

Topic: Boys will be boys

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"Boys will be boys" a phrase often used to justify certain behaviours in boys/men. Understanding its implication as crucial as it influences boys development and societal roles. This exploration can foster healthier attitudes towards masculinity. Now let's dive into a story to understand the thesis. The situation was dire; bullets were flying, chaos reigned and the enemy was dangerously close. In the midst of this turmoil, there was a young man, whose head held high with the determination of martyrdom. He faced the enemy without a second thought, ready to sacrifice his life for his homeland. His comrades kept calling him to come back, but he replied that he was willing to give his life for the sake of nation. "You should descend from mountain," they said. "If I too descend," he replied, "perhaps none of us will survive. Upon hearing this, his companions descended the mountain, but this young man stayed, defending his country and fighting valiantly. He martyred in the line of duty - The enemy recognizing his bravery handed him over

to Pakistan with great respect, and
Pakistan honored him with Nishan-e-
Haider. This is the story of the great
soldier Lalak Jan, who in 1999 laid
down his life on the heights of Kargil.
Story of Lalak Jan explains his behaviour
which was uncultured to him by
societal roles and determination of
martyrdom and bravery was ~~his~~ because
of his development. Boys will be boys
because of their surroundings, their
behaviours are influenced by family par-
ticularly father plays a significant role
in boys development. Other than that boys
behaviour is influenced by factors
such as media, religion, education
and sports as well. Boys face diffi-
culty to pursue goals as they feel
pressure to fulfil societal expectations.
Boys/men are vital elements in
society to eradicate societal challenges
and problems, for that matter boys
must feel independent from any pressure
and proper opportunities must be
given to him.

The phrase boys will be boys is often used to justify certain behaviours in boys and men, suggesting that such behaviours are inherent or natural to males. Historically society has held different expectations for boys and girls in terms of behaviour, interests and roles. Boys have been encouraged to be adventurous, assertive and risk taking. While girls have been expected to be nurturing, compliant and modest, these expectations have contributed to the phrase boys will be boys," as it implies that certain behaviours in boys are a natural consequence of their gender. It originated from Latin pro-verb children are children and do childish things. Phrase was first recorded in English in 1859. Over time it has been used to explain rowdy or naughty behaviour from boys.

Family dynamics and societal expectations play a significant role in shaping boys' identities. Relationships of boys with their family members and how family members behave with boys play

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a critical role because boys perceive the identities from his sole models, eldest male member or father always become the sole model for boys. e.g. When father's expectations directly contradict to the son's experiences? He may hide his emotions. Social expectations also play a crucial role. Boys often feel under pressure to conform to traditional notions of masculinity, which can include, aggressive and protective! Boys feel pressure to satisfy his family and society.

In family father plays an important role in shaping boy's future. Father is responsible in influencing his development. The presence or absence of a father can have a profound impact on a boy's development. Research suggest that kid who has father figure in their lives often feel more secure and stable. (daysofdomesticdad.com/importance-of-father/) Father's engagement reduces the chances of behavioural problems in boys. According to research kids with actively involved father are 43% more likely to earn good grades (UNICEF Report, 2007). This is vivid example of how the role of father's influence on boys.

Born an orphan or becoming an orphan have a significant impact on boy's lives. The absence of father figure influence boy's life, affecting his emotional well being, academic performance, behaviour and overall future prospects. As per the research boys who live without their father are more likely to be poor, use drugs, experience educational, health and behavioural problems in their adulthood ([fathers.com/consequences of fatherlessness](http://fathers.com/consequences-of-fatherlessness)). This shows that father plays an important role in making a boy into a man.

The socialization process for boys varies greatly across different societies influenced by cultural norms and societal expectations. In many societies boys are socialized to conform to traditional male gender roles. The socialization process begins at young age and continues throughout adolescence and adulthood, shaping their behaviours, attitudes and beliefs. Additionally, these expectations can influence career choices, hobbies and interactions with peers. e.g. Boys feel pressured to excel traditionally male dominated

fields like science, technology, engineering and mathematics, etc., while avoiding interests or activities that are deemed feminine. This shows how society impacts the lives of boys.

The portrayal of boys in media and entertainment plays a pivotal role in shaping societal perception of masculinity. Media, including television, films, advertisement, video games, etc. often reinforces traditional stereotypes of boys and men. Boys are depicted as strong, dominant, unemotional. In 2021 survey by common sense media found that boys aged 8 to 18 spend an average of over 4 hours per day with various forms of media. The day they consume watching media can significantly influence their attitudes, behaviors and perceptions.

