

Transformation of Gender Roles

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Abstract

There is profound dominance of religious faiths and ideologies on Indian society which has not acknowledged equal status of women. Woman is whole and soul of family system and marriage system. Subjugation of woman to male dominance is prevalent in almost all ages of world. There is gender based disparity. Since time immemorial female tends to be defined by negative references to the male as the human norm. She is not regarded as autonomous being rather he is subject and absolute. She is other. It is wildly held belief that one's sex is determined by an anatomy but what is masculine and what is feminine is largely decided by patriarchal bias. Patriarchal system has created convenient politics. Cooking food and looking good was only lesson which was taught her from her childhood. Nurturing the child and caretaker of in laws was supposed to be duty of only women. That's all for her life. She is trained to do sacrifices. Marriage is only ultimate goal fixed for woman she goes through process of self annihilation. She is compelled to think that this is our destiny which she has to accept at any cost. She was treated as commodity to pass from one person to another person. In all societies role of woman is socially constricted. She had not freedom to decide anything. Education was denied to control her life. Savitribai Phule, first female teacher, opened doors of education and paved way for development of woman. Gender roles are changed in post-colonial world. Woman has achieved her identity, freedom and self-respect. Being a woman we can't limit her power her freedom and her desire. There is need to do positive attempt for man-woman equality. If we want to establish equality in society we should make woman free from idolization, from sacrifice. In post-colonial world all duties and responsibilities should be equally distributed.

Keywords :- Manusmriti, patriarchal system, stereotypes,

Introduction

"Man for the field and woman for the hearth:

Man for the sword and for the needle she:

Man with the head and woman with the heart:

Man to command and woman to obey;

All else confusion."

Tennyson [The Princess]

Masculine superiority is central idea of this poem by Tennyson "The Princess. Tennyson pictures status of women in 19th century. Tennyson explores themes of gender roles and education in the poem, challenging the traditional view that men and women have separate, predetermined societal roles.

ManuSmriti was very harsh and cruel to women and sudras. Manu stated that 'there is a vital structural difference between man and woman and a woman could not possess an independent status. Manu expected too much from a virtuous wife by merging her personality in the personality of her husband. He emphatically stated that "Even if the husband is immoral, a debauch and lacks good qualities the wife must still worship him as if he is God to himself. A woman need not perform any yajna or ceremony or undertake fast for her salvation. She will attain better life by

service to her husband. Manu imposed manifold duties on a Hindu woman. She should be loyal to her husband and even after death of her husband she should be virtuous and if she cohabited with another man after husband's death she would be tormented by diseases as punishment for sin. Thus in shastric period a Hindu woman lost her individuality and status in society.

Indian woman is always in ambience of orthodoxies, irrational tradition and the shackles of unbreakable ties of relations that no longer permit her to achieve full humanity in the context of socially defined status. They do not have full freedom to develop themselves. On the altar of family they have to make a lot of sacrifices. In the socialization process brain washing, brain programming is evident right from her childhood. She is tutored to carry out the female role. Discrimination created an inferiority complex and it resulted in lack of self esteem.

History and Mythology

Historically speaking woman is what man has made her, a weaker sex. The origin of woman in various scriptures of the world also shows lower position. In a Devee bhagwat Narayan creates Urvashi from his thigh. In the 'book of genesis God creates woman from Adam's rib to alleviate man's loneliness and in Ovid's metamorphoses Pygmalion breathed life into a dead but beautiful statue of woman sculpted by him. It is wildly held that one's sex is determined by an anatomy but what is masculine and what is feminine is largely decided by patriarchal bias. Simon De Beavoir says 'one is not born but rather becomes a woman.'

Female consciousness is filled with worry, care, fear, pains which remains unexpressed since ages. Silent suffering, sacrifice is iron law of women's life. Generation of our mother and her mother tolerated patriarchal dominance and life of slavery in which they were confined physically, psychologically and intellectually. Trained female brains conform to cultural stereotypes of typical life of housewife. In the mouth of a man the female the epithet female has sound of an insult, yet he is not ashamed of his animal nature on the contrary he is proud of if someone says of him: he is a male!'. It is due to her female body, biological difference makes her low creature. Female body is commodity for men and machine of reproduction. She is never treated as human being.

Struggle of Emancipation

Pandita Ramabai, Savitribai phule, Sister Nivedits, Sarojini Naidu, Ramabai Ranade who struggled for emancipation of women. There were end number of women who endeavoured to create free and favourable atmosphere for development of women. There was an extraordinary galaxy of women. We can't ignore their remarkable struggles and endeavours. They fought with courage, fortitude, wisdom. Tarabai Shinde wrote a great revolutionary book 'Stri- Purush Tulana[Man-Woman Comparision.] She harshly criticizes on pretentious patriarchal society. Tarabai Shinde very firmly points out that home without woman will be like graveyard.

Movements of emancipation of woman gave birth to new cults. Feminism is new cult which is defined as advocacy of equality of sexes and the establishment of political social and economic rights of women. It is an attempt to understand woman as a woman from the woman's point of view, to discover so far concealed strength and ability of woman to prove that in no field of life is woman inferior to man. The movement aims at creating awareness of all these and empowering woman. As a social movement it focuses it focuses on eradicating gender inequality and promoting women's rights, interests and issues in society.

