

Date _____

Q: Masculinity and femininity are the deeply engraved in realities since distant past in human history.

Discuss various theoretical debates on the construction of masculinity & femininity to make it explicit that the formation of both is ~~gender~~ either natural or social reality. Support your arguments with real life examples.

INTRODUCTION:-

Masculinity and femininity are two different traits that box-in people to act a certain way. "Masculinity" refers to the set of characteristic behaviour that should be performed by a boy or man or male and "femininity" refers to the expected behaviour of a female or girl or woman. These sets of characteristics have been present since the dawn of time and differentiate a person merely on the basis of "what is expected of them", rather than their natural talent and ability. ~~The~~

~~This~~ ~~disc~~ bias on the basis of ~~st~~ "masculinity" and "femininity" is also supported by law, culture and society. Not only is there a ~~differe~~ ~~expected~~ difference between the behaviours of both men and women, but also in treatment of both men and women. In the following pages, we are going to explore theoretical debates on the construction of these "supposed" masculine & feminine roles.

Date _____

↳ "WHY THE DIFFERENCE?"

Human evolution provides bodily structures and biological potentialities that permits an individual to an infinite number of possibilities rather than fix them in a box. Despite that, gender roles, bias due to expected behaviours of a male and female and discrimination are constructed due to psychological and sociostructural determinants. The concept of gender roles is a product of a broad network of social influences operating interdependently with social subsystems.

~~188~~ a) GENDER SCHEMA THEORY:

There are psychological theories that explain how children learn gender roles after they learn to differentiate between gender.

a) GENDER SCHEMA THEORY:

Children are active learners. They socialize themselves from a very young age. Soon after they learn to differentiate between genders, they also categorise the behaviours portrayed by their adults, these categories are called "schemas". Children remember these

Date _____

schemas ~~and~~ and are more likely to remember schema-consistent behaviours. For example, a child is more likely to remember a man or male fire fighter since it is a schema-consistent behaviour.

b) SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

A second theory that attempts to explain the understanding of masculine & feminine behaviours is Social Learning theory. It argues that "the correct behaviour" is learned through reinforcement, punishment & modelling. Children are rewarded & reinforced for behaving in concordance with the societal expectations and are punished for deviating from them. This theory also argues that children learn gender-appropriate behaviours by modelling the behaviours of adults and develop ideas about gender-appropriate behaviours.

Date _____

↳ SOCIETAL IDEA OF MASCULINITY :-

often while talking about a man, we talk about the stereotypical attributes that are rendered normal by the society for a man. Following are some behaviours and traits that are talked about, when ~~at~~ discussing masculinity :-

MASCULINE TRAITS.

- Competent
- Rational
- Assertive
- Tough.
- Strong-headed.
- Dominant.
- Active
- Tough.
- Diplomatic.
- Cool under tough situations
- Tactful.
- Proactive.

All these traits are thought to be "masculine" in nature by the society. - Men are also thought to be the "earner" in the family, they keep their women away from financial matters, which might not be true in all cases. Many men can't restrict their women to household due to poor economic circumstances. Another example could be a ~~less~~ man from less powerful community would

Date _____

not be able to protect their women if they are assaulted by men from powerful communities, in such cases "masculinity" of a man will be threatened and this would prove that masculinity, just like femininity, is an ideal, constructed by society, ~~that which~~ ^{that} cannot be followed by all men.

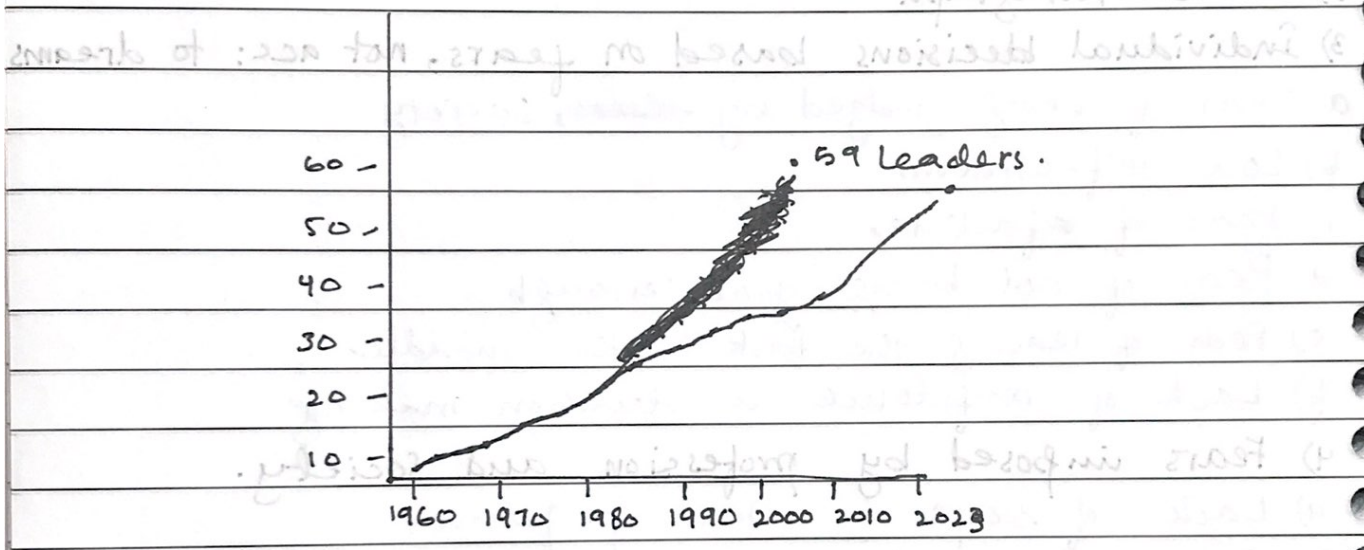
↳ SOCIETAL IDEA OF FEMININITY

Like pre-conceived notions about masculinity, feminine traits are also not spared by society. When women are discussed, there are certain characteristics & attributes that the society deems appropriate.

FEMININE TRAITS..
- Empathetic
- Sensitive
- Passive
- Subservient
- Caring
- Emotional
- Blunt
- Em Crybaby
- Analytical
- Shy
- Irrational
- Impractical

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There are ~~very~~ many example that defy the ideal of feminine traits set by society. We have women land on moon just as their male counterparts, we have seen women run countries better than ~~men~~ men. 59 countries in the world have had a woman leader



- Figures are through March 1, 2023.
- Head of ~~the~~ government are limited to 193 UN member countries.
- Source: Pew Research Center Analysis.

This example proves that women can be ^{just} as rational, practical, ~~&~~ tactful, diplomatic, assertive, tough and active. These 59 ~~leader~~ women leaders are a proof that the attributes "created" by society are just perceptions and expectations of the society.

Date _____

CONCLUSION:-

In this discussion, we analysed how the gender roles come into play and why ~~these~~ these roles are not natural, but merely societal. We have seen from many examples that the attributes set by society ~~of~~ are just ~~to~~ to limit an individual to what the society deems appropriate for him or her.

They can be whatever they ~~can~~ want - Boys can be sensitive, emotional, caring, blunt, they can play with dolls and girls can be strong-headed, rational, diplomatic, tactful, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ Boxing a person in categories will only hinder the natural talents and abilities that they have been bestowed upon by mother nature.