

Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

ENDING STEREOTYPES BEGINS IN THE CLASSROOM

Girls' self-esteem, ambition and 1) _____ [EXPECT] are the first victims of gender stereotypes. Therefore, eradicating clichés and their associated 2) _____ [BEHAVE] should be a 3) _____ [PRIOR] for any society and should begin in schools. Some 4) _____ [INITIATE] advocate introducing female role models into the classroom as a first step.

On 16th June 1963, Valentina Tereshkova became the first female astronaut. On board the Vostok 6 and at only 26 years old, she made history and became a symbol of 5) _____ [EQUAL] between men and women. It has been a long time since the Tereshkova milestone, but even today if someone reads astronaut, architect, engineer or pilot it is more than likely that in their head they see a man. The 6) _____ [ACT] is somewhat 7) _____ [VOLUNTARY] because that is the image 8) _____ [COMMON] accepted by society. Besides, the statistics support that 9) _____ [ASSUME]. In the case of airline pilots, for example, only 3% of the world's pilots are women. Perhaps we need to look for the reason behind this in order to remedy it.

What is a gender stereotype and what consequences does it have?

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a gender stereotype "is a generalised view or 10) _____ [CONCEPT] about attributes, or 11) _____ [CHARACTER] that are or ought to be possessed by women and men or the roles that are or should be performed by men and women". A gender stereotype is therefore 12) _____ [HARM] when it limits the capacity of women and men to develop their personal attributes or 13) _____ [PROFESSION] skills and to take 14) _____ [DECIDE] about their lives and plans. Gender stereotypes affect girls around the world 15) _____ [REGARD] of their country's level of 16) _____ [DEVELOP] and are 17) _____ [COURAGE] by society at large, from parents to teachers. And although some may consider this trivial, it has very 18) _____ [DETRIMENT] consequences for girls from a very early age reducing their 19) _____ [ASPIRE] and limiting their career 20) _____ [OPT].

According to the article 21) _____ [TITLE] 'Gender stereotypes about intellectual ability emerge early and influence children's interests' published in the journal Science in 2017, girls begin to feel less intelligent than boys from the age of six. "Neither boys nor girls are born 22) _____ [SEX], there is something that we as a society do to them to make them reach that point," says Miriam Gonzalez, 23) _____ [FOUND] of Inspiring Girls in Spain. The subject, therefore, has an enormous socio-cultural 24) _____ [GROUND]; one which, for example, associates certain activities, 25) _____ [CLOTH] and hobbies with men and others with women. UNESCO warns that women are under-represented in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics): only 29% of 26) _____ [SEARCH] worldwide are women.

The solution lies in education

The seed of stereotypes is sown in education, and education is where the solution lies. Therefore, as UNESCO states in its *Global Education Monitoring Report*, the support of 27) _____ [GOVERN] is crucial. For example, curricula, textbooks and teacher 28) _____ [TRAIN] programmes should be 29) _____ [PERIOD] reviewed to 30) _____ [SURE] that gender stereotypes are not perpetuated and apprenticeship programmes, 31) _____ [TUTOR], networks or 32) _____ [SCHOLAR] should be considered to promote and encourage the 33) _____ [INCORPORATE] of women into STEM fields.

Within schools, the role of teachers becomes essential when it comes to providing quality, gender-neutral education that promotes students' welfare and respect for professional standards. Lina Gálvez, 34) _____ [DIRECT] of the Master's Degree in Gender and Equality at Pablo de Olavide University in Seville and research expert in gender equality, gives some advice for teachers on how to act against 35) _____ [EQUALITY] inside and outside the classroom:

Be aware of sexism. Question certain stereotypes that we take as normal but which in 36) _____ [REAL] are social 37) _____ [CONSTRUCT].

Deal with the issue of equality without complexes. Ignore third-party 38) _____ [CRITIC] or 39) _____ [PRESS] in addressing equality issues.

Join forces for equal education. The more people involved in this type of education, the more effective it will be.

Think laterally. 40) _____ [FORCE] children in their preferences regardless of whether or not they correspond to what the stereotype makes us expect.

Adapted from: <https://www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/gender-stereotypes-women>