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Identity Formation and Sex Role Orientation of College Students and Working Youths

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IDENTITY FORMATION AND SEX ROLE ORIENTATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND WORKING YOUTHS.

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According to Erikson (1968), identity development is a major task during the adolescent period, and it is influenced by cultures and subcultures. One important type of the adolescent's subculture is school setting or work setting. Extensive research has been conducted on the identity formation of students such as college or high school students, but research with nonschool working youths has been rare. Since students and working youths experience different subcultural environments, they may experience different paths of identity formation. Therefore, the present study is designed to compare students' identity development with that of working youths. It was hypothesized that more college students are in the moratorium status and more working youths are in the identity achieved or foreclosure status. Also, it was hypothesized that more college students have an androgynous orientation compared to that of working youths. Approximately forty subjects for each group were obtained and were asked to complete the Extended Version of the Ego Identity Status to assess their identity formation. To assess their sex role orientation, they completed Bem's Sex Role Inventory. Oneway analysis of variance with post hoc tests and Chi Square will be used to test the hypotheses. The expected results are such that more college students will be in the moratorium status and more working youths will be in either the foreclosed or identity achieved statuses. Also, it is expected that more college students will have an androgynous orientation compared to that of working youths.