

Society Class 05

16th August, 2024 at 9:00 AM

WOMEN ISSUES (9:05 AM)

- Concept of Gender and its manifestation at individual, cultural, and structural levels- the impact of gender stereotyping on the social position of women.
- Patriarchy: Its concept, manifestation, and at the structural level- family, kinship, knowledge system, symbolism, religion, caste.
- Patriarchy vis-a-vis work: Concept of public patriarchy, sectors- agriculture, service, industry, informal sector(gig economy), and issues such as low FLFP, the wage gap, and unpaid work.
- Violence against women: statistics, manifestation-Sexual harassment at workplace, DV, Dowry, causes, govt. effort, lacunae, way forward.
- Women empowerment.

GENDER (9:19 AM)

- Gender is defined as a **socially constructed aspect** of difference between men and women.
- Sex is a biological concept.
- We are not born with gender, we are born to do gender.
- Manifestations of gender:
- **At the individual level:** Gender tells us about the Identity of a male/female.
- **At the cultural level:** behavior, values, aspirations, attitude, choices, etc.
- **Toxic masculinity:** It refers to behavior, attitude, or societal expectation that perpetuates stereotypes about men and enforces rigid gender roles. It leads to:
 - 1) Emotional repression which leads to mental health issues.
 - 2) Aggression is considered as a strength that increases the risk of violence both against others and self.
 - 3) Pressure to be a breadwinner which creates self-alienation neglect of health and **risk of burnout.**
 - 4) Homophobia: It creates a **hostile** environment for the LGBTQ community.
 - 5) Men refuse to seek medical help for injuries as it is considered a sign of weakness.
 - 6) Objectification of women: Treating women as an object of sexual desire.
- Not all men exhibit such behavior.

- **Toxic femininity:** It refers to harmful behavior expectations imposed on women by society. e.g.
- 1) Unrealistic beauty standards.
- 2) Emotional labor: women are expected to manage emotions and perform caregiving roles.
- 3) **Subjugation** in relationships: internalize **misogyny** as women adopt sexist attitudes towards themselves and others.
- 4) Suppression of authenticity that leads to self-alienation. Women assume that they are weak and hence they have to be dependent on others.
- **Structural:** It leads to sexual division of labor: Men(public sphere) and women(domestic sphere)

IMPACT OF GENDER STEREOTYPING ON THE SOCIAL POSITION OF WOMEN(9:55 AM)

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| Gender Stereotype | Impact |
| Women are caring and nurturing. | 1) Domestic division of labor.
2) Undervaluation of care work. |
| Women have soft skills. | Pink collared jobs(nurse, primary school teachers, etc.). |
| Women are more emotional rather than rational. | Glass ceiling, Glass Cliff. |
| Women are weak, passive, and dependent. | Violence against women. |
- **Glass Ceiling:** There exists a transparent ceiling in every organization beyond which women are not promoted. e.g. According to a study by Delloite, only 4.7% of CEOs are women. India is yet to witness a female CJI.

- **Glass Cliff:** it refers to a situation in which women are more likely to be placed in leadership roles during the time of crisis where the risk of failure is high. e.g. Marissa Mayer was appointed as CEO of Yahoo in 2012 when it was struggling against Google and Facebook. Despite her efforts the performance declined and eventually it was sold to Verizon in 2017.
- **Question:** Discuss the impact of gender stereotyping on the position of men in society.

PATRIARCHY (10:10 AM)

- It is defined as a system of social structures and practices in which men oppress, exploit, and dominate women.
- Although patriarchy refers to the domination of men, women equally perpetuate patriarchy and this concept is known as **Patriarchal Bargain**. e.g. Mother-in-law/Mother has a preference for a male child, women politicians agree/allegiance with political parties and do not support women's issues.
- **Patriarchal Bargain:** Women strike a bargain with patriarchy to support male dominance to gain protection, status, and resources inside the system which they think they might lose if they challenge the system. (like in politics)
- In male-dominated industries women tolerate sexist behavior to advance their careers.
- Some women may participate in **victim shaming** and **distance themselves from any threat of violence**.
- **Manifestation:** Patriarchy is not constant and gender relations vary across time and space. The nature of control and subjugation although a pan-Indian feature ^{but} varies with respect to class, caste, religion, ethnicity, etc. Hence, Brahminical patriarchy is different from tribal patriarchy and is different from Dalit patriarchy. etc.
- **Question:** What are the challenges confronted by women across time and space? (10 mark/150 words)

STRUCTURES OF PATRIARCHY (10:25 AM)

→ • Family:

- 1) Informal agency of socialization.
- 2) The first lessons of gender stereotyping are learned at the family level.
- 3) **Patrilineality and Patrilocality**; It reduces the status of the girl child in the family.
- 4) The **boy** child is considered as **Inheritor** and the **girl** child is considered as '**Paraya Dhan**'.

→ • Knowledge System:

- 1) The patriarchal construction of knowledge also perpetuates patriarchy.
- 2) It is manifested in the role of media and the education system.
- **Media**: Objectification and commodification through ads. Glorification of anti-social behavior and **damsel in distress image** of women.
- **Education**: The issue is in the content(gender stereotypes- selling beauty standards, division of labor), infrastructure(lack of functional toilets is a prime reason for girl dropout according to ASER), and attitude of teachers(patriarchal).

→ • Symbolism:

- A more subtle way of perpetuating patriarchy is creating a self-sacrificing image of women. i.e. ideological indoctrination with respect to the concept of ideal womanhood.
- This image is created through television. (like we see in Bollywood movies)

→ • Religion:

- The social construction of various practices in its patriarchal form draws its legitimacy from religion and religious institutions as some customs and practices regard male authorities as superior.
- There are laws and norms in different religions concerning family, marriage, adoption, inheritance, etc. are biased against women. e.g. polygamy, triple talaq, nikah halala, son meta-preference, etc.
- **Devi Dichotomy** concept by Veena Das: Although we worship many ^{female} goddesses ^{but} they are denied access to basic resources.

→ • Caste:

- Caste and gender are closely related as the sexuality of women is directly related to the purity of caste.
- The caste system and caste endogamy exercise restrictions on the labor and sexuality of women. Hence, caste is not just the social division of labor but also the basis for the sexual division of labor.

- Uma Chakravarty: How notions of purity and pollution which were confined to caste have now extended to gender. e.g.
- Restrictions of pratiloma marraiges
- Pre-marital sex is a taboo.
- Working women are ridiculed.
- Restrictions on women during periods.

→ • **Patriarchy vis-a-vis work:**

- Refer to the diagram (11:15 AM)
- Question: How does patriarchy impact the position of middle-class working women? (10 marks/150 words)
- Answer:
- Introduction: Define the Middle class.
- Linking Statement: link the introduction with the demand of the question(sub-heading).
- Women: At the family level(dual burden, domestic violence, lack of finacial independence), at the societal level(public ridiculing, violence against women), and labor market level(Pink Collored Jobs, glass ceiling, glass cliff, wage gap, sexual harassment).
- Conclusion; If women are not empowered then it will challenge the development of the nation.
- (Middle-class definition: It is defined as the section of society which is known by its income, occupation and education. the key characteristic of the middle class is they are the flag bearer of traditional value system. They are often confronted with the challenge of cultural lag. e.g. perpetuation of patriarchy among the middle class.)

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE