

# Gender Studies

## Part II

Gender is a socially constructed phenomenon.  
Discuss in light of theories of social construction of gender.

### Introduction:-

"Society and culture create gender roles are prescribed as ideal or appropriate behaviour for person of that specific gender"

### Historicizing Constructionism:

"Social constructivism is sociological theory of knowledge according to which human development is socially situated and knowledge is constructed through other"

### History

1966 - "Social construction of Reality by Berger and Luckmann"

Sociologists believe that reality is different for each individual. Term social construction of reality refers to theory that the way we present ourselves to other people is shaped partly by our interactions with others as well as by our life experience.

Social reality is socially constructed by society as well as individuals.

## Post modernism:-

"social construction can be seen as source of post modern movements, influenced in field of cultural studies"

## Features:-

Relativism Vs Realism in knowledge  
Socially constructed not objective. Society construct the reality, roles, identity of gender which makes a society as individuals have to follow the culture of society.

## Gender as socially constructed:-

Gender is socially constructed phenomena have a lot of impact of society on it.

## Sex Gender Distinction:-

Sex is biological difference that was constructed naturally but gender is constructed by the society as society determines the roles, behavior and attitude related to the sex. Like cooking is related girls and jobs related to men.

## Gender Socialization and Roles:

Gender has different roles in society and have different behaviors that are constructed by societies. As when girl or boy born they are differentiated by their clothes, toys

and when they grew up also differentiated by their roles gender have to follow their roles to be remain in society as they have to follow culture.

### Construction of Masculinity and femininity:-

Gender is socially constructed as construct masculinity and femininity.

Masculinity is the characteristics or behaviour of men and femininity is for girls.

Rules, duties, responsibilities, personalities of individuals related to their gender in society.

### Gender as process of stratification and social structure :-

Gender as process of stratification as it makes strata in society as girls, male and transgender. it make social structure as males earn for family and females manage their houses.

### Indicators:

#### Gender identity:-

Gender gives identity to person as if you are girl you have identity to associated some roles with you. that gives you identity in society.

#### Gender roles :-

Gender have associated roles as that are connected to them. men have to be strong, dominant, protector,

earn money and women have to be polite, soft, beautiful and manage households.

### Gender Accountability:-

It requires that the decisions of public actors can be regularly assessed from the perspective of women's and men's needs and interests as genders have to be accountable for their roles in societies.

### Gender and division of labour:-

division of labour is according to gender as some jobs are just only for girls and some are for boys as that is divided by socially constructed roles in society.

### Gender and language:-

language is also socially constructed as boys can use harsh and abusive language but girls should be the soft language as polite as can.

### Gender as an accomplishment:-

It is thinking of gender as an achievement gives us eyes to see such things as how gender is organized. The social setting our matters attention shifts to individual and focuses on international as gender have roles internationally not as for just individuals.

## Belief System:-

Society create a belief system for men and boys as men grown up to be strong and girls as dependent on father, brother and than husband. All individuals follows the belief system of society.

## Gender Socialization:-

Gender socialize the roles as in society girl should be with her father, brother or husband. A divorce or widow have not much importance in society but for men there all things doesn't matter.

## Factors:-

### Family and gender construction:-

Family is the first institutions which bring the roles of genders as he for man and she for women, their clothes, behavior, language etc. Families makes boys strong and girls softer in nature.

### Peer group as tool:-

Peer groups have group of men and girls. as have upbringing in their families discuss and adapted their roles and they are like one another. Peer groups have some interest as some games to play as boys usually like cars, spiderman and girls like babies etc create a lot difference in genders.

## Education and Schooling:-

School system and education helps genders to identify their roles as with others like them girls and men. education built identity that changes the society over time.

## The influence of Media on Gender:-

Media influences alot as fashion trends for men and women and their pattern to talk and walk. followed as dramas showed roles of gender to promoted in society.

## Cultural and Religious Beliefs:-

As a Muslim our culture and religion give us beliefs that women should be covered and not interact with other men in society and men should have respect for every girl in society.

## Theories related to Gender as social Constructed:-

→ 1949 - Simon De Beauvoir's - 'The second sex'

Concept of feminism by looking at facts and biases and explains how being a woman implies being subjugated to a man and making yourself smaller so that you can fit in today's world. Second sex is regarded as groundbreaking work of feminist philosophy.

→ 1970 - Kate Millett's 'sexual politics'

Child developmental stages creates gender socialization as family taught that brothers are superior than sisters.

→ 1970' The Dialectic of sex by Shulamith Firestone

Dialectic historical development of gender norms. it is division of society into two distinct biological classes for procreative reproduction, and struggles of these classes with one another.

→ 1990 - Judith Butler's 'Gender Trouble'

Categories of male and female constructed. It explores the performative nature of gender and social and cultural constructions that shape our understanding of identity. There are biological sex differences but on that basis society constructs roles on their gender basis.

**Conclusion:-**

Gender is socially constructed phenomena as society shapes and fix responsibilities for men and women but with time the things are evolving now girls also do jobs, businesses and drive car etc and boys also do cooking as what socially constructed into them have the impact on society.