

Topic:

One is not born
woman but becomes one.
- Simone de Beauvoir

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Essay Outline

Number your main and subheadings properly.

Good theoretical understanding. Poor execution of essay.

● Introduction

Thesis Statement: "Womanhood is not something that can be defined on the basis of biological system and differences but it is a social phenomena; society, culture, media and educational system shapes the behaviour of women."

Not simple her behaviour but the idea of womanhood and gender itself..

● Background of Statement

- a. Existentialist theory of 'being' and 'becoming' is the basis of this statement
- b. Choices, actions and social interactions rather than anatomy decide one's behaviour

This will lead to repetition further on

● Sex vs Gender Debate for the explanation of Womanhood

- a. "Sex" is determined biologically while "gender" is purely a social phenomenon.
- b. Case in Point: Margaret Mead's study of

NOT REPEATED

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'masculine' and 'feminine' behaviour in contrast

• Role of Social Structures in Construction of Gender

Why only structure.

a. Patriarchal structures play important role in constructing differences between male and female behaviour and actions.

Specify

• Political and economic fields are specifically dominated by patriarchy.

b. Cultural norms also lead to the construction of gender roles in Afghanistan and other such countries.

In what context.

example

c. Religious influence specially interpreted extremists is the major driver of construction of gender.

No specific arguments related to how gender is a social construct. No explanation of how one is not born but becomes a woman.

d. Media and education plays important role in shaping human behaviour.

• Counterargument - Biology defines gender.

a. Essence precedes existence as a counterargument of 'becoming' concept.

b. Rebuttal - Biology influences but doesn't determine social roles.

You have been specified that the issue is about the theory and philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir. You d

Evidence: Diverse female identities across the

Approach to essay is unclear. Are you doing a stance based essay? Or are you explaining the topic in question.

• Changing Conceptions of Feminism and Womanhood

- a. Feminist movements starting from 20th century shaped the concept of womanhood as a result of social construction rather than innate.
- b. Feminist movements also helped in regaining the basic human rights for woman.

• Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities.

- a. **Challenges:** Developing countries are still facing the problem in providing equal opportunities to both male and female.
- b. **Opportunities:** The rise of digital and social media and globalization has provided the world with opportunity to change the redundant concepts about females.

• Conclusion,

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The Essay

That's not deep rooted in the concept. It brings forth the concept of social construction of gender.

~~One is not born woman but becomes one.~~ (Simone de Beauvoir) This statement

~~is depicted in the concept of construction of gender by the society~~

~~rather than defining it biologically.~~ This

statement draws a clear distinction

between the two concepts 'sex' and

'gender'. According to feminists, women

are subjected to systematic process

socialization which molds their

behaviour, necessities and aspirations.

They go through a predefined system

of norms which shape their

identities rather than discovering and

accepting their own selves. History

reveals that traits which are

specifically associated with women

like submissiveness, emotionality and

domesticity - are not innate but

they have been constructed by all

of us and women, from very

Too much unnecessary detail.

This does not match your outline.

Society

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early age are subjected to this predefined system. They shape their behaviour according to these norms. Womanhood is not something that can be defined on the basis of biology but it is a complete social phenomena. Society,

culture, media, religion, educational systems are the structures which shape womanhood. These institutions are completely

dominated by patriarchy and thus limit women's autonomy and generate gender inequality around the globe.

No structure to intro
Does not fulfil its purpose.

So the behavior ascription remains quite relevant as it exposes how a socially constructed phenomena is easily termed as natural and this concept needs to be eliminated which suppress women from accepting their own natural identity.

This does not give an overview of your other headings.

Simon de Beauvoir was an existentialist philosopher who, along with Sartre, insisted on the concept of 'Existence precedes essence' and theory of 'Being' and 'Becoming' because the

ideological basis of this very statement. According to the existentialists, a person is not born with a specific identity but 'it shapes its own identity' (Sartre). de Beauvoir in her book **'Second Sex'** insisted that anatomy does not define one's behaviour and identity but their choices, actions and social interactions are the reasons for the construction of one's identity. A person is not born carrying specific behaviour but they learn with the exposure to society.

'Gender is not something one is, it is something what one does.'

(Judith Butler)

Don't write quotes in the middle of an essay. Quotes should be used as evidence to validate a point and must be part of the paragraph.

There is also a debate on definition of sex and gender as two different **terms**. 'Sex' is defined biologically while 'gender' is defined as something purely social construction. Sex, according to feminists, are two and defined as male and female

Whereas gender is something can't be defined upto a specific number. It varies from person to person, area to area and culture to culture. It is not binding at all. Every area have their own societal structures which define the behaviour of its inhabitants. To describe this very concept and to prove it **Margret Mead** studied the 'masculine' and 'feminine' behaviour in contrast. She compared the Western construction of gender behaviour to tribes of Papua New Guinea. According to her study, females of **Arapesh Tribe** were gentle and expressive just like those of western countries. But the males of that tribe were also gentle, submissive and emotional like their females. This very difference suggests the contradiction between the male construction of identity in both regions. Similarly **Chambri Tribe's** females were independent, dominant, decision-makers and leaders while males of that tribe were

Too long for a body paragraph.

were dependent and submissive to their females. It is completely opposite to the construction of gender identity in western countries. Hence Margrate Mead concluded that

~~"Gender is not unyielding and fixed in nature but it is molded by culture."~~

There are many different structures that help in construction of gender.

