

WOMEN SOCIAL STRATUM - TRADITIONAL MINDSET VS. INSIDE REALISM (ARTICLE)

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ABSTRACT:: *Objective: This research paper searches the inlets of social mindset about gender roles, engendering socio-gender inequalities. Enough has been said and written by various intellectuals about the issue – gender inequalities. But it still has a lot of space for discussion. Some of the tangible realities remain masked. Unfolding them needs insight into the real cause of the problem. The ignored factors of social stratum, e.g. the marital rape, and the implicit self-esteem of man to commit hideous crimes is the objective of this paper. Throughout we have been delving deep into the realism about the traditional roles being played by both the genders. During the research a change into the attitudes and behaviors caught our attention: A basis of paradigm shift. Male dominancy is not the reason for this research, but different faucets of this dominancy remain under wide-discussion.*

Method: *During the study Qualitative methods were used. The case studies were taken from all the levels of society with the focus on gender relationships, social interaction, social behaviors and various aspects of these behaviors verging on the level of displeasure.*

Results: *Hidden aspects of personality with explicit self-esteem and implicit self-esteem came forward as the corroding evils of the society. To bring peace and pleasure into the attitudinal relations society has to move at double speed.*

Conclusion: *Gender inequalities have become virtual aspect of society. The intangible should be made tangible with role-sensitivity. Problems don't end with the marital status of women, rather enhanced offences are discovered related to marriages. Wide-scale counseling should be conducted on every level with religion and realism as highlighted factor of social interactions.*

Key words: implicit self-esteem, gender, inequalities, tangible, social stratum.

INTRODUCTION

1. Traditional Mindset: Contributing factors

God created Man and Woman as complementary of each other. They are playing their social roles, in relationships, as colleagues in social interaction and at various strata of society. Deviating from these roles is rather impossible. If there is any diversion either it is not looked upon favorably by the social gurus or curbed with iron hands. Traditionally, man is supposed to be the mentor of the family and female as the subjugated member (in household domestic life). The roles assigned has created a mindset for all the adherents of the society. They are not at all willing to turn away to the possible better solutions. We cannot disregard that there might be environmental factors or the socialization that turned out to be fatal personae of human nature.

1.1 Psychologically viewed long adopted habits become part of the nature. Once part of nature, these habits become specific personality traits. According to scientists' one's behavior can be understood by the study of ancestors. Man's behavior and attitude is passed on to next generation in small packets. These packets of information are called genes. To deal with this aspect there is a branch of science called "Behavioral genetics". It attempts to discover "what role inherited factors play in how people act and what kinds of genes may lead to different patterns of behavior." In other words Cultural norms are what behavior genetics calls genomes.

1.2 In order to well- understand the behavioral genetics we have to move a little further into the system. In our culture birth of male child is cherished and celebrated while the birth of a girl is a matter of shame for the parents or the whole family. The discrimination starts on the choice of colors and toys. The boy is given a toy-car and a girl is deliberately

given a doll to play with. This is mind-trending. The inclination of the actions is channelized into two different directions. Girls at the very early age are taught to be submissive household creatures. Such emotions planted very early into the minds of the children become a strong poisonous tree by the end they reach maturity. Boys take for granted all the females of the family because it is the seeding, or the genes they got from father. Behavioral genetics asserts that personality traits are passed on from parents to child. Once inherited there seems to be no stopping of these genetic influences – abnormal attitudes and behaviors as a consequence.

1.3 Even at this era of technology and innovation, bringing up of the male and female child is on very dissimilar lines. The institutional factors like family values shaped under religious touch-type ideals of socialization are embedded genomes of the society. In most of the underdeveloped regions throughout the world the woman as a female – child has a much downgraded status, she enjoys very few rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood than the male – child. A girl at a very young age faces inequality and cannot overcome this aspect of society all through her life [1].

1.4 Families are where the actual socialization of a child starts, first institution he learns his lessons for life. Straus *et.al* 1980 [6] says, sons of violent parents are more expected to abuse their partners.

1.5 Even a cursory look into the center of Islam (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) propounds the notion of misconception and misinterpretation in gender socio-economic roles. The gender inequality is interwoven into the policies and laws of the kingdom. Religious scholars of the state have closely knit the social network, during sermons they create resistance for general social change, especially about the status of women.

