

# Gender Bias and Research Practices



**This activity will help you to:**

- Identify ways in which gender bias can affect research studies
- Consider the impact of gender-biased research practices

Gender bias can occur in research due to a range of factors. For each of the factors below, explain how it could result in gender bias in research. Use research examples to illustrate your views, if possible.

Institutional sexism. Although female psychology students outnumber male, at a senior teaching and research level in universities, men dominate.

The research situation 1. Most experimental methodologies are based around standardised treatment of participants. This assumes that men and women respond in the same ways to the experimental situation.

The research situation 2. Standardisation of procedures may not be possible if it is true that researchers react differently to male and female participants.

Dissemination of psychological research is done through the academic journals. These tend to have a bias towards 'positive results' i.e. ones where a 'significant' difference or correlation was found. This might affect the chances of publication of gender research.