

CHAPTER 2

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

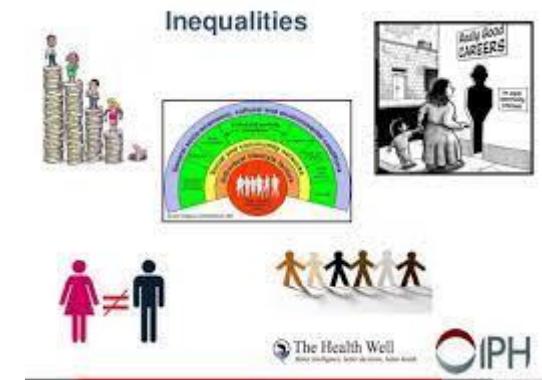
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GENDER STUDIES – CHAPTER 2

GENDER STUDIES



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Ch #2 Social Construction of Gender

- ❖ Historicizing Constructionism
- ❖ Problematizing the category of “Sex”: Queer Theory
- ❖ Is “Sex” socially determined, too?
- ❖ Masculinities and Feminism
- ❖ Nature versus Culture: A Debate in Gender Development

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Ch. #2 Social Construction of Gender

CE 2016: What are Theories of Social Construction of Gender?

CE 2018: Write A Comprehensive Essay on Sex Vs Gender Debate in Feminist Philosophy and Social Sciences reflecting Nature Vs Nurture Argument.

CE 2020: Gender Studies has multiple meanings. How do you deconstruct the word 'Gender'?

CE 2020: 'Language is gendered', what does this imply? Explain with examples. (20)

CE 2021: Masculinity and femininity are the deeply engraved realities since distant past in human history. Discuss various theoretical debates on the construction of masculinity and femininity to make it explicit that (the)formation of both is either natural or social reality. Support your arguments with real life examples.

HISTORICIZING CONSTRUCTIONISM



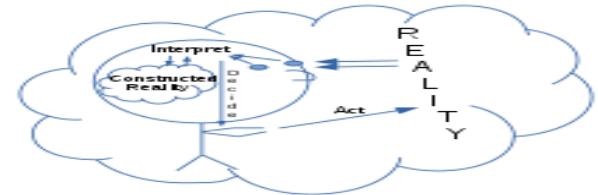
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DRIVING FORCES OF CONSTRUCTING GENDER ROLES

1. Society/Culture
2. Religion
3. Media
4. language



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EVALUATION OF GENDER ROLES

- **Gender and Gender Identity**



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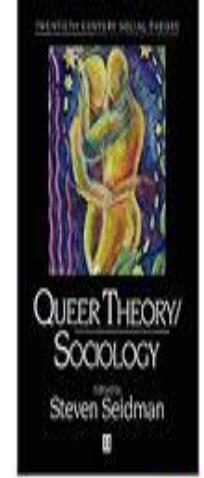
QUEER THEORY

MEANING OF QUEER?

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF QUEER THEORY:

- i. Sexual norms ???
- ii. All concepts from sexual sexual identities are socially ???
- iii. Gender, like other aspects of performance (though not necessarily a consciously chosen one).
- iv. Rejected heterosexuality/traditional form of sexuality
- v. Independence in sexual orientation
- vi. Nothing within your identity is fixed



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...Continued

- vii. Penis is no longer centre of attraction
- viii. Always ask Qs who am I really?
- ix. Focuses on mismatch among sex, gender and desire
- x. The binary divide between masculinity and femininity

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IS SEX SOCIALLY DETERMINED TOO?

(collective representation)



GENERAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEX AND GENDER?

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GENDER EXPRESSION THEORY

Masculinities and Femininities/ role-identities

- Definition

(Machismo—fixed/strong properties of male/female physical bodies)

EXAMPLES: Masculinity more frequently places men in the ‘to-be-loved’ position rather than in the ‘loving’ one. One of the consequences of differing identities is difference in **self-presentation**. Women may more often highlight stereotypically feminine qualities (empathy) while men may more often highlight stereotypically masculine ones (independence, assertiveness).

...Continued

- Shaped by socio-cultural factors

????

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(Gender Polarization)...Continued

THEORIES

????

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- Raewyn Connell gave socio-economic analysis
 - a. Masculinities: hegemonic masculinities ('homophobia' / orgasm-via coitus) v subordinated masculinities
 - b. Forms of femininities are emphasized femininity, resistance femininity and complex femininity)
- Reasons of masculine traits in women

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NATURE VERSUS NURTURE: A DEBATE IN GENDER DEVELOPMENT



GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS CONCEPT?

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NATURE VERSUS NURTURE: A DEBATE IN GENDER DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Are differences in cognitive, and social abilities/problem-solving ability are universal?
- ❖ Is heterosexuality universal?
- ❖ Multi-tasking attitude?
- ❖ Etc.

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NATURAL ROLES?

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CULTURAL ROLES?

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THANK YOU

