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One is Not Born a Woman, But Becomes One

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A. Introduction

B. Line of Distinction Between 'Sex' and 'Gender'

C. Woman is Not Born By Nature But Made By Society

(1) Female becomes woman through societal association of frailty.

- Popular belief of woman is fragile

- "Frailty, Thy Name is Women" (Shakespeare)

(2) Woman is made by society through association of submissiveness with femininity.

- Character of Nora from "A Doll's House"

- Culture of Giving up on Inheritance Rights in Pakistan

(3) Female turns into a woman by taking up on subordinate roles given by society not nature.

- Gender Stratification Theory

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- Male Pilot assisted by female air hostess
 - Male CEO and female secretaries
- 4) Society has associated traits of irrationality and emotionality with female, which makes female a woman
- Molvi Nazeer Ahmed Views that How Ever Short of Rationality, Mislead Adam; Rebecca Solnit: "The Longest War" Article
- 5) By remaining in sphere of domestic arena instead of political, one becomes a woman.
- Employment of Male in High Politics and female
- 6) ~~seen as Child Bearing Machine~~ ~~3-5 M don't cast vote (Elections 2024 Palula)~~ Through media female is portrayed as one who finds comfort in doing household tasks only, the feminine identity of woman is created.
- Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of Mass Media by Noam Chomsky and E. Herman
 - Woman cheerfully using the cleaning products in Ads
 - Gender Performativity Theory by Judith Butler

7) One becomes a woman through the replication of feminine traits from generation to generation.

- "How She Came Into Being?" Sigmund Freud Lecture on Femininity.

8) Through education and coursework, a female is turned into a woman.

- Home Economics and Vocational Skills for girls at secondary level vs Technical Subjects for boys

9) By expecting to remain in economic exploitative institution, one becomes a woman.

- Marxist Feminist
- Institutional Sexism

10) A female turns into woman through the patriarchal culture of repression and dependency

- 55% Woman said household

male head decides about their potential mate (Status of Women in Pakistan, 2024)

11) Society converts female into woman by treating her like a commodity.

- The practice of Vanni and Swara - use of woman as bargaining chip.

D. Conclusion

One of the very first question usually asked when a baby is born revolves around his sex :

Is newborn a girl or a boy?

The answer not only tells the sex of child but a whole direction of the life of that child. If infant is a boy, he is welcomed into world of blue — the world of competition, rationality and aggression.

On contrary, if baby is girl, she is welcomed into pink world of cooperation, emotionality and submissiveness. Simon De Beauvoir,

the radical feminist and pioneer of second wave of feminism famously said that, "One is not born a woman, but becomes one". It shows that gender is a social construction, not determined by nature.

It is society that is respon-

-sible for associating constructs with sex. One becomes a woman by remaining fragile, submissive and docile. The stratification of gender and labelling woman as emotional and responsible for internal household matters only, makes a girl into a woman.

Social institutions including education, media and misinterpretation of religion strengthen the roles women are given.

It becomes pertinent that through social construction of gender, exploitative socio-political institutions and labelling certain traits with female sex along with other factors, one becomes a woman."

Sex and gender are often used as synonyms.

However, there exists a sharp line of distinction between both of them. Sex refers to the chromosomal makeup of individual, the one determined by the nature. It is sex that helps in categorization as male, female or intersex. On the other hand, gender refers to the role that one takes in the society. The practice of masculine traits make one man and feminine traits make woman. Thus, sex is determined by nature but gender is determined by society.

To start with, female turns into a woman through societal association of frailty. Society expects from a woman to remain fragile. This concept is further strengthened through repetitive believes and popular slogans. As

Shakespeare wrote : "Frailty, Thy Name is Woman", such statements assert societal views about female as the one who is fragile. The concept of frailty is not a natural one but the one which is associated by society.

In the similar line of thought, the social constructs of submissiveness are associated with woman.

It is presumed that a woman is and should must remain docile. Literature

has further strengthened this notion. Henry Ibsen in

his play "A Doll's House" wrote about the character

of Nora, the one who is always submissive. In

contemporary societies, since beginning girls are told to

be cooperative by society and their parents. Resultantly, it is generally considered that woman will give up on her inheritance rights. Thus, it is society that makes one woman by attaching the trait of submissiveness with female sex.