Majority of people blind-trust the words of religious scholars and do not perceive there is any gender inequality. In Saudi Law, article six, requires the Saudi Government to provide justice according to Shariah, but Shariah itself does not offer equality to women. Islam seems to be the basis of judicial laws of the kingdom, but the real Allah's Islam is not visible, man-created tempered Islam is the foundation of all the laws.

1.6 Until 2002 women were not given their own separate identity in Saudi Laws, they are still not allowed to drive a car, have a law-suit without male partner. They have no claim no say in the society as basic building block. Hence we can say Islam of Islamists is creating misogyny.

1.7 Likewise, Women in Pakistan are in no better condition. A girl at the very tender age has been told that she is not the permanent part of the family, she is there until she gets married. All of her skills will be for her in-laws to whom she would serve all through her life. The brain-washing started at a very premature age, goes far to generations. She is not allowed to rest, neither an investment is done on her as she has to leave the home for her husband's place. She is just a liability of the family.

1.7.1 It is reported that the girls' enrollment in quality schools is very low. They take their education from the village schools or if living in cities in a low-grade school with no credit of skills development. As a result we find a lot of women with no or very little confidence. In markets, on roads and even in public transport we find them moving with no sense of the place, being the target of abuse or spoofs from the other sex.

Boys are encouraged to participate in growth and development activities, but the girls are never, as a result we have half-developed personalities. Whatever the male is doing outside the home he as a dominant member at home, will not allow daughter, sister, wife, or mother to go outside. They are supposed to walk behind their male partner, whether husband, brother or father.

2. Trellis of social myths, ideals and values

2.1 Under the shadow of such system females have always been docile. Centuries have seen women fulfilling their duties in all of their socio – religious roles. Mothers devoting all of their time and energies for their children, sisters worried for their brothers' health, wives catering to the needs of husbands, physical and spiritual. Even at work place they prove themselves. But in spite of 10/10 performance (technically speaking) at all levels, our history is fraught with such incidents which prove something is very wrong against the submissive, subjugated part of the society i.e. Woman – real beast of burden.

2.2 “**Women**” title of all discussions – what should they do and what should not. They are never left alone to live their own lives. Systems are being made for them, they are always being watched in order to find fault in them. Society is not the name of pointing at other gender for not fulfilling their duties, society is the combination of social animals - males and females. If one is not fulfilling the duties the other is not an angel. Instead of finding faults at others we should straighten up our own actions and doings. And see what we are doing, not that what she is doing.

2.3 I had an interaction with one such socialized man at my work place. His ideals started with “I hate them so much!” I asked him, exactly what was the reason of hatred, as he was not yet married, just engaged. He purported that women were not first of all following Islam. He said, “Look at them in the universities and colleges how they are moving around with boys. Don't they have any scruples about what they are doing? And look at these female staff, they don't need jobs, why they are sitting on these seats?” Another concern that man gave was quite surprising. “These women by coming into the market have taken away good jobs from males. They allure the boss and get the job. Even they have spoiled the market by accepting jobs on very low wages. Is this not like taken away the right of males who had to head the families? These females are supposed to be at home as our religion says. But look at them”. Even he had concern about the way the women are dressed up. As for him they were attracting men towards them. I asked him about the females of his family and he said:

“My sister wanted to do job in college after completing her masters, but I rejected the idea and told her to stay at home, or she can do whatever when at her in-laws. Look at my brother's wife, she is not participating in the household, not even tending her own children. They remain untidy and dirty.”

He further explained the reason for his hateful feelings, “they spend upon themselves whatever they earn. The make-up kits and all. Not even thinking about other things. Even they leave their good – docile – cooperating husbands sometimes just to roam about outside the home.” “Look at hafiz sb”, he said, “he is providing everything to his wife but still she wants to have job.” He proudly ended by saying, “whatever these women think about themselves, the best professionals world over are males, “the best chefs, the best tailors, the best administrators”, and what not and what not. With his insulting ideas, about women he still expected his women staff to be very active on his commands. Such an innocence.

