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Gender Studies

Shehzana Gul

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What are the theories of social construction of gender?

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORIES OF SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER.

"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman" a famous state by Simone de Beauvoir reflects that the concept of gender is the product of socially constructed norms and experiences. This very concept of social construction of gender is explained by some of the theories for instance: cultural sexism, Cognitive Development Theory, Psycho-dynamic Theory, Queer Theory along with others. These theories debate on the stance that gender is the makeup constructed by society rather than a natural phenomenon.

2. HOW THE THEORIES OF SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

• Understanding the term gender

The concept of gender, which is used now a days, into common parlance during the early 1970s. It is used to draw a line of demarcation between natural identity versus socially construction notion "Gender".

1.2 Judith Butler's perspective

Judith Butler argues that gender is not an inherent or natural aspect of a person, but rather a social construct, a performance, and a result of repeated actions and behaviours that align with societal norms.

• Social Construction

• Performativity

• Sex versus Gender

• Gender as a performance

1.3 Cultural Sexism

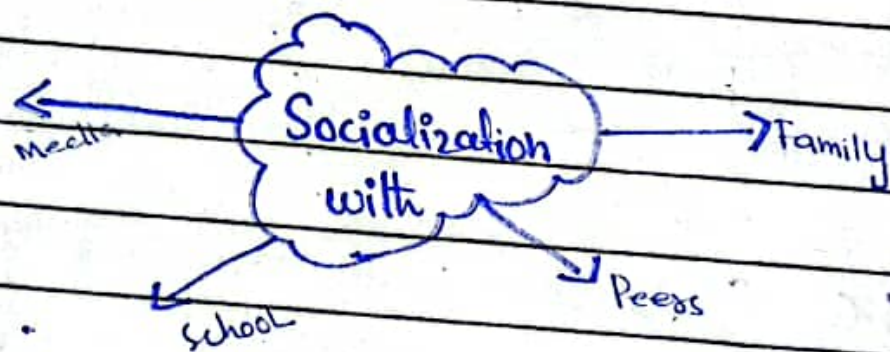
The promotion of traditional gender roles, where women are submissive and think about men and marriage that can be seen

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in Disney fairytales is an example of how sexism is socially constructed.

1.4 Gender Socialization Theory

Gender Socialization Theory explores that gender socialization is the process through which individuals internalize societal expectations associated with their gender.



1.5 Social learning Theory

Social learning theory, developed by Albert Bandura, proposes that gender construction is learned; individuals learn gender roles and behaviours through observation, imitation, and reinforcement + punishments of social cues and expectations.

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Examples of Social learning theory: Indication of Masculinity and Femininity

BOY versus GIRL

A boy observes
his father, as
the sole decision
maker in family
decision, assuming
him superior to
opposite gender.

A girl who
experiences, going
outside with any
family male member,
make her realize,
She is unprotective
if goes alone.

1-6 Cognitive Development Theory, By Sandra Bem (1981)

The cognitive Development theory
also known as gender schema theory, explores
how children through active thinking and
information processing, develop an under-
standing of gender as masculine attribu-
tes and feminine attributes.

- Politeness → Femininity
- Possessiveness → Masculinity

1.7 Psychodynamic Theory by Nancy Chodorow

Her theory is that gender is co-constructed and re-created by Society and culture where and the mother-child relationship.

Chodorow rejects the idea of inherent gender differences and instead proposes that gender is a relational construction shaped by early interaction with caregivers.

1.8 Queer Theory

Queer theory challenges traditional notions of gender and sexuality, arguing that they are socially constructed and fluid. This perspective seeks to understand how societal norms and power structuring shapes our understanding of gender and sexuality.

3. Critical Analysis

Theories of social construction of gender highlight society's role in shaping

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notes, but some oversimplify or neglect intersectionality and individuality. These theories refine our understanding of gender inequality. Critique enables effective approaches to address it.

4. Conclusion

The social construction of gender basically entails the understanding that gender is enforced by socially constructed means and that various means of socialization. The society determined how male and female are expected to behave in a society. This ~~bits~~ has been propounded by various theories such as: Cultural sexism, Socialization theory, Social learning theory, Cognitive theory, Psychodynamic theory, Queer theory and many more.

"The Social construction begins with the assignment of ^{to} a sex category on the basis of what genitalia looks like"

(Judith Lorber's book: Night to his Days)

The social construction of gender"