

ABSTRACT

Gender Socialisation and Low Self-Esteem in Preadolescent girls: Implications for Social Work Practice in Jamaica

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This research study examines two important issues in the lives of women and girls: the process of gender socialisation and the inequalities that exist between males and females. The researcher seeks to establish a relationship between these two variables, with the assumption that females are negatively affected by perceptions of inequality and so may be plagued by lower levels of esteem in comparison to male counterparts. The researcher operates under the premise that these occurrences are linked to the process of socialisation into gender roles.

The study employs two scales to assess the participants' self-esteem and their perceptions of the differences between males and females, as well as focus groups and individual interviews for triangulation of data.

While the results indicate that females do not necessarily experience low levels of esteem as opposed to males, identified differences between the sexes reveal significant implications for social work practice with young boys and girls.

Keywords: Natallie Ann Marie Gentles; gender socialisation; perception of inequality between the sexes; self-esteem