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7. Report

Gender stereo types are perpetuated by systems of patriarchy, male dominated structures like family, religion, education and media leading to the oppression of women. Kerala present a positive picture as far as women's development is concerned. It is the only state in India, where women outnumber men with a higher sex ratio since 1951. It is undeniable that women in Kerala enjoy liberties and freedom denied to their sisters in other parts of India. But certain gender practices in Kerala as they are reinforced by still prevalent patriarchy have been masked by many impressive development indicators especially with respect to status of women in the state. It is observed that despite recent attempts to alter the assignment of social role to sexes, very young children still continue to develop stereo types around male and female concept. The present study aims to find out the prevalence and extent of gender role stereotyping existing in the modern society with special emphasis on the adolescents in Cochin City.

Based on the study, we can conclude gender role stereo typing in a severe level do not exist in Kerala. Even though parents of the respondents are slightly stereo typed, children show androgynous traits. Most of the time masculine and feminine characteristics are undifferentiated among adolescents. Modern education and nuclear family arrangement are mainly responsible for this new trend. Today, we are seeing early steps towards gender equality: changing conceptions of family roles, women's increasing (though not yet equal) participation in the labour force, their growing (but not yet equal) political power, and greater awareness of sexual exploitation and violence worldwide. How far these changes will take us in the future remains to be seen.