To continue another aspect of aforementioned discussion, the society associates the subordinate roles with female gender. By taking up those roles given by society, one becomes a woman. According

to **Gender Stratification**

Theory the gender and subsequent roles are layered. In everyday life it becomes visible when males are in lead positions and female in assistance.

roles. Mostly the male are pilots who fly the airplanes and females are air hostess for giving services. Similarly, 98% companies have always male as CEO and females are their secretaries. So, the subordinate roles in society makes one woman.

Equally important is the association of emotionality and irrationality with female.

The attachment of such social tags with female turn her into what society calls woman. Molvi Nazeem in a public debate said that Adam was misled due to Eve, who was short of reason. Such anti-female dictates lead to association of different tags with women. Rebecca Solnet author of article, "The Longest war" said

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that a man explained her own article to Reza, she give this process name of Menspung.

Thus, the notion that female are irrational contributes in calling them Woman.

Turning down the ladder, one becomes woman by remaining entangled in domestic affairs instead of political matters. Society associates the political wisdom and will with men and household affairs with woman. Male remain in arena of "high politics" and women continue to handle the domestic issues. In the elections of 2024, 3.5 Million female voters were unregistered, as said by Election Commission of Pakistan. Thus, associating female sex with domestic chores one becomes a

woman.

Moreover, media also helps in creating the feminine identities. The advertisements, and content show that females are cheerfully using cleaning products and male are riding cars.

Noam Chomsky and Edward S. Herman in "Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of Mass Media" told that media is used by elites to reinstate popular narratives.

Judith Butler in "Gender Performativity Theory" explained that genders are created by practicing feminine and masculine roles. Thus, the media also helps in creating the feminine idea of girl and making her a woman.

Perhaps, most important is the replication of traits that make one a woman. The replication of traits means that the patriarchal interest based traits are continued from one generation to other. Sigmund Freud in his lecture on femininity, "How she came into being?" said that the reproduction of motherhood has lead to creation of woman. Girls since the young age had seen their mothers taking up traditional roles. After becoming adult, they try to assume the same roles. Thus, the replication of motherhood enables one to become a woman.

In the same context, education plays an important role in shaping the

gender identities. Different course works and subjects strengthen the social construction of gender. At the secondary level, it becomes compulsory for girls to take courses on vocational and recreational subjects including Home-Economics. On contrary, boys are required to learn technical skills. This differing curriculum asserts the construction of gender. So, education contributes in making a female into a woman.

The economic institutions paint yet another grim picture of gender inequality and social construction. It is considered normal that a woman remain underpaid and their economic exploitation

continues. Female get 32 percent less pay than male counterparts, according to Status of Women report 2024. This aspect is advocated by marxist feminist - that points out capitalistic institutional sexism to be one of the reason that female are treated unequally. Thus, the economic exploitation makes a woman docile.

To add on, the patriarchal culture of repression and dependency help in making the feminine identity of helplessness.

The report by status of women in Pakistan shows that 55 percent of women said household male member takes decision of marriage. This dependency and lack of

trust on women for taking important decisions strengthen the feminine identity made by the society. Thus, it becomes pertinent that patriarchy and culture of repression turns a female into a woman.

At last, the use of female as bargaining material converts her into what society refers as woman.

Many cultural practices reinforce the submissiveness of woman. The practice of Vanni and Samwara in Pakistan treats woman as a commodity, who is used to compensate the mistakes and issues made by male relatives. Such

instances of oppression strengthen the notion that the societal injustice makes one a woman not nature.

To conclude with, upon considering all the facts, it becomes evident that one is not born a woman but it is society that makes her one. By nature both the genders are formed equally capable. However the patriarchal institutions of society repress the female and associates the fragile, docile, dependent and submissive tags with the female. By associating such tags with females, the identity it is transformed to a woman. To create

harmony in society, it is necessary that woman is allowed to share the rights with man equally as they are given by nature. As Mary Wollstone famously said: **"Let her share the rights and she will emulate the virtues of man"**. Once woman start to share the rights with man, the societal progress and peace will become evident.