2.4 “**The epitome of subservience – thy name is woman**”. Trellis of myths, social ideals and values are networked around her. The above study of a stereotype male mind revealed certain chinks for discussion. At this point it is to be kept in mind that this research paper is not against males all together. We are not here talking about Prophets, who were males too, or the male excellence – the scientists. But the fact of the matter is every man is not a prophet and every man is not a scientist. We, being diverse race – humans, cannot claim impunity, if our forefathers were prophets. We cannot claim to be purged of all sins if our elders faced and endured hardships. We are all answerable for our own actions. “I” attitude should be adopted rather than being entangled in “you” attitude. The macho-man and manliness male behavior are no more the traits of men now.

2.5 It is quite amazing that Sigmund Freud, pioneer of psychology and psychiatry never psychoanalyzed man. As for centuries men have been defined in different roles, as hunters, they are the warriors, they are the heads of the families and the heads of the tribes, hence at the higher social stature than women. Psychoanalyses would have exposed their mental-

short comings. No need was felt to analyze the dominating, discriminating and violent behavior of males in any society globally. Supposed to be perfect human beings with no character faults, not supposed to falter ever.

2.6 The role of man, structured by society has drastically reverse impact upon the personalities of men today. The slogan “men solve their own problems” has become a myth now after the introduction of fields of human study like Anthropology. When certain attitudes and behaviors are challenged in the society males can face stress and frustration. Naturally they also need treatment. Macho man if exposes his own weaknesses fears losing his dominant standing into the society. They need catharsis to vent out their frustration and the only object they find at easy access is the female under them. Psychologically, befuddled by dominancy males have become a perverted personality. The disease has gone off the limits and incurable.

2.7 Psycho – analysis of male behavior reveals another aspect of implicit self-esteem. The creation of misogynist. According to the statistics issued by United Nations women are getting on men on all levels, education, jobs and even as better bread winners. Around 56.6% women are in work force as compared to 14% in the last decade. The trailing throne has made men misogynist. The misogynists believe that women are taking advantage of being weaker sex, get full attention socially. They center their thoughts on the economics of personal relationships, thinking themselves no more the “gold diggers” and all women are mercenaries looking for rich guys to support their “shoe habit”.

2.8 Some men hate beautiful women as they know their own weakness of being very non-resistant to female beauty and they fear to be exploited by them easily. Their personality disorders make them appalling for the other sex; becoming least desirable for their partner, coming down the aisle of implicit self-esteem continues.

2.9 During face to face meetings with some of the men we found out that for them world is a “zero sum game”, where they are always at war with the other sex for economic resources, professionally, socially, they begrudge women because they have desire and weakness for them. They are not aware of their own advantages being men, but bent on counting the privileges women are getting socially and professionally. Best solace they find to their aching personas is to remind themselves that women are not good, better than men, they are not to be trusted in professional, social lives.

2.9.1 The big issue is that misogynists feel them after emotional assault, are now being assaulted by women economically. The amplified feelings of “worthlessness” and “cheating on me” have created a vicious cycle of self-feeding resentment. The kind has created a perverted eye to see all women as preying upon men, enchanting abracadabra for their own pleasing lives. Terrified by the idea of not the providers of the family any more the men have developed hideous habits like torturing women physically and mentally.

2.10 Asian Women were always beaten by their husbands, by their brothers but it was never highlighted till 1970 when NGOs took up the matters and created slogan of women empowerment. Even no law was evolved to stop women

beating. In much debated referred history of Europe and USA women were in the legal charters mentioned as “property”. In USA not earlier than 1870s it was mentioned in the laws that wife-beating should be considered as a crime. In the property crime Rape was a crime of man against a man, women were viewed just a property. That property could change hands, thus not a crime at all. The raped women were also punished though they were innocent. It was a well-thought of plan to stop women register the cases of rape.

2.10.1 The increasing rate of rapes worldwide has also forced us to take up this aspect of women exploitation as well.

The Statistics in the above table are enough explication of the

Crimes Against Person in 2015 (upto November)

Offence	Registered	Cancelled	Challaned	Untraced	Under Investigation
Murder	4198	240	2904	181	873
Attempted Murder	4805	272	3536	246	751
Hurt	14673	828	11900	40	1905
Kidnapping/Abduction	12328	5932	4224	111	2061
Kidnapping/Ransom	73	4	57	0	12
Rape	2555	538	1750	4	263
Gang Rape	211	81	146	1	33
Other	7267	322	5792	255	898
Total	46110	8167	30309	838	6796

