Stereotypes (sports)

You could say there are three things in life that are guaranteed. Death, taxes, and stereotypes. They are everywhere, and we don’t even know it. Some stereotypes are completely unharmful. But some are getting old, and that’s why I’m writing this. To make a change. Firstly, I strongly believe that everyone is different . No two brains are the same, and I think that although some people can like the same thing, everyone should get equal opportunity, as they could find something they really like.

Secondly, you miss out on the most important thing; talent. A boy might be forced to play football, but he might be really good at netball. A girl might be forced to play hockey, but might be really good at rugby. It seems to me that this awfully common throughout the U.K, and although several women’s and men’s teams exist, some people are peer- pressured into playing something they don't enjoy. I interviewed my gran Margaret Phin, and she says that in the 1950’s they never really thought about it. They didn’t even have to think, it was so automatic to believe something was a “Boys sport” or a “Girls sport”. But that was 60 years ago. Why hasn’t it stopped? Its changed, definitely, but it hasn't stopped. Men get called feminine for playing netball. The oxford student says, “As Steinbeck once said, “There's just stuff people do” , then maybe boys just **don't play netball** because they were seen as the rougher, tougher gender that was built for getting 'stuck-in' and running with a ball in their hands”. This is a perfect example of a stereotype that can not only affect people mentally, but also physically. Some people might only enjoy one sport. If you stop them from playing it, it will prevent regular physical exercise and will make them more lazy. It also stops people from creating a wider variety when it comes to friends. Sports teams are a great way to make friends . When sharing a victory in a sports team you create a bigger bond with your . Sport promotes a positive attitude and encouragement towards your teammates. Preventing someone from this is an awful thing in my opinion. I’m sure we can all understand a rejection based on talent. But on gender? It all seems much to discriminatory. To give someone a chance is a simple thing, but it can also be extremely meaningful to some people.

Thirdly, think about all the things that have changed now, but happened in the past. Things that they would have considered normal, can now be quite strange or possibly offensive. A lot of realisations have come up since then. Like women can join the army, and men can’t be tough all the time. Why don’t we realise it’s time to do something about these stereotypes!

Lastly, we need a way to stop it. Promote this idea! Tell children, tell adults. It's never too late to make a change.