

"ONE IS NOT BORN A
WOMAN, BUT BECOMES
ONE" SIMONE de BEAUVOIR.

— x —

OUTLINE.

A - INTRODUCTION.

THESES: Patriarchy, education systems across the world, and employment othering have pushed women to become the second sex proving Simone de Beauvoir's words that "One is not born a woman, but becomes one."

B - DEFINING WOMAN.

- Gender vs Sex.
- Definition of woman as a sex and as a gender.

C - SIMONE de BEAUVOIR AND THE SECOND SEX.

- 'The second sex' as a book.
- Concept of 'the other'

D - How PATRIARCHY SHAPES A WOMAN?

- 1 - side-lining of women in decision making.
 - No say in her own life decisions.
- 2 - Women : No-cost labour.
 - child bearing.
 - household works.

E - ROLE OF EDUCATION SYSTEM IN SHAPING WOMAN.

- 1 - Biased Curriculum.
 - showing woman as weak
- 2 - Less Exposure of women to education.
 - One to three ~~and~~ woman to man students.

F - EMPLOYEMENT OTHERING OF WOMEN.

- 1 - Less opportunities
 - Men are preferred over women.
- 2 - Workplace Discremenation.
 - lower wages.
 - Harassment.

G - FEMINISM : THE ADVOCATE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

- Awareness regarding women's rights.
- Role of Simone de Beauvoir

H - CONCLUSION.

— x — x —

Since the inception of humanity a debate has been going on to define woman and her role in society. She has always played a passive role in society. ~~ruled~~ ~~by~~ Men have always dominated or tried to dominate her throughout the history. In the hunting gathering era she was given the tasks of a gatherer suggesting her weak existence. As societies were built and developed humanity developed but the woman's role remained the same. She was asked to be passive and submissive. In ancient times she was considered as property of her man, In medieval times she was deprived of her property rights and labour wages. In modern days she was not allowed to vote. And even in today's postmodern era she is deprived of many rights such as access to education or equal opportunities to employment. Such discrimination frustrated many intellectuals especially female intellectuals including Simone de Beauvoir.

she dedicated her life to the advocacy of women. To do this she wrote many books showcasing the true face of the society. One such book ~~the~~ is "The second sex" where she explains the "becoming" of a woman. Patriarchy, education systems across the world, and employment othering have pushed women to become "the second sex" proving Simone de Beauvoir's words that "one is not born a woman, but becomes one."

Before diving into the debate of becoming of a woman it is important to settle on a definition for woman. Firstly, it is important to note that woman sex and woman gender are different concepts. sex is biological and biologically a woman is someone who can bear children in her womb. However, gender is a more fluid concept changing from society to society. In general terminology a woman is someone who takes on feminine gender roles. Secondly, gender

roles must be understood. These are expected roles of a man and woman in a given culture or society. Lastly, it is imperative to understand how these gender roles shape both man and woman. Various scholars have tried to define woman as a gender. Virginia Woolf explains her as someone who takes on a passive role in society. Similarly Simone de Beauvoir defines her as "the other" to a man.

20th century saw an uprise in women's rights movements and activities, many intellectual figures came out to support and advocate women's rights. Simone de Beauvoir is one such intellectual. She ~~not~~ was a french writer and activist of the mid to late 20th century. She tried to re-surface woman's issues and show us the real face of patriarchal society and how it has been undermining women for miltenia. She wrote her book "The Second Sex" explicitly for this

purpose. In this book she has showed us how our societies have pushed woman to become just a shadow of man. She uses Ferdinand de Saussure's concept of "Binaries" to define woman as seen in her age. She explains that men and women are binaries of each other in that society and that the man is the main term whereas the woman is termed as "the other". According to her, a woman is someone who is not a man in the eyes of our societies. Simone de Beauvoir's this book gave us the understanding of how a woman is "constructed" by the society by othering her and making her "the second sex".

Now that the definition of a woman is settled upon it is pertinent to dive into the debate of how a woman becomes a woman. First of all let us see the role of patriarchy in shaping her. Patriarchy often excludes women of decision making. Family

decisions are made without her consultation. She is not considered as intelligent enough to have a say in familial decisions let alone community decisions. Some societies even deprive her of her opinion even when making decisions affecting her life. She is often, in such ~~the~~ societies, married off without her consent. A career path, if she is to have one, is chosen for her by her male patriarch. Simone de Beauvoir considers this as first stage of the society shaping a woman.

Similarly, the patriarchal society considers her as free labour ~~she~~ A woman is considered good enough only for child bearing and household chores. Such patriarchal societies have also shaped her own mind as well. She considers herself ~~a~~ good only for such tasks. This "othering" ~~and~~ shapes her identity and makes her worth only for household chores. Years of brainwashing has led her to believe that she is made

for such tasks only, she is shaped in a mold fit for the patriarchy and patriarchy takes all the advantages it can take of this "woman" it has made.

Education systems across the world, as understood by de Beauvoir, is another mold that shapes a woman into "becoming". Many of modern education systems follow a male-centered curriculum. A woman is shadowed by these systems. ~~A~~ For instance, Today's world knows everything about Albert Einstein when his counterpart Mariah Carey is unknown to many. This leads to the making of mindsets that a woman is intellectually inferior to a man.

Furthermore, a woman is provided with less exposure to education than her male counterpart. More exposure to education would take her out of mold that patriarchy has created for her. This is something that the patriarchy does not want. A woman becomes a woman only if she

follows the patriarchal setup. Quality education will let her choose her own path. This could break the mold and allow to make and follow her own setup.

Less exposure to education is bundled with lesser opportunities of employment for woman. This is another method of keeping ~~this~~ "the other" in the mold made for her. In Pakistan a one to five ratio exists with ~~male~~ to female to male employment rate. Most employers prefer men over women of the same qualification for the same post because of the understanding that woman is inferior to man. Even if a woman gets a desired job she is discriminated against. ~~the~~ wage gap is huge between the male employee and the female employee for the same position. Furthermore, she is harassed regularly and incessantly, what is alarming is the idea of this harassment being termed as "normal".

even by the woman herself. This shows us the deeply rooted concept of becoming of a woman in our societies.

All these moulds and becomings are slowly ~~foreshadowed~~ foregrounded and broken primarily due to the feminist movements. First wave of feminism broke the first mold by gaining property rights. Second wave broke the second mold by securing voting rights for woman. And third wave, of which Simone de Beauvoir was a part, made a woman understand her ~~ind~~ identity. Women in today's world are slowly and gradually creeping out of patriarchal caves and into the rays of enlightenment.

The above discussion clarifies Simone de Beauvoir's saying that one ~~do~~ is not born a woman, but becomes one. Patriarchy, education systems, and employment othering play important roles in making the mould for a woman to become

woman. This setup is
fought by all three waves
of feminism with each
wave focusing on different
perspective and mould to
break.

1 — 1 — 1

THE END.