

Homework 2.2. Talking About Expectations and Childhood Role Models

Part 1: Reflect and talk about gender roles and your childhood role models

Gender roles play a big part in our lives and interaction with other people, but they also vary in different cultures and societies as well as between different generations and families.

Reflect on the gender roles you inherited from the family, community and culture you grew up in. **Then share your thoughts with your spouse.**

- What did your mother/father do at home? What did your mother/ father do outside the home? What about your other significant female/male family members?
- Think of three things you learned from your mother/ father.
- Do you think that gender roles have changed since your parent's generation? Are the expectations for the two genders different in your culture and in your spouse's culture?
- What do you think makes a good woman/man? What makes a good mother/father? Do you think there are things in parenthood and in the family that are the mother's responsibility and things that are the father's responsibility? If yes, what are they?
- Should girls and boys be raised the same? If not, what would you do differently for boys and for girls and why?
- If your mother and/or father was/were not present in your life when growing up, reflect on how you think that affected your perception on gender roles? How about your view on parenthood?



Part 2: Interview your partner about parenthood

Questions to the man (asked by the woman)

- Share with me a positive memory about your father
- What did you and your father used to do when you were a child?
- Is there something you would do different as a father?
- What things from your childhood do you want to give to your own child?
- Describe to me what you think of a “traditional mother” to be in your culture?
- What features of this traditional mother do you value in particular?
- How do you think I will be as a parent, as a mother?
- How would you like me to be as a mother?

Questions to the woman (asked by the man)

- Share with me a positive memory about your mother
- What did you and your mother used to do when you were a child?
- Is there something you would do different as a mother?
- What things from your childhood do you want to give to your own child?
- Describe to me what you think of a “traditional father” to be in your culture?
- What features of this “traditional father” do you value in particular?
- How do you think I will be as a parent, as a father?
- How would you like me to be as a father?