

Gender Diversity and Inclusion

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Atkinson, C. J. (2017). *Can I Tell You About Gender Diversity? A guide for friends, family and professionals.* Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London and Philadelphia, USA. (pp 64)

Looking for a book on Diversity I came across this very interesting, illustrated book in series, first published in 2017 and authored by CJAtkinson, '*Can I Tell You About Gender Diversity? A guide for friends, family and professionals.*' The book has been Illustrated by Olly Pike and published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London and Philadelphia, USA.

'Can I tell you about.....', is a short 64 page interesting journey about a 12 year old child transitioning to a different gender with the description/suggestion about the ways in which the family, friends and school, especially the teachers can render assistance. The book enables a reader to discover the voice and psychology the 12 year old. The child in the book seems to be talking and discussing about the feelings that may at times, one has during puberty, for example, 'I knew my whole life that there was something that wasn't right, and

I didn't want to be called a girl.' It discusses, 'how some people never have confusion about their gender from when they are born', and for a few who may have, how it is possible to transition medically if desired. The book has clear and concise descriptions about terms such as gender, transgender, gender dysphoria etc and also about what persons of different genders may experience and undergo. I think this is a much needed title and an essential read for all especially the teachers in schools as it very beautifully clears misconceptions and enables a reader to take a first step towards understanding

'gender' and also lures one to further research into the topic.

The chapters in the book comprise, gender identity, sexual orientation, transitioning, gender expression, gender dysphoria and euphoria, gender identity clinics, language, the Equality Act 2010 in UK, the School, Misgendering, How other people can help. The best part of the book comes when there is a section on 'Further guidance and Support Group', followed by a Glossary of terms and abbreviations, which indeed are very useful.

I am sure this book will be a very good read for parents and teachers, for them to be able to understand and also help children as it is explained in a very simple language. Young students interested to know about aspects may find the language of the book very comfortable and easy to comprehend.

Finally, I would like to say that since the author has located the writing in west and it reflects the same culture, there are aspects that readers in developing countries may not be able to relate to, for example, the concept of 'Gender Clinics', but at the same time it is enlightening to know how one can understand issues that are of concern to all today, more so it educates us about how we can help our children better. Overall, I would highly recommend this book for all teachers and especially teachers in the making and students of Gender/Women Studies in schools and Universities.