

It is difficult to speak of our identity as young women since we are not in the habit of working as such allowing us to assume our own characteristics, that of being young and women. And this specificity and values are seldom recognised by society. Due to this, we took on the task to analyse what it means to be young women in our societies.

Our situation as women is determined by a series of characteristics and common situations that condition our specificity and also our role within society. Nevertheless, the fact of being young gives our gender condition important differences over the possibilities of development and transformation, that society idillically gives to youth and the limitations that this imposes.

In a society that is essentially chauvinistic, not only does the weight of the patriarchal structure weigh us down but it manifests itself through something we call adultcentrism.

The adultcentric perspective considers that youth lack in the ability and capacity to define their own destiny. The lack of experience and the transitory phase that we live are the criteria through which society discriminates against us, places us, defines us. By seeing youth in the stage of preparing to work in a profesion or activity considered productive (so we are able to sustain ourselves economically) it limits our possibilities and places youth in a position where they will reproduce the gender roles to the next generation.

As young women, we are excluded from decision making in the public and private spheres; family , educational institutions , political movements , work and even our own organisations.

Within this unvalued vision of youth, young women see even more limited our hopes and possibilities for social and economic integration. Although we are integrated into the labor market and academia, we have not been able to reverse the role assigned to us with respect to motherhood and our responsibilities as "wives", that society designates to us.

Today's young women have the possibility to learn from the experience of other women, the changes produced from the struggle for equality, and the respect of our rights as people to have more control over our lives.

We think it is important to recognise the high transformational, innovative, creative potential and creative capacity that youth have as social actors, especially young women. This potential of youth can contribute in the transformation of the current trends of social, economic and political exclusion and marginalization from our society. But it is necessary to clarify that this potential cannot be a considered as a given, rather it needs to be nurtured.