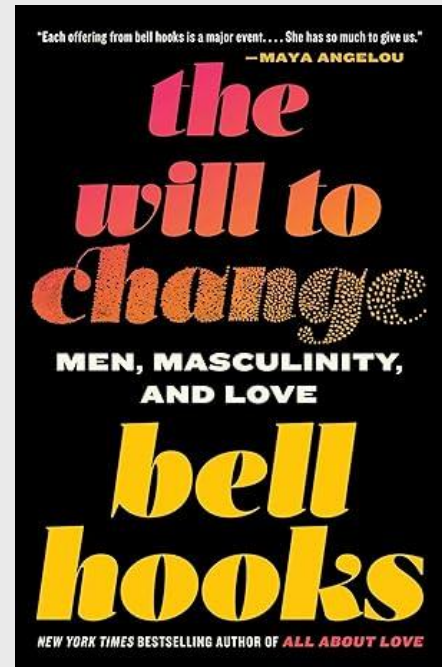


Gender Studies

CAS3



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Topic: , Answering the questions by reading the book 'The will to change: men, masculinity and love' by Bell Hooks.

Subject: Gender Studies Class Assessment 3.

Year: 2024-2028.

1. According to Bell Hooks, what is 'psychological patriarchy'?

In the book "The Will to Change", Hooks extend the theory of psychological patriarchy to refer to the process whereby the cultural and social attitudes of patriarchy dominate the lives of both men and women. It is not only about manifest violence of a male subject, but it is a 'structure', a set of convictions that forms the structure of individual psyche.

Here's is the reason:

Internalized Misogyny: Psychological patriarchy develops the internalized misogyny in both male and female population. Male subjects are capable of endorsing and replicating masculist beliefs, although they are aware of the injustice of such beliefs. Female inferiority leads to women embracing negative self-constructs and self-efficacy expectations when performing tasks because of socialization.

Emotional Suppression: Chronic-Crisis wants to demonstrate how psychological patriarchal paradigm enforces reaction that does not allow men to express feelings of vulnerability, fear, grief, etc. This robs relationships of emotional connections and can cause mental problems.

Performance Anxiety: Boys are always so under immense pressure to be 'real men' hence they have to powerful achievers and they cannot afford to show any emotions. This fosters great pressure and anxiety, always resulting in fear of failure and almost Sisyphian urge to work.

Distorted Power Dynamics: In other words even in the most liberal of relationships there can be latent patriarchal tendencies. Desire for power dynamics to be in operation, and the urge to continue exerting that power may erode closeness and breed discontentment.

Perpetuation of Cycles: Psychological patriarchy is inherited. Parents, whether directly or indirectly, pass on the idea of domination of one sex over the other in a man's world.

According to Hooks, eradicating psychological patriarchy demands a protracted and continuous psychoanalytical model. It entails working to alter self-organic mechanisms, presumably inborn psychological development patterns, influencing feminine oppression; nurturing interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence; and striving to change oppressive structure systems.

Written by Souvik Gayan.

2. “Patriarchy demands of men that they become and remain emotional cripples” explain.

In the latest piece called “The Will to Change,” bell Hooks analyzes the role of a male hegemonic culture in the construction of masculinity. She describes how boys are trained right from childhood not to exhibit fragile or depressed emotions but rather to be angry. While this might seem like a positive thing as far as no longer having to feel pain, it really just imprisons them and keeps them from really being able to experience happiness or develop relationships.

Hooks is right about her notion of how patriarchy is a detriment both to women and men since male gender requires men to be strong-willed, self-confident, and emotionless. These expectations make men feel lonely and deserted because they cannot show or seek help where it is needed. It will lead to development of psychological problems, marital and family problems and generally inability to love and share intimate relationship with a partner.

Also, Hooks explains how those patriarchal standards maintain the cycle of violence and aggression. Thereby male tendencies can turn to unhealthy or even self-destructively destructive ways of expressing them or even to communicate about them at all. Depriving people of their potential, an environment of this nature is oppressive and repressive of toxic gender stereotype.

Finally, Hooks calls society to change and ditch these paths detrimental for men, thus describing different ways to find more happiness. When patriarchal systems are abolished men are free to express their feelings, and thus real affectionate relation between the sexes is possible. This has been in terms of deconstructing the masculinity paradigm, enhancing the aspect of ‘Emotional Intelligence learning right from childhood’; establishment of coaches/ support systems for men to open up.

That’s said, Hooks is interested in changing culture in that it were to embrace sensitivity and compassion as core markers of masculinities. Any change will thus ultimately accredit men and enhance overall, improved health-bearing social structures, so as to give each individual the best chance for a worthwhile life.

Written by Piyush Sarkar.

3. How will you distinguish between 'patriarchal masculinity' and 'feminist manhood'?

Bell Hooks' book "The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love" offers a critical examination of traditional masculinity and its impact on society. After analyzing the specified chapters we can say:-

- **Patriarchal Masculinity:**

Patriarchal masculinity means that it is about being man, the way how man is supposed to behave and act according to masculine norms of the society. This type of masculinity developed from the traditional male supremacy ideology that dominated before the current equality for men and women and other equality factions' periods.

- **Feminist Manhood:**

In contrast, feminist manhood is a new label in a way that depicts a better and just understanding of manliness. This approach gives a fight to the toxic masculinity that has been for years as a domineering and controlling authority figure.

- **Key differences:**

To distinguish between patriarchal masculinity and feminist manhood, consider the following key differences:

1. Power dynamics: A masculinization of the male gender entails domination over women and women's rights while the Fabric of manhood entails recognition of women, showing consideration, and understanding of their rights.
2. Emotional expression: Patriarchal masculinity often does not permit such emotive display, while the concept of feminist manhood will want all men to channel their emotive aspect in a constructive fashion.
3. Accountability: It is common for men raised and socialized to live according to the tenets of a patriarchal culture to remain in denial and to never admit when he is wrong as this goes against all that he has learned and the masculinity that he incorporates as a daily way of life, unlike men embracing the sociology of feminist manhood who acknowledge their wrong deeds, move forward to learn how to correct their mistakes and become better individuals.

4. Relationships: Patriarchal masculinity expects the subordinate relationship between a male and a female while feminist manhood endorses relational self-actualization.

Examples of patriarchal masculinity include:

- A man must always be in control and never show weakness.
- A man would use violence or threats to exercise his authority.
- A man who is emotionally distant and avoids intimate connections.

Examples of feminist manhood include:

- A man who is comfortable expressing his emotions and seeking support.
- A man who challenges sexist jokes and behaviors.
- A man who actively works to dismantle patriarchal systems.

In conclusion, patriarchal masculinity is rooted in dominance, control, and aggression, while feminist manhood promotes empathy, mutual respect, and shared power. By recognizing and challenging these differences, we can work towards forming the better society.

Written Subhadeep Mondal.

THANK
YOU