**UNDERSTANDING POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

**(POLI16367G)**

**Reflection Assignment**

**By:-**

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**GENDER THEORY**

1. **According to gender theory, what role does the division between the public and private play with regard to the equality of the genders?**

The public-private split transcends cultural and historical boundaries, namely that citizens or head of household (i.e., men) are primarily responsible for participating and contributing to the public sphere in any given time period compared to women. Presumptions about men and women among their unique roles within the public and private areas shape many issues, ranging from governing and deciding on intimate issues like sexuality, childbirth and familial responsibilities (Karen C. et.al., 2013). The gender roles are passed down to children through their early year by games and play. As boys are usually given action toys like cars, trucks, guns and superhero action figures which provide motor skills and on the other hand girls are supplied with dolls and dress-up costumes to cultivate fostering, socialness and role-play (William L., 2016).

1. **What is a contemporary news event that is an example or illustrates the role that the division of the public and private spheres plays with regard to gender equality or inequality?**

With the onset of covid pandemic working mothers with children of all ages decreased their working time. It is noted that childcare, housework, and homeschooling have multiplied under COVID-19 and mothers picked up the slack. A study was conducted to look in the reasons and it was found that mothers with school going kids decreased their work time weekly by 1.9 hours and those of preschoolers worked 1.8 hours at average less weekly. Even the mothers with high school aged kids- who are supposed to work independently and complete their assignments reduced working mothers work time by 1.5 hours weekly. And no reduction in work time was noted in father’s employment except that of high-schoolers. Those with young kids who demand more time showed no change in their employment hours ([Leah R](https://theconversation.com/profiles/leah-ruppanner-106371)., [Caitlyn C](https://theconversation.com/profiles/caitlyn-collins-1136368)., William S., 2020).

1. **Is there full equality today between the genders in the public and private spheres?**

According to statistics there is still inequality between genders. According to statistics women still get paid less for doing the similar job compared to men. And according to the societal norms being a ‘real’ man means having authority over private sphere decisions. A family head whose final decisions dictates the activities of the other members means unbalanced division of household activities (OECD iLibrary., 2021). However, the gap is diminishing and over the years the literacy rate of women is gradually increasing. Despite that the full equality has not yet been achieved

**Bibliography**

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