**Group: Mark Angelo P. Barnido ACT 2**

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Feminist theory focuses on gender inequality and the roles society assigns to men and women. Mike explained that it highlights unfair expectations, such as the belief that men should work while women stay at home. Marianne emphasized that this theory examines inequalities, particularly the assumption that women should be caregivers while men are the primary providers. Mark added that feminist theory offers a broader framework, exploring how gender intersects with factors like race and class to shape experiences and opportunities.

Standpoint theory centers on understanding women’s experiences and amplifying their voices. Mike noted that Dorothy Smith discovered how many women shared experiences of sexual violence, exposing deeper inequalities. Marianne highlighted the everyday challenges women face, such as childbirth and household chores. Mark expanded on this idea, stating that knowledge is shaped by one’s social position and lived experiences, giving marginalized groups a unique perspective on societal structures.

Intersectional theory investigates how different identities — such as race, gender, and social class — intersect to shape individual experiences. Mike explained that Kimberlé Crenshaw described it as a "prism for understanding certain kinds of problems." Marianne added that this theory highlights how these factors interact, making each person’s experience unique. Mark emphasized that intersectionality challenges the idea that oppression happens along a single line, instead showing how various forms of discrimination compound and interact.

Symbolic Interactionism views gender and sexuality as shaped by social interactions and cultural symbols rather than biology. Mike pointed out that symbols like pink for girls and blue for boys teach children gender roles. Marianne added that society assigns meaning to objects and behaviors, like associating dolls with girls and toy cars with boys. Mark further explained that these symbols, language, and gestures influence identity and behavior through everyday social interactions.

Conflict theory sees society as a power struggle between dominant and oppressed groups. Mike highlighted that men often control resources and set rules, making it harder for women to achieve equality, as seen in the gender pay gap. Marianne described this dynamic as men exploiting women, limiting their access to equal rights and opportunities. Mark added that social change happens through conflict between those in power and those without, rather than through gradual progress.

Finally, structural functionalism views traditional gender roles as essential for maintaining social stability. Mike noted that in pre-industrial times, men hunted while women stayed home due to pregnancy and nursing, and these roles were passed down to maintain family structure. Marianne explained that men and women traditionally worked together, with women focusing on domestic duties. Mark elaborated that society functions as a system of interconnected parts, with institutions like family and government working to keep society stable and orderly.

**Reflection:**

We reflected that the inequalities for men and women are still present today, but there are improvements when it comes to opportunities for women. Men are still often seen as the dominant group, but we can see that women are slowly becoming more powerful. For example, in government, most leaders are men, but there have been female presidents, showing progress toward equality. On the other hand, symbols, like colors and toys, are now seen as acceptable for both genders without judgment.