Crimes Against Person in 2014 (upto November)

Offence	Registered	Cancelled	Challaned	Untraced	Under Investigation
Murder	5666	8713	35291	1247	7300
Attempted Murder	6665	381	4872	399	1013
Hurt	17371	1120	14189	55	2007
Kidnapping/Abduction	13210	6257	4841	178	1934
Kidnapping/Ransom	103	11	74	1	17
Rape	2560	574	1699	14	273
Gang Rape	249	58	163	1	27
Other	6727	66	5345	270	1046
Total	52551	8713	35291	1247	7300

horrific situation of the society. Man’s propensity to sexual relations has been to its utter augmentation. This is not related to any period of time. We cannot say that in olden times it was under suppression. Sexual desire had always been there. Incidents reported and unreported, registered or unregistered are rebuttal to their asserted abnormal sexual abhorrence in past decades. Though it’s true the media has created restlessness in satisfying sexual desire in men, irrespective of age. Easy target is small innocent girls aged 2 to 8 years. The inordinate sexual desire has removed all the ethical and moral barriers. The sanctity of relations has been annihilated expressively in appeasing the extreme urge. Sons have desire for their mothers, brothers as they come of age make their sisters the target of their desire.

2.10.2 Our focused group discussions with some of the women were enough to speak about implacability of male behavior. One of the participants remarked, “My husband has weird dominating attitude. I dare not say “no” to him when he asks me to have sex, even sometimes when I am sick he forces himself upon me.” Another languished form of lady added, “ I don’t mind having fulfilled his desire, but he always beats me and treats me so beastly while having sex that I get injured.” For some their husbands have become nightmare, their wives never seem to do right, so they always

punish them with harsh beating. This reported behavior is of the married men. Another form of rape, "marital rape", which is legal in the marriage laws, where man has on his will the woman, however he treats her.

2.10.3 According to Amnesty international [3], the reported violent behavior of men against women is deep rooted in the cultural framework of the society where women are thought of inferior and always on the disposal of men. A survey conducted under National Violence against women, by Tjaden and Theonnes [2] women are always getting abusive behavior from the partners who are of jealous, controlling nature. These findings also conform to the theory that such a violence against women by their partners or most intimates is mostly due to the systematic cultural pattern of dominancy and desire to control.

3. Traditional Roles and the grounds of Role Reversal

According to Anderson [5], the concept of feminism is not to make women strong. They are already strong, it's about changing the perception of people how they are viewed. Countless feminist theories have been developed based on the suppression and oppression on this sex. The scenario has changed top to bottom now. Once suppressed lady who remained submissive in performing all the gender roles given to her, as mother, wife, sister, even as a colleague, has been seen all new-fangled. Working or not she turned out to be subjugated whatever the odds were. We have seen her best bread earner even as a widow, she never gets married for the sake of her children or otherwise the examples are very few. As the acceptance of another's children as his own is not the generosity of male gender.

3.1 But after all these years of clampdown she has gained a new spirit of self-actualization. Once shy creature has come out of that net woven around her by society stereotypes. Before we move on to the success stories of women, let's ask ourselves a potential question. Why women have left the comforts of their homes? Certainly the answers will be varied according to the mental approach of answering personas.

3.2 The study shows something queer, men to their extreme have been degenerated in their behavior towards women. The attitude they show as husband, or brother or colleague has created a general abhorrence for them. Generally they have become a symbol of lust mingled with jealousy which drives them to harm women physically as well as mentally. The continuous torturous behavior and gender-based thinking has dropped the popularity of married life. The colleagues are trying to trap ladies in the work place, or pass certain comments to prove themselves superior. If a man is proposing a lady he exposes his mentality after one or two conversations. If the lady accepts it, she is trapped if not? She is left for another better one. According to them, "if a lady becomes a wife, she is no more apt to be a girl – friend, having a girl – friend has its own charms". They are always "friend-zoned". All the compromises are expected from the females. They should be adapting the mature habits after marriage, while husbands pronounce they cannot change, as they are so much in their habits that change would disturb them mentally. They still have the liberty to enjoy friends'

parties, while the wife should not have any friend after her marriage.

