



Gender Performativity and Society

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Difference between acts that are performed and acts that are performatives

Actions that are performed	Actions that are performatives
Expresses one's 'self' – i.e. what you call as your self/'I'	Constitutes/makes one's self – i.e. what you call as your self/'I'
You are the cause of the actions	You are the effect of the actions



The kind of actions that we think or perceive to be expressing our gender like:


- **how one cuts one hair**
- **What sort of bodies one shape and diet**
- **what sort of dresses one wears**
- **what kind of courses one studies**
- **what kind of a profession one takes up**
- **what sort of qualities one holds**
- **what sort of desires/dreams/aspirations one grooms**
- **what sort of opinions we hold/share**

□ and so on and on do not actually JUST express our gender but make/constitute/design our gender too. So these are acts that are not just performed but are also those that function as performatives.

□ In India

- **53% of women are anemic while ONLY 22% of men are**
- **36% of women take sterilization while ONLY 0.3% of men do**
- **ONLY 64.6% of women are literate while 80.88% of men do**
- **While women outnumber men in humanities, Social Sciences and medicine ONLY 38 women are there for 100 men in Engineering**
- **ONLY 25% of women participate in the economy of the country while 53% of men do**
- **ONLY 15% of women own large business establishments while 85% of men do**
- **ONLY**
 - ✓ **6 out of our 27 cabinet ministers are women**
 - ✓ **3 out of our 48 ministers of state are women**
 - ✓ **64 out of our 534 MPs are women**
 - ✓ **359 out of our 3759 State Assembly members are women**
 - ✓ **1 out of our 27 Supreme Court judges are women**
 - ✓ **In 8 out of our total 24 states there are NO Women judges in our high courts**
 - ✓ **ONLY 10-30% of women are there in our Group A, B and C services**

(This Statistic details are based on 2017 data)

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- ❑ This shocking and will-shattering statistical account on the social, economic and political discriminative reality of gender is in many ways the effect of the gender production and reproduction that happens on the plane of performativity. So what sort of actions you do **ALSO** contribute towards the making of your gender and how you choose to do your gender matters!!
 - ❑ If as Judith Butler says, gender is something that we do/perform and the simple acts like those that are listed in the last slide are performatives through which gender is materialised/comes into being in the society.
 - ❑ If we change our performance can gender cease to exist?
 - ❑ If we get more women representation in the realms of education,