and expectations. Gender-related experiences influence and shape the ways we think about others and ourselves including self-image, behaviour, mood, social advancement and coping strategies.

Many societies have strict rules about activities, jobs and appearances which are based on deep-seated ideas about what is appropriate for someone based on their gender. Gender performance refers to how people act and present themselves to the world based on their gender identity.

In the modern human sciences an identity concept takes a special place as it is practically equally used by psychologists, sociologists,

philosophers, anthropologists and culturologists. This phenomenon causes special interest due to the global transformations occurring in the society and in consciousness of every human as well. Changes, necessity of their studying and understanding provoked scientific interest of the Ukrainian psychologists to various aspects of gender identity as well.

Social factors which may influence gender identity include gender messages conveyed by family, mass media, and other institutions. In some cases, a person's gender identity may be inconsistent with their biological sex characteristics, resulting in individuals dressing and/or behaving in a way which is perceived by others as being outside cultural gender norms; these gender expressions may be described as gender variant.

If to analyze numerous definitions of gender identity, it is possible to allocate a number of general moments:

- Gender identity is a person's concept of self as being male and masculine or female and feminine, or ambivalent, based in part on physical characteristics, parental responses, and psychological and social pressures. It is the internal experience of gender role.

- Gender identity is how people see themselves, whether masculine, feminine, or somewhere in-between. Gender role is how people present themselves in public in terms of gender. It includes the way people dress, speak, wear their hair, in fact everything that people say and do that indicates masculinity or femininity [3].

For most people, gender identity is consistent with their anatomic sex and their gender role (as when a man has an inner sense of masculinity and publicly acts in masculine ways) [1].

Representatives of almost all approaches studying gender identity agree that it is based on the comprehension by the person that he or she is connected with certain feminine and masculine standards. Gender identity can be transformed, vary throughout all human life. Still J. Mid affirmed that the person from a birth does not possess the identity, it is formed as a result of persons social experience, interactions with other people.

Psychologists believe human sexual identities are made up of three separate components. The first shows the direction of a child's sexual orientation, whether he or she is heterosexual (straight),

homosexual (gay), or bisexual. The second is the child's style of behavior, whether a female is a homemaker-type and a male is a "macho guy". The third component is what psychologists call the core gender identity. In most people, the three components point in the same direction but in some people, the components are more mixed [2, 3].

Gender identity emerges by the age of two or three and is influenced by a combination of biological and sociological factors reinforced at puberty. Once established, it is generally fixed for life. In spite of conscious attempts to reduce sex role stereotyping in the final decades of the twentieth century and in the early 2000s, boys and girls are still treated differently by adults from the time they are born. The way adults play with infants has been found to differ based on gender. Girls are treated more gently and approached more verbally than boys. As children grow older, many parents, teachers, and other authority figures still tend to encourage independence, competition, aggressiveness, and exploration more in boys and expression, nurturance, motherhood and childrearing, and obedience more in girls.

### REFERENCES:

1. Головнева И. В. Гендерная идентичность: тенденции изменений / И. В. Головнева // Вісник харківського університету : Серія "Психологія". – X., 2005. – Вип. 32. – № 653. – С. 47-51.
2. Archer J., Lloyd B. Sex and Gender. – Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
3. Barrett J. Disorders of Gender Identity / J. Barrett // The Practitioner. – (June 4, 2003): 472.