

Non-fiction research about stereotypes

A stereotype is a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a person or thing, it is often judged by what someone has witnessed during a film or even through reading a book.

Here are some examples of stereotypes:

- Men are strong and do all the work.
- Men are the "backbone."
- Women aren't as smart as a man.
- Women can't do as good of a job as a man.
- Girls are not good at sports.
- Guys are messy and unclean.
- Men who spend too much time on the computer or read are geeks.

A lot of the time stereotypes can be classed as something bad, however that is not always the case because there are some ways in which stereotypes can help us. For example, they can help lots of us feel equal, this is because a stereotype is not based on specific details of one another, it is based on usually one or two obvious things. Stereotypes can help make sense of the world. They are a form of categorization that helps to simplify and systematize information. Thus, information is more easily identified, recalled, predicted, and reacted to. Stereotypes are categories of objects or people. Between stereotypes, objects or people are as different from each other as possible. Within stereotypes, objects or people are as similar to each other as possible.

However, there is also the bad side of stereotypes. We don't always like to be compared to things in a movie or a book, because most of the time that person in a movie could be nothing like you, people just think you are because you look the same. For example, in many movies a nerd or a geek is someone with ginger hair and glasses. However, if you compare them to someone who has ginger hair and glasses in real life, they may not have any of the same qualities as the person in the movie and might have a completely different personality.

In some cases, professionals argue that a stereotype enables us to respond rapidly to situations because we can relate to similar experiences we have had in the past. However, stereotypes also make us ignore differences between individuals; therefore, we think things about people that might not be true (i.e. generalize). Generalize means to make a general statement by inferring from specific cases, or to make something that is more widespread and can be applicable to a wide range of people.

Leo Pham

7M

References

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/katz-braly.html>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotype>