

"One is not born a woman,
but becomes one."

A. Introduction

Thesis Statement: It is a pertinent fact that gender is socially constructed through norms and roles linked to certain individuals.

B. Gender is a socially constructed phenomenon:

(1) Cultural restrictions limit women to feminine roles.

Case in Point: Geert Hofstede's concept of femininity.

(2)

Women are associated to nurturing roles in patriarchal societies.

Case in Point: Gender

Role Theory by John Money.

(3) It is validated that women's role

inside homes and male's financial

responsibility is the most effective way of running families.

Case in Point: Talcott Parson's
Functionalist Perspective.

(4) Workplace obstacles are alleviated against strong-headed women to confine them to homes.

Case in Point: "Glass-ceiling"

• "Working with Sharks"

(Fozia Saeed).

(5) Women are coerced into unproductive labour and despite working they largely remain unempowered.

Case in Point: More than 80%.

females involved in domestic labour in Pakistan.

(Pakistan Bureau of Statistics).

(6) The provision of women quota in politics is merely a symbolic

representations given no real space.

Case in Point: Pakistan.

(7) The reiteration of gender-specific performances over the years results in shaping perspective.

Case in Point: "Gender Performativity Theory"

"Gender Performativity Theory"

- Judith Butler.

(8) Girls in rural/backward regions are raised to believe their only purpose is reproduction.

Case in Point: Bapsi

Sidwa's novel, 'The Pakistani Bride.'

(9) Women are expected to compromise for everyone but themselves, a practice spread via media.

Case in Point: "Manufacturing Consent"

by Noam Chomsky.

(10) Women are linked to being
quite quiet and passive by society.

Case in Point: Tehmina

Durrani's quote from
"My Feudal Lord"

(11) Being woman leads to wages
disparity between men and
women.

Case in Point: Priyanka

Chopra's statement.

(12) Women are hired mainly for
Pink Collar jobs, demeaning for
integrity.

Case in Point: CEO's are

men and secretaries
are women.

stewardess etc.

C. Conclusion.

"Frailty, thy name is woman", wrote Shakespeare in one of his classics. The deepest reflection of constructing gender is evident. "Fragile beings" is a notion linked to women. However, when a little girl is born, she does pretty much same as the little boy; they cry. Growing up, social peers construct this notion of being a woman. She is expected to act, sit and eat in a certain manner that is feminine. The values of nurturer and provider are endowed as a burden to women. The narrative is continuous and long-living that societies efficient functioning depends on woman sitting idle at home. Even corporate setups in modern times limit woman participation. Tasks like domestic work are linked to females of the society. In addition to workplaces, women are used in political arena as mere symbols without a staunch narrative.

Society instills a specific kind of performance for woman. It is a pertinent fact that societal expectations, roles distribution and patriarchal narratives construct a female into a woman.