

Recommendations

In August 2011 Youth in Action “Gender and Media” training course was held in Nelijärve, Estonia, 29 participants from 14 countries were taking part. The training course included workshops, discussions and presentations about gender and media. Between 19-24th of August 2012 an evaluation meeting was held at the same place with a smaller amount of participants. During the last meeting recommendations were made for the European Commission and will be presented at the European Congress of Global Education in Lisbon in September 2012. The recommendations are made from the work and conclusions from both of the meetings where the intercultural aspect has a big meaning.

1. Stigmatic perception of female and male professions

We consider as very important to name professions and science and political titles with both gender names. Using only male titles and profession names has many negative results such as: stereotypes, stigmatic perception of men's and women's role in society and citizenship. As language is androcentric women become less visible. Stereotypical female professions aspiring to be less prestige than "male" professions (like director, manager, minister-all names are male in many languages). Stigmatic perception can have a result in the lower opportunities for women to achieve the same state in the labor market. Moreover from personal point of view it is offensive for women to use male gendered professions in the official documents like regulations, diplomas, etc. We believe that in the languages in which gender is respected should be official law, rules, regulations to create or use gender sensitive language.

To respect other languages we postulate to create neutral (not male or female) forms if it is possible and does not offend any gender.

2. Educate educators

On the every stage of education every human being should have right to be brought up in the equal and gender sensitive atmosphere. Person who is responsible for this is an educator (from kindergarten to adult teacher). That is why it is extremely important to acknowledge them to gender issues. Their role is to encourage children to be against stereotypes, make themselves fulfillment as adults. Global education should focus on promoting gender knowledge in educational programs for teachers.

3. Objective knowledge about abortion

Because there are a lot of emotional and stigmatic opinion about abortion we believe that this is very important that every women from EU should have access and right to objective knowledge about abortion. Moreover these subject has to be considered as one of women's rights and be included in sexual education. It should be obligatory to teach about abortion from multiple points of view including the aspect of women's right over their body.

4. Youth, Gender and Popular Culture

Today young people are facing different media which contain images of men and women in a glamorous and unreachable way. This effects the subconscious of the youth and their self images. One possible way to work with this would be to give the youth the tools of critical thinking about how gender is presented in popular media such as video-games, TV, movies, music videos etc. A way to do this would be to have a project that makes it possible for the youth to discuss their favorite media and arouse questions in a gender sensitive context.

5. Gender awareness in society

Gender issues should be brought to a wide public in a common language. From experience, informal meetings with people who are active in this field would increase knowledge and awareness in an accessible way. Let people meet in different places to have informal discussions and give the common person the opportunity to see their daily life and world through “gender glasses”.

6. Inner voice

It is important to empower women so they are given the chance to go against the socialization and the perception of young women today as passive. They should get the opportunity to practice opinion and statement making. It can be done through film making, self defense and presentation making workshops and partnership building seminars. In this way the inner voice of women will strengthen and encourage them to active participation in the public sphere.

7. Gender and religion

It cannot be ignored that there are disagreements between religion and gender issues in several countries especially when it comes to respect women's rights and homosexuality. It would be valuable and important to have a project including constructive discussions on this matter. We should work on a solution how to combine gender issues with religion. The meeting should be organized for NGOs representatives from secular and religious cultures and countries. It should be a platform where people who are active in this subject and field can be heard, like religious feminists for example.