

**Gender Sensitivity in Illustrations
for textbooks and Educational Material
– A holistic approach**

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Abstract

Gender Sensitivity in Illustrations for educational media is a topic that has a lot of gray areas. Each time, I hold responsibility to create a new illustration and visualize a new character; I ask myself these questions time and again.

- **How do we define a girl or a woman?**
- **And who are the “we” who are defining?**
- **Who are the “they” who are interpreting it?**

Based on these three questions, I have found the need to delve into a much larger space of thinking in order to understand the complications and possible solutions that are needed in this area. Having worked as an artist, writer and educator, I find that there is a strong need for an interdisciplinary approach to how we think about visualizing in the educational field. This presentation looks at possible areas of thoughts, questions, some sample art work and a few suggestions for way forward.

The presentation is divided into six sections – Visualization and Interpretation, Visualisation and Interpretation, Artist’s Role and Artist’s Brief, Language and Visualisation, Media Education and competition, Identity Building and Generational Definition of Roles, Pedagogy of Visualization/ Visualization in pedagogy. Each section raises questions, and creates a space for reflection and deeper thinking.