Secondary status of women is derived from overtly stated view of women as possessions. Since time immemorial woman has been the victim of male domination and oppression. She is treated

commodity and an object for pleasure. Man has always looked down upon her as weaker sex, as his property, servile to him. Women themselves are taught in the process of being socialized, to internalize, the reigning patriarchal ideology and so are conditions to derogate their own sex and to co-operate in their own subjugation. Patriarchal system is organized and conducted in such a way as dominance of men and subjugation of woman is conveniently maintained.

Freedom from Stereotypes

It's high time to redefine, rediscover our roles, positions and relationship. When there will be complete emancipation of women from the grip of suffocating male fist. She can perform various roles at one place and one time. She naturally gifted with extraordinary sensibility, sensitivity, wisdom, honesty, skills of multi-tasking, beauty. When she is housewife she works as daughter-in-law, mother wife, beloved, friend, teacher, cook, advocate, accountant, nurse, care-taker. It is said that men build house but woman makes it home. Adverse programming is done when we congratulate woman for being the secret behind a successful man. Stop saying mother is sacred for all sacrifices.

For the national advancement and for empowerment of woman equal opportunity in all domains is basic requirement. They have still miles to go to achieve their due place in all sectors of social and political structure. Its significant to get freedom from stereotypes from expectations , from idolization from sacrifice.

She craves attention she praises an image
She prays to be sculpted by the a sculptor
She don't see the light that shine
Deeper than eyes can find it
Alessia Cara

She is trained to keep herself only beautiful and attractive. They expect she should change herself for the man's expectation should be fulfilled. But now time has changed and essence of this song is that they should change their perspective. Stop making woman more and more conscious about her looks and body image, figure. Stop telling woman they are beautiful. She doesn't need their opinions, their fake support or their judgments. Tell her its not important to be beautiful. Stop praising her roles as mother, wife sister, and daughter. It's time now to celebrate her as an individual, a person, independent of relationships. Stop justifying her necessity to multitask. Let her be inadequate and happy. Stop making her to look at herself through a conveniently male viewpoint. Let her be imperfect, whimsical, irresponsible, boorish, lazy, fierce, opinionated, loud, unpredictable, impractical,, unprepared. Let her be what she wants to be the way she wants to be.

Changing Gender Roles

Woman has got reservation from local administrative field to national level. Though our constitution has offered equal opportunities to both sexes it is difficult to accept mentally and to co-operate practically. When she became mobile and used her freedom she is tortured physically and mentally. Still there are a lot of restrictions on her mind and body. We can say that 'woman is born free but everywhere she is in chains'. Dr. Aruna Dhere raises important question ' Is she woman only because she has female body? Can't you think about her beyond her physique?.

And you don't have to change a thing
The world could change its heart

No scars to your beautiful
We are stars and we are beautiful
Alessia Cara

Change is the law of life and the status of women all over the world has been undergoing a rapid change in recent times. The women of India too are taking strides towards attainment of selfhood, independence and personal dignity.

Today we can see some hopeful picture that Indian woman has achieved by way of constitutional rights and opportunities, still they have a long way to go to secure their place in the Indian social and political structure. The empowerment of women through equal opportunities is a basic requirement for national development. Women are playing bigger and bigger role in economic field as workers, entrepreneurs, managers and investors. We can see women in almost every sector like architecture, lawyers, in financial services, engineering, medical and IT jobs. They are increasingly and gradually seen marching into domains which were previously reserved for males. [defense, drivers, army, pilot CA, commandos] Education and employment emancipated women from domination by their husbands. Economically independent women feel more confident about their personal lives. Now they are more confident about their personal lives. Now they are able to take personal decisions. Their monetary independence leads them to the way of empowerment.

No more labels only legacy
No more waiting for validation
With weapon of silence in fortress of privacy
Owe no one an explanation and subordination

Equality in Mentality

When women are changing men ought to change or prepare themselves for the change. Upbringing of boys should be done with careful attention and with equality. While we gave our daughter new ideas and role models, no one bothered to tell brothers that they ought to change too. Boys were never taught that cooking is an essential life skill. We never found parents proudly saying that their son can cook and doesn't need a mother/ wife/sister to feed him. We don't tell our sons that it is okay for them to be paid less than their wives or stay at home to take care of kids while their spouses continue to work. Men want to marry to a working woman but are completely unprepared for the practical reality of a marriage where both partners work.

Deeply rooted assumptions and belief system about women in men's psychic realm should be eradicated. Their biased mindset, irrational, extreme expectations hampers woman's growth and happiness. Men should be ready for timely sacrifices either it may for promotion of wife or shifting to new city for her career growth. Mostly women prefer to leave job and do sacrifices of her career because she has no other choice made available by social structure.

I put my armor on show you how strong I am
I am unstoppable I'm Porsche with no brakes
I am invincible I win every single game
I am so powerful I don't need batteries to play
I am unstoppable today

Sia

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