

Batch 345

Gender studies - Mock

Part II:-

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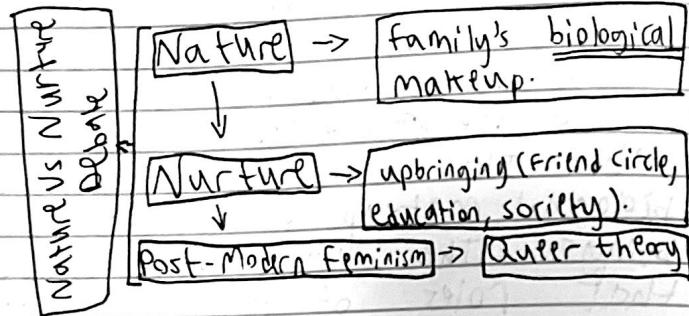
Introduction:-

Nature vs. Nurture is an elaborate debate of Sociology and Gender Studies. It seeks to understand the difference between sex and gender. It is a part of the 3rd wave (Post-modern) feminism.

Nature: This refers to the biological makeup of human beings. The Nature debate states that roles of gender in society are defined by the birth of humans whether male, female or intersex. Such scholars state that it is beyond the human ability to influence sex of a person which defines their preset position among people of the world.

Nurture: Nurture theorists debate that many aspects of society shape or construct the gender of people. These are not exactly linked to the sex of the humans, but the way they are brought up and educated in the society. This takes into account family, friends, education, society (patriarchal or matriarchal), etc. The Nurture debate further expands on the various genders people can identify as, based on their sexual orientation. This is known

as the Queer Theory. Hence, much can be discussed about whether it's the biological sex or social upbringing that shapes a person's role in society.



Nature debate:-

Biology:-

Scientific advancements have been the core of discovery for humans since early history. Experiments and research skyrocketed in the post-enlightenment era. It is then that scientists began to discover the biological differences in the genetics of males and females. The conclusion was drawn as the differences in chromosomes.

Chromosomes:-

Male: XY

Female: XX

Intersex: XXY

It is described that these biological differences are what shape the behaviours of males or females in the society.

The latter, Intersex, is a biological mixup where the human possesses the organs of both: male and females.

Sigmund Freud: A famed Austrian scholar known as the father of the psychoanalysis theory. He claimed that the differences in acts of humans were due to the natural phases that they went through as a child such as, Oral, Anal, Phallic ... Freud argued that the child, by the time they reach maturity (become adults) have already naturally determined their role in life.

Nurture debate:-

These theorists deny that biology is the determinant of roles in societies. Nurture scholars debate that many important aspects in human lives would shape their gender in society, which has nothing to do with their chromosomes differences.

3rd Wave of feminism:-

Judith Butler - Mary Joe Frug
Butler and Frug argued in the 1970s that women's issues were not of equal rights or patriarchal society but they were equally marginalised by the norms of the community. They claimed

That men and women's roles are decided by the state/government who looks out for only self-interest. Hence, they sought awareness/reforms to change the culture of the societies.

Family/Friends:-

In the ancient era, societies were Matriarchal (female dominated). But once men had to leave home and hunt food, they became the 'bread-winners' while the women became house wives. Then when the women demanded to work alongside men, they were given demeaning jobs such as, prostitution and servers, as they were supposed to be kept under the influence of men, who ensured their power/authority in the society. This became a norm which is why societies are shaped to have a male power figure. Post-modern feminists seek to change this cultural norm, and make the work of women equally important to that of men.

Education:-

Helen Cixous

In the context of literature, the seekers of equal value in society, the feminists decided that females should be more

involved in writing to present a different perspective in stories and academics, than men. Helen Cixous is a notable feminist who wrote much about the marginalised females in her literary works. Her writings are still exemplified in the academic world today.

Post modern feminism:-

Michael Foucault: A controversial writer of the 1980s who wrote on the sexual orientation of humans, Foucault wrote that humans are suppressed to choose lovers and their true emotions are overlooked. He meant that men can love others, but are forced by societal and cultural norms to be attracted to females only. This concept is today known as Homosexuality, and it gave light to various sexual orientations which defy natural biological studies.

Queer theory (de lauritis): The Queer theory is the addition of multiple genders in the traditional male, female, intersex line. These include lesbians, Gays, bisexuals, transgenders, queer, etc. (LGBTQ+)

This theory is a common western practice and part of the official academia. It promotes the essence that Gender is not biological ~~but~~ but a choice of humans. This theory is disregarded by conservative and mainly, religious

Scholars.

Conclusion:-

There is much debate about whether gender is fixed (Nature) or flexible and constructed (Nurture). The consensus depends on the preference of humans as their views differ according to religious, political, cultural and societal values.