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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### REANALYZE THE ROLE OF GENDER IN FAMILY AND SOCIETY

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#### ABSTRACT

Gender issue is a major problem now a days. The gender refers to socio-cultural distinctions related with being female or male. The word maleness has positive social view and the word femaleness has negative view. Family is the grass root place where the idea of gender is created. Gender concept spreads from family to society. The creator and celebrator of gender are both family and society. Social gender srules are stereotype in nature. Gender rules are in favour of men, the dominating group of society. Family is the starting point of gender conception. We can see so many differences in between men and women like biological and physical differences, social work and responsibility distribution etc. This paper focuses on the role of gender in family and society as well as gender discrimination prevailed in the society.

#### INTRODUCTION

‘One is not born, rather becomes women, no biological, psychic, or economic destiny defines the figure that the human female takes on in society, it is civilization as a whole that elaborates this intermediary product between males and eunuch that is called feminine’ this definition, quoted from Simone de Beauvoir ‘s The Second Sex shows the meaning of gender in society. Family is the root of gender tree. While people interact with different members of their own family, they co-construct their own family level gender discourse. While they perform their regular day-today duties or of domestic works like feeding, bathing, washing, cooking, dressing, clothing they communicate to their infants, children, and adolescents, the meaning of gender behaviour. From family children learn gender construction to be like and behave accordingly. family teach their son to be a male and daughter to be a female. Joan W. Scott defines Gender as concept involving two inter-related but analytically distinct parts: Gender is a constitutive element of social relationship based on perceived differences between the sexes, and gender is a primary way of signifying relationships of power’ (Scott, Gender and the Politics of History, 1988). The American feminists who focused on ‘the fundamental social quality of distinctions based on sex’ first used the term gender and their main aim was to integrate women’s scholarship with other disciplinary paradigms.

American Psychological Association define gender identity as a ‘person ‘s internal sense of being male, female, or something else’ and gender expression as ‘the way a person communicates gender identity to others through behaviour, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics’. Maria Gatens, the supporter of the essentialist school says ‘Gender is not the issue, sexual differences is... The very same behaviours (whether they be masculine or feminine) have quite different personal and social significance when acted by the male subject on the one hand and female subject on the other... that the male body and the female body have quite different value and significance can not help but have a marked effect on male and female consciousness’. (Gatens “A critique of Sex/gender distinction” 1991). Sex is natural, biological concept but Gender is nothing but the creation of family and society. Family is the faithful creator and messenger of gender concept.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

From the year of 1970s /80s women’s studies developed all over the globe. Later this studies renamed as gender studies. The sex researcher, Dr. John William Money began the study of gender identity. He introduced the term ‘gender identity’ and is called the father of gender studies and his definition of gender is based on his understanding of sex differences among human beings. Sandra Harding, Joan W. Scott, R.W Connell and Judith Butler are the four feminist theorists who have studied on gender deeply. Sandra Harding is the creator of standpoint theory. R.W. Connell is famous for her studies for masculinities. Her book ‘Masculinities’ (1995,2005) is one of the best known book of gender studies. Judith Butler’s ‘Gender Trouble “Feminism and the subversion of identity

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(1990) focuses on gender identity and the gender troubles on society. Joan Scott firstly drew a distinction between biological sex and socio-cultural gender. One of her article which is a milestone of gender study is “ Gender : A Useful Category of Historical Analysis”. Maithreyi Krishna Raj focused on women’s study in her book ‘ Women’s studies in India : some perspectives. Neera Desai, Vibhuti Patel have worked on gender study in India. Gender study is an important subject in modern society. So scholar are giving important towards it. In this paper I want to study that, whether the gender status is equal in modern society ? Do women enjoy equal power and prestige in the family and society?

**OBJECTIVES**

**The objectives of the study are**

- To investigate the gender status in the family and society
- To know the gender rules prevailed in the society
- To analyze the gender discrimination and classification.

**METHODOLOGY**

The methodology adopted here is the collection, investigation and interpretation. It is a socio-cultural analysis. I have taken 50 number of educated men and same number of educated women (age below 50) for my study and the same number of men of women, those who are uneducated or semi educated age above fifty, are taken for the investigation. I have prepared a questionnaire and collected the data from field study. I have divided them into two groups viz-age above 50 is traditional group and age below 50 is modern group.

**SCOPE OF THE STUDY**



The scope of the gender study is vast and its area is also vast. figure -1 shows the scope of gender study. The area of gender study covers the place of men and women in the society, the gender status in society and gender issues etc.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

I have prepared ten questions to analyze the role gender of family and society. The question are

No-1 Do you think the behaviour and life style of human beings should be gender oriented ?