Apart from influence of family and society on boys, factors such as profession, religion and media also contribute on boy's life. The traditional

Gender roles have profound influence on boys' career aspirations, often limiting the range of professions they consider. Traditional gender roles may suggest that men should not pursue such roles which seem feminine. Boys may feel pressurised to pursue career choices considered as masculine. The top 3 professional sports, policing and defence and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Education and Employees Survey, 2018). This demonstrates how traditional gender roles can influence not only career choices but also societal perceptions.

Apart from gender roles, religion can also influence the boy's behaviour and educational outcomes. Religion can influence boy's attitude, values, beliefs, norms regarding various aspects. In many religious traditions such as in Christianity and Islam boys are taught a strong, moral and ethical, one who is responsible to protect

family and provide them sustenance.

Religious involvement and belief in moral values positively correlated with prosocial behaviours in adolescent boys (Research in Journal of Adolescence, 2020). This is one example to show how religion affect the boy's behaviour and plays a very important part.

Boys in the field of education often face a set of societal and academic expectations, those can impact their experiences and outcomes. These expectations can vary across cultures and educational systems. One significant expectation placed on boys is the pressure to conform to traditional notions of masculinity. This leads to academic disengagement. Stereotypes related to academic performance can affect boys, e.g. the stereotypes that boys are naturally better in mathematics or science can create pressure and anxiety when they struggle in such subjects. This way education also plays a significant role in boys' behaviour in future.

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Sports play a significant role in boy's health and fitness. Sports serve as a valuable outlet for boys to channel their energy constructively, reducing the behavioural issues. Sport personalities such as C. Ronaldo, Virat Kohli, L. Messi, etc make tremendous influence on boys. On positive side they serve as a role model, inspiring boys to pursue athletic excellence. However, on negative side, challenges, controversies and their death can put a strong emotional shock on boys. e.g. sudden death of Australian cricketer Philip Hughes and South African cricketer Henry Cronje made a tremendous shock on their young fans. Such kind of shocks make a great impact on boys' mental health and well-being.

Boys have played a vital role in community service throughout the history and their active involvement has been catalyst for societal development. This involvement exposes them to diverse perspectives and experiences, fosters empathy and a deeper understanding of societal issues. An excellent example is the Boys Scouts Movement founded by Robert

Powell - Research in Journal of Youth and Adolescence, has shown engagement in community service positively correlates with increased self-esteem and self-confidence among boys. It is necessary that boys engage in community service to cultivate a sense of civic responsibility that can positively shape their future contributions to society.

Boys pursuing administrative roles often encounter a unique set of challenges that can impact their professional journey. They face criticism or skepticism due to their gender which can hinder their advancement. Encouragingly, young boys today can look to administrative roles e.g. Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada, who has promoted gender equality in his government; boys inspire to administrative roles can draw inspiration from such leaders and strive to overcome these barriers.

Boys leadership roles in school serve as invaluable training grounds that prepares them for future endeavors. Historical leaders often trace their leadership journey back to their school days. e.g. Nelson Mandela's early experience as a leader in his school student council laid the foundation for his future role as

leader of anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. These examples show how boys' leadership roles in school not only shape their personal development but also have the potential to contribute to meaningful change in society as they progress in adulthood.

Social expectations have a profound influence on boys' participation in politics and administration. Historically, these fields have been heavily male dominated, reinforcing the societal belief that leadership roles are inherently masculine. e.g. leaders like Franklin Roosevelt, Churchill, Jinnah and Ghandhi were men. Due to this, boys' societal expectation has increased in the field of politics and administration. Society expects more from men than women in such roles.

The importance of men in global and domestic politics cannot be understated. Boys have played vital roles in shaping nations and global policies throughout history. While women's representation in politics is increasingly recognised as crucial for diversity and gender equality, male leaders continue to dominate most political landscape worldwide. Men's participation in politics is instrumental in advocating for policies that address

issues such as economic growth
national security and social welfare.

Boys have a significant role to play in addressing global challenges. In the past and present, Boys have the potential to become agent of change and contribute to the sustainable development of their communities. Boys can be involved in various forms of youth activism, volunteering, sports, arts and culture that allow them to express their opinions, interests and talents. According to U.N report 2019, the active engagement of boys in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving inclusive and stable societies. This shows that boys play a confident role in addressing global challenges.

In conclusion, boys are the vital element in the society. Boys have the potential to become the agent of change and contribute in society. However, boys face many barriers and risks that hinder their education, health and well-being. This include

poverty, violence, discrimination, harmful gender norms and lack of opportunities and support, these are hurdles boys face that limit their potential, and these problems shape their sole negatively. Boys need education, health, and participation opportunities that support their holistic development and well-being. By investing in boys' empowerment and equality it will create better future for everyone.

As per the report of UNESCO, ~~report~~ 2023, improving boys engagement and achievement in education can benefit not only boys themselves, but also girls, families, and society as a whole.