Worksheet: Which is it—Sex role or Gender role?

Review each statement below, and decide whether you think it is about a sex role or gender role.

1. In Ancient Egypt, men stayed at home and were weavers. Women handled family business.
2. In some cultures, women inherit property whereas men do not.
3. Women give birth to babies, men don’t.
4. If the car is driven badly, its driver is likely to be a woman.
5. Little girls are gentle and boys are tough.
6. Most cleaning staff in buildings in Phnom Penh is female.
7. Women/girls should wear long skirts and not be so revealing.
8. Many Ethiopian men do not cook, as it is believed to be a taboo in their community.
9. Men’s voices break at puberty, women’s do not.
10. According to UN statistics, women do 67 per cent of the world’s work, yet their earnings amount to only 10 per cent of the world’s income.
11. In northern Thailand, women and girls are prohibited to enter sacred sites like pagodas.
12. Women can breastfeed babies, men can bottle-feed babies.
13. Boys spend most time after school with computer, TV, and sport, while girls have to help doing housework.
14. The term “promiscuous” is only used in connection with women who have many lovers. By contrast, men who do the same are praised as being cool.
15. In Cambodia only men can become monks.
16. Men are incisive compared to women. No wonder most high-ranking people in organizations are male.
17. To keep the family in harmony there is the Thai saying: “Wise wife pretends a fool”. This signifies that women should not be more outstanding than their male partner and educating them is not in favor of the family.
18. For female civil officers, it is more “suitable and polite” to wear skirts. However, due to the success of feminist advocacy last decade, wearing trousers is now considered as suitable and as polite as wearing skirts.
19. Female students are better at sweeping and cleaning.
Module Sex and Gender, Activity 2: Which is it—Sex role or Gender role?

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20. Is this a sex role or gender role of a woman?

21. Is this a sex role or a gender role of a man?

Think of more sex roles and gender roles.