No-2 Are you agree with the classification and specification of work between men and women?

No-3 Can you feel easy to reverse activities of your children?

No-4 Do you think equal to your son and daughter?

No-5 Are you consider that daughter should perform the funeral ceremony of her parents?

No-6 Do you agree with the equal social right and legal hire of daughter ?

No-7 Do you agree women can do everything without support of men?

No-8 Do you think in modern society women are safe?

**Figure 2. Shows the percentage remarks of men and women age above 50 (Traditional Group)**

Questions	% of men age above 50 agree	% of men age above 50 disagree	% of women age above 50 agree	% of women age above 50 disagree
No-1	97	3	98	2
No-2	86	14	86	14
No-3	11	91	05	95
No-4	33	67	48	52
No-5	20	80	59	41
No-6	50	50	40	60
No-7	20	80	37	63
No -8	00	100	00	100

After collecting views from fifty men age above 50 and fifty women age above 50 who are belonged to rural area and uneducated or semi-educated I came to know that the old people have more faith in tradition they do not want to accept the modern reformed concept of gender. Maximum of them do not accept the equal value of son and daughter. Sons have a separate place on their psychology and daughters have different place. When I ask about the funeral ceremony of parents 20 percent men support and 59 percent of women support that. That means the traditional group can't accept the daughter as their legal heir though the government has made rule on that, Practically people have faith that daughter can not perform funeral ceremony of parents so the fathers of daughter choose their nephews to do that.

They think daughter is ‘paragotri’/ assert of other. This group of people strictly follow the feminine and masculine behaviours. They do not accept easily the reverse activity of sons or daughters. This group of people do not accept the daughter as like the sons due to their traditional concept. Mother becomes the trainer of daughter and father becomes the trainer of son. They advise their son to be masculine in nature and daughter to be feminine, otherwise society criticize them. This group remarks that classification and specification of work makes social discipline. Society They are rigid in their traditional gender concept. This group believes on patriarchy. But all feel that women are not safe in the society. This groups supports the role of family to teach their children accordingly their gender. Figure 3 shows that we can find the psychological and social change of both men and women. Due to spread of education, globalization and electronic media as well as social media the thinking of people about gender conception is changed. People of the educated group age group below 50 are not rigid on gender rules. Maximum of them easily accept gender role reversal.

**Figure 3. Shows the percentage of remarks of men and women age below 50 (Modern Group)**

Questions	%of men age below 50 agree	% of men below 50 disagree	% of women below 50 agree	% of women below 50 disagree
No-1	60	40	67	33
No-2	85	15	75	25
No-3	22	78	13	87
No-4	76	24	88	12
No-5	80	20	90	10
No-6	90	10	100	00
No-7	30	70	80	20
No -8	00	100	00	100

Though 100 percent of them do not agree the gender equality but maximum of them agree that daughter will do their funeral ceremony. This group do not discriminate between sons and daughters though some have the gender discrimination rules. Regarding classification and specification of work this group emphasis on mutual understanding. In view of this group women are not weak, they always do not need support of men. They can be good pilot, perfect scientist, efficient teacher and doctor and many more. The educated group also accept that women are not safe in this modern world. This group discourages the gender role of family.

When I ask an important question to both groups, should the children learn the gender rules from family? The traditional group remarks it will be benefited for their children if they learn works according to their gender. This group says as a girl, she has to learn cooking, caring of family members, washing clothes and other women related domestic works from her mother which will be helpful for her in her future life and as a boy, he has to know how to work in the field and other masculine related work from his father for his future use. This group also says girls should remain in house with her mother and play masculine games and behave accordingly and boys should spend maximum time on outdoor. Girls should be simple, innocent, fearful, soft hearted, passive, shyness. She should not talk loudly or walk with jumping sounds. Boys should be bold, dependent, active, intelligent etc.

He should be energetic. But the modern group says there should be rigid principle in masculine or feminine works, all can do all work with mutual understanding. There should not be any separate work rules. Learning something is better but learning something on gender basis is not fix.

### Conclusion

Gender concept is a critical concept in the society. Children learn it from their family and it spreads to the society. Two decades ago gender issue was a major problem, women were colonized by men. Patriarchal rules cover the society. The creation of gender rules by society is stereotype. All rules support the men as they are the rules makers. But now the rigid gender rules are gradually fading away due to spread of education, globalization, social and mass media etc. Women can perform the funeral ceremony of their father which was strictly prohibited two decades ago, even women were not allowed to graveyard also. Recently the daughters of cinema actors Bijay Mohanty and Rabi Mishra, performed the funeral ceremony of their parents, It is an example of gender equality. The third gender is also accepted now a days.

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