3.3 Come to the lower strata of society, where income of husband is not enough to run households, the wife dares to earn meager income to support and feed her children, definitely with the consent of husband. After she gains success and money come raining in the house, suddenly he thinks he is left out and becomes miserable husband, precipitously the children and house is neglected. Not to talk about the slothful spouses or those who use drugs, the atrocities they do upon their wives is par articulation. After all these should the women not raise their voices?

3.4 To the upper strata of society we move with not much different situation. For these men, beautiful, self-groomed and successful women are attractive. But do they feel great with the success of these ladies when they become their wives? Are they not threatened by not being the traditional bread winners, when the wives are getting more pay, job security, better education and well- off status?

3.5 Today the women are still posed as being protected by men. But in actual state of sequences males are being protected. The females emerge as the protectors. So she is no more the theoretical - protected one. During interviews of males of my age, I felt they are still entangled in the stereotypical roles allocation of the society. Pathetically trying to regain the position they have lost by their pride and sense of superiority. In their sense of superiority they have forgotten that if men and women are different the men still have same female hormone i.e. estrogen flowing in them though in lesser ratio than women. The difference is much less than it is proposed. If men are so judicious "why were they thrown out of heaven" – food for thought.

4. METHODS

The study is based on the qualitative approach of research based data collection. For this kind of study qualitative approach is best as it can explain the phenomenon of situation to its utter depth than employing quantitative approach [4]. Through qualitative approach we get rich data from very small number of respondents. (Maphosa et al, 2007) [7] The participants of the study are mostly women aged 17 to 56, they are simple household ladies, working and house wives. They had been in their lives some time the victim of male aggression physically and psychologically. Victims of gender based violence, which is the order of the day of our society for ages.

For data collection a number of focused group discussions were conducted in various sittings. Gender based questionnaires were handed out to different males and females working in offices. Some of the women during interviews feared revealing their situation would offend their husbands but on assurance of secrecy they vented out. Each discussion lasted for 30 mins or on the availability of the respondents.

5. THE RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

The results of the study are quite astounding through and through. The group discussion with the oppressed women and

those women working in offices revealed their true situation. Only 1% of the women remained free at will to express their harsh vengeance towards men. 99% of the women had soft corner for the males and said they were ready to help them out whenever needed even after whatever they did to them.

The male implicit self-esteem has tortured enough the other sex. In order to please and satisfy themselves, they have acquired perverted personality, which seems to be mental disorder sometimes. From the study of more than 20 years the statistics show 99% of women are physically assaulted by men out of vengeance, grudge, jealousy and mental insecurity of male gender. The highest rates of violence are experienced by young women aged 17 to 25. Domestic violence is experienced by women aged 8 to 56. In conclusion, our research confirmed that if the women today are out of their homes it is out of necessity, or the sense of insecurity men have given them. The generations have seen the oppressed ladies, but the new generation with more education opportunities seek equality socially and professionally. If the ladies today have rebelled against the Islamic rules, it is also the infusion of hatred towards domestic oppressed life by male dominating and appalling behavior.

At this time the world needs a wake - up call. They should recognize the strength of women physically and mentally, she is no more the *sinf - e - nazuk* or the weaker sex. Pity is not for men today, if they are insecure with the success of the women. There is the feeling of sorry on their mental situation that they cannot accept or believe in the equality of women. The world of male is still determined by what the society claims for him. He is still adamant upon his own supremacy over the other sex. From the stature of prophet down he falls, immersing deep into the depression and despondency. Instead of making efforts to regain his lost throne, he is trying to degrade the winning sex by his words, actions, and now a days by obscene text messages.

The need of the time is that male dominating society acknowledge the strength of women and open up for the provision of equal opportunities to them. They are not much different from men, though having less physical strength, having some biological differences, but their adherence to reach successes is same as of men if those biological differences are not accounted for. The wide scale counselling should be conducted for male child about their real role-play. Religion and Realism should be taught to the children from the very childhood.

Old cultural values should be left out for letting in fresh air, where females could breathe freely with their male counterparts. Males and Females are two aspects of life, in their relationships, if male drags one side the female is always there to support him, physically, morally, socially, and financially. The spectrum should be altered to new prospects of healthy society. Commodification of females should be stopped now. Once it is what we call establishing a utopia in our real world life, the crimes like rape, physical torture, and mental torture will give way to compromising healthy life span for us – for our generations to come.

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