GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT: A GLIMPSE

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Gender and Development refers to the development of an individual, the process of empowering men and women providing an atmosphere that is free from violence while respecting human rights and supporting individuals in his/her self-determination and how he/she actualizes his/her own potentials. Its focus is on socially constructed differences between men and women /boys and girls and specifically their roles in society.

The purpose of a well-informed society about gender and development is to ensure that both men and women/boys and girls can participate in, and benefit from, development in a way that is equitable.

Gender identity typically develops in stages: Children become conscious of the physical differences between boys and girls at the age of two, most can label themselves as male or female at as early as three years old.

Why is it important to know gender and development among children?

Young boys and girls need access to all opportunities, care and services due to them as they grow up. Once denied of these opportunities they may not be able to easily develop their own potentials. Thus, their whole life is affected.

Gender inequality in many instances is the root cause of poor development in a child’s life. This predicament often times are evident in families who are not aware of gender development; biases are often evident in families even in schools who are not familiar with the theories behind gender and development. For example, parents
encourage boys to be an engineer, a soldier and the like which they believe are only for the males. Girls are encouraged to be nurses, teachers and the like which are considered more feminine.

Parents and teachers should be aware of the differences in language acquisition between boys and girls too. It could be noticed that girl is oftentimes more likely to use language rationally than boys, this is so because they are more in close contact with others. It could be observed in few instances, at early teens most boys are quiet and prefer to be alone than girls.

From here, parents and teachers should take into consideration the differences that may be noted.

Therefore, equally treating boys and girls regardless of their gender and providing them equal opportunities to grow are substantial in helping them reach their own potentials and become productive members of the community and the whole society as well.

References:

https://pitahc.gov.ph/gender-and-development/?fbclid=IwAR0qj92jWQ1JZVprkBe6HWiDzhamA9wZg5PoxW6PFp0RJ BVYr5SKxXdIUM