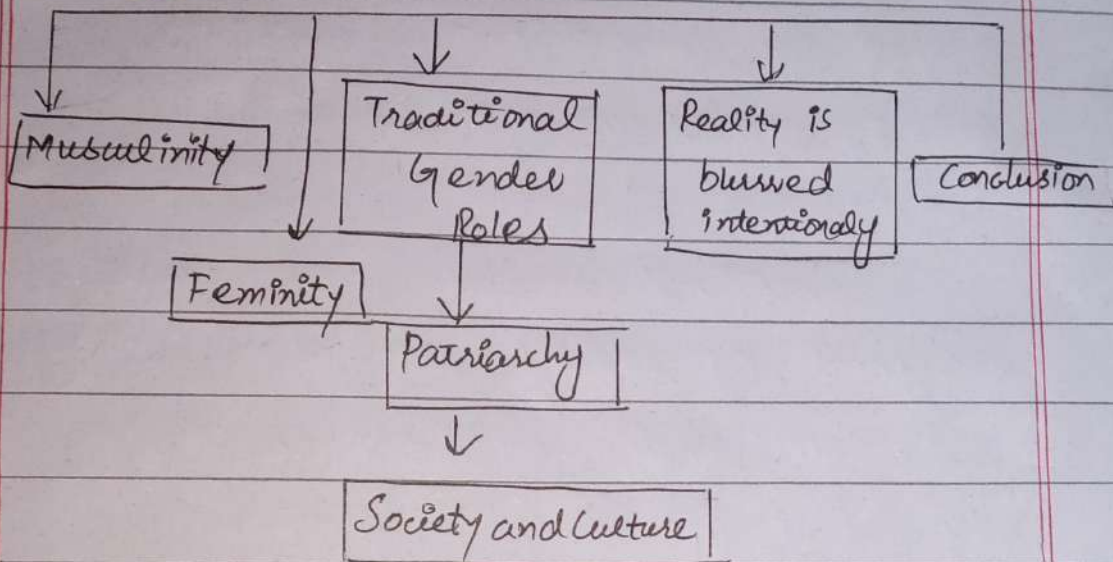


Qno 2: Define the term masculinity and femininity. In your opinion where do traditional gender roles come from?

Ans:-



① Introduction

Femininity and masculinity are two different terms. And gender roles are cultural products. Traditional gender roles are formulated by various factors.

② Masculinity

Masculinity is the term mainly used to refer man. Masculinity is usually referred as: Dependent, powerful, strong, no emotions and controlling. Feminists say women can also masculine.

③ Femininity

Femininity is a term used to refer women. Femininity is referred as emotional, sensitive & less-intellectual, & submissive and subordinate. But it culturally defined for women. But feminists asserts males can also feminine.

④ Traditional Gender Roles

Traditional Gender Roles are assigned by society, ^{culture} ~~cultural~~, history and many other means. Some major means of Gender Roles are follows:

(i) Culture and Society assigns Gender Roles:

Culture and Society determines traditional gender roles. Society and certain culture describes dress code, behaviour, activities and specific gender roles.

(ii) Dominant Perspective decides Gender Roles:

The most prevailing and repetitive discourse becomes the deciding factor.

Male dominant perspective is prevalent in world. So, it is active and main voice to decide traditional gender roles. Most repetitive discourse ultimately considers natural.

(iii) Capitalistic Approach in Gender Studies

Capitalism is prevalent in our society and homes. In homes men are the sign of dictatorship. Man decides activities, life and fate of woman.

"The history of man's emproipation of women is more interesting than history of emancipation itself." (Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir)

(iv) Cultural Gender Roles are man-made

Man decides and commands the traditional cultural roles. Women can not make decisions about their life. Man-made roles are actually in favour of man. And these ~~roles~~ gender roles are harming women.

(v) Human creates social norms

Social norms decide gender roles. Question arise here from where it comes. It comes from humans especially men.

(vi) Aggressive and Selfish males ?

Aggressive and Selfish males decides traditional Gender Roles. These roles dominates and marginalize women.

• No one is more aggressive towards women, except man, who is anxious about his virility. (The Second Sex by Simon de Beauvoir)

(vii) ~~Fe~~ Some Females supporting patriarchy for their purpose:

Some hypocritic females are supporting patriarchy for their gains. And they made other women to believe fake gender roles.

• Some women supports men's ideas in order to take share in their power. (The Second Sex by Simon de Beauvoir)

(viii) Biological roles verses cultural roles

Menstrual cycle, Pregnancy and other biological roles are natural. But how to made, and when to made decisions are personal choices. Biological roles are confused with cultural roles.

Traditional Cultural gender roles are made on basis of Biological roles.

For Example: Women are ~~stop~~ not allowed to excel in career after marriage in Pakistan. It hinders growth of women. In excuse of baby family imposes their own will.

(ix) Patriarchy assigns Gender Roles :
Further, Patriarchy is vital force behind traditional Gender Roles. Because women have to live according to them. As in Pakistan many women are not allowed to go outside and socialize. These marginalizing behaviour is patriarchal. If males have friends then woman should not be restricted.

(x) Learned Behaviours promotes Gender Roles :
Gender discrimination in traditional gender roles is historical.

Ancerstors had these specific gender roles and tranferred them to next generation. This promotes gender roles from one generation to another. "Daily hometasks are like torture of Sisyph, sand becomes clean, and clean becomes sand, with never-ending repetition of work."

(The Second Sex by Simon de Beauvoir)

(xi) Reality is intentionally blurred in Gender Roles:

Additionally, Reality is intentionally blurred in Gender Roles because current order of gender roles are in favourable for men. That's why those men (almost all men) supported and promoted that gender Roles. These gender Roles are not real but perceived as real. "Feminists say they are women, all basic assertions arise from basic truth. Man never starts by assetting himself a man of certain sex." (The Second Sex by Simon de Beauvoir)

(xii) Illiteracy in women supports traditional Gender Roles:

Illiterate women do not know their basic human rights. As it is common in Pakistan, women are restricted from many things. These women do not demand and fight for their rights. Because of lack of information and knowledge. Illiteracy is also important in determining traditional Gender Roles.

(xiii) Way Forward:-

To change the traditional Gender roles adopt comprehensive approach. Cultural norms should change. We should promote feminism by means of Books, Internet, School Syllabus, TV, Internet, teachers and advertisements. These gender roles should re-created. Men should help women in their education and struggles of life.

Reality should clearly explain by teachers and parents. Active participation of every society member. Capitalism and patriarchy should replace with gender equality. It is important to change the traditional gender roles. Otherwise, Honour Killing,

no women education, domestic violence and marginalization shall promote.

Woman is not born, but rather becomes woman."

(The Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir)

(4) Conclusion

To sum up, terms masculinity and femininity are described by society. Further, traditional gender roles are product of patriarchy, culture, norms, capitalism and male-baises. It is matter of perception. Illiteracy is last nail in coffin that hinders actual gender → gender equality.

