

Gender Studies

B# 344

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Q:03

Ans: 1) Gender Identity:

Identification of a person in a society based upon his gender is gender identity. Now for some it is a fixed identity, based on biological characteristics and some argues that it is a socially constructed identity and therefore exposed to change.

2) Factors Involved in Shaping Gender Identity: Nature vs Nurture Debate.

The categorization of human beings on the basis of their ^{Roles and} responsibilities, physical construct, their daily duties, as well as social expectations is called gender identity.

Some researchers believe that gender identity is the product of social construction. Altogether, therefore, a person can be of any gender, anytime of a day and by claiming so that person could not be called wrong. However, the other side, the proponents of nature role in gender

Identity development do not completely agree ~~to~~ with ~~the~~ 'Nurture' role in gender development's proponents. Therefore they believe that there are some biological factors, i.e. Chromosomes, enzymes, ^{and hormones} physical structure and their natural capabilities play an important role in gender identity.

i) ~~It~~ **is** ~~no~~ **nurture** that shapes the Gender Identity completely.

Nurture plays an important role in gender identity shaping.

As the status of male and female's Gender Identity is not the same cross-cultures, to explain it further, a woman is expected to do one thing in one society and while the exact same thing is expected from a male in another society.

Different theories regarding the role of nurture and social construction in forming gender identity is given below.

a) Gender performativity.

Judith Butler in 'Gender Trouble' asserts that gender is nothing but an identity obtained through constant performing of a task associated with masculinity i.e. Short hair, Providing food, emotion more stable or femininity i.e. Cooking, Clearing etc. That is how a society, whose predefined standards for achieving a gender identity helps in shaping a person's gender identity by performing it.

b). Social Learning Theory of Gender.

It asserts that a person through learning and imitating others learns their roles as per their biological sex. For example, a child who is biologically a male will be encouraged to learn from his father and other male members of the society. If his father gets angry and becomes aggressive and his role is so, so will he in the future or from that day onward as his legitimate role and responsibility, and he will also learn that how these practices

will solve his problems easily as his father's.

ii) Biological factors in Gender Identity Construction: ~~can not~~
b) Biological factors play an important role in Gender Identity. These factors sometimes are inherited ~~from~~ before birth and some are gained during post birth period, naturally.

a) Chromosomes:

There are 23 pairs of chromosomes in both ~~male~~ male and a female. 22 pairs are of the same, however, one pair 23rd distinguishes a male from a female and ~~the~~ vice versa. That pair is 'XX' in a female and 'XY' in a male.

b) Hormones:

Male sex hormone is called testosterone and secreted by testes ~~by~~ in a male body. A male is sexually more active, which can effect

his behaviour as well. On the other hand female hormones are called estrogen and secreted by ovaries in female body.

④ Physical Construction:
(E) Physical Construction of a male

A male has more muscle-male usually and is stronger than a female in most cases. There fore providing security against ~~age~~ destructive forces becomes his natural ability. On the other hand, a female can reproduce and after giving birth, the hormones responsible for caring, loving and protecting her child is way more than a male. So, performing these duties come naturally to her.

3. Conclusions:

There are many factors involved in shaping and even developing a gender identity. It can be socially constructed, like one learns these expectations and roles by imitating ~~and~~ others.

Moreover, one is ~~appreciated~~ ^{expected} appreciated to learn these roles and behaviours and eventually regarded or censured in case of Conformity and non-Conformity respectively. Although the aforementioned reasons and impetus seems enough for gender identity however one can not ignore the biological role in it.