Word choice and expression not suitable.

Firstly it is the dominance of patriarchy in various fields.

What do you mean various fields? We are discussing social construction of gender, not prevalence of various genders in various fields.

Patriarchy is very broad, what aspect is being discussed here

Specially in politics, is one of them of a country.

In almost all countries of the world male dominant parties over mother than

Source 46% of parliaments around the globe.

According to the reports of 2023, only thirty states were head by female

Which report?? Name it.

Also you are discussing lack of women representation and its effects not the idea of social construction of gender. There is hardly any representation

of females and their issues remain suppressed. As in Pakistan, there are

very few female politicians who win their seats in parliament through election.

In 17% of Source more than 10% are rewarded with reserved seats. They

hardly get a chance to openly

~~This discusses marginalisation of women, not the idea of social construction of women. Why does what you say happen happen? Why are women not in politics?~~

participate in elections. With less gender parity of female leaders, the women's issues are

hardly conveyed to authorities and the problems remain there.

Similarly in economic fields, male dominant market prevails. Gender wage gap is a major ~~issue~~ faced by females. Occupational segregation i.e

confinement of females to low paying and low scale jobs is also a

major issue faced by females

domestic chores and work-place security is a major challenge. All these causes

help in shaping the identity and

behaviour of females. As May Wallstrom says

"Women are made weak by various prejudices inserted into her."

How does that relate to social construction of gender??

What you have discussed are not causes. Also no explanation of how they shape the identity. You have to explain.

Quote is unrelated to the point being mentioned in the paragraph.

Cultural norms and values also play

Female is an adj, it has no plural. You have to use a noun after that e.g. a female human, for which exists the word woman.

major role of gender identity of females are also associated with specific roles i.e. role of women as mother, daughters and wife, rather

Sentence structure

than a human being. Although it is a universal behaviour yet studies of

Margrate Mead makes difference. Those studies suggest that women are

not born with these roles they perform rather they adapt to what they learn. As we are aware of the cultural

No argumentation from your perspective. No analysis no explanation.

differences between western and Eastern. Each state has its own norms &

values. For instance Afghanistan, where women are hardly allowed to participate

in society, have limited access to business and higher education opportunities

No paragraph structure followed.

are rare, females have developed dependence on males and they've

become completely submissive. Similarly the construction of gender identity differs

from one area to another in the

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same state or nation. In Pakistan there is a huge difference witnessed during Aurat March campaigns as a whole group of women was against the slogans of independence. So the culture and values of an area affect differently on the construction of gender identity.

Another important structure that influences the gender construction is religion. Religion has always been a sensitive issue specially in Muslim countries as people are more serious for religious instructions. Extremists interpret the instruction of religion in their own favour and use it as basis of their extremism. They never uttered the ayat of Quran where Allah says.

"The believing men and believing women are allies of each other."

(Sura Al Taubah)

Similarly Christianity has interpreted the epistles in their own manner.

e.g. Creation order in Genesis is narrated

That's religious interpretation, how does that shape gender roles and norms

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as 'Eve created as a 'helper' for Adam. They insisted on women's role in church as being quiet. Hence the religion is used as a source to construct identities of women.

The most important and growing cause of social construction of gender is media portrayal and educational. Media plays important role in shaping public opinion. With the rise of social media and its access to everyone in the world has made its part bigger.

Portrayal of women as more weak and timid creature in series and films has effected the how? of identity of women. Construction of beauty standards for female and evidence has influenced the natural ^{behavior} of them.

Education is also an important factor in shaping gender identity. Reinforcing stereotypes and limited and specific career choices lead to the difference in behavioural adaptation.

Females' gender identity is driven by

above mentioned factors. They behave as they encounter the situations of their society and apt to the values of their very culture. They are hardly left with any choice of being independent and self choice. If they try to act according to their nature, they are criticized. As Simone de Beauvoir says:

"Man is defined as human being and woman as female - if she tries to act like human being, she is said to be imitating man."

Although there are many people who argue that gender is determined solely by biology and it is innate. They claim that 'Essence precedes existence' - person is born with the gender and behave accordingly. They refuse the concept of 'becoming' and support the 'being'. They say that sex is the driver of identity and behaviour of a gender.

This is a very limited concept

of describing the vast theory of social construction of gender. Biology determines what a person will be called in society but the roles they perform are totally determined by society. It is evident from the concept of varied and diverse female behaviours around the world. If biology has defined the gender identity it should be the same but it is not. It varies from one step to another. Even a country does not have ~~not~~ specific roles and behaviours for women.

With the change in time, the world witnessed progress in women's behaviours. Before mid 20th century, women were not provided with any freedom specially in West. Feminist movements brought great changes in social structures as women struggled and gained the right to vote. Later it developed and

women get right to divorce and more.
 All these developments influenced the
 concept of womanhood in 21st century.
 Women become ~~little~~ independent and
 started considering their own identity
 less impacted by pre structured values.
 Although the progress is slow yet there
 are changes.

Present world, with the rise of
 globalization and social media, has
 conjured the concept of gender identity
 as social construction. It is facing
 challenges as well. Since the developing
 countries, which are hard to get
 impacted by foreign campaigns due to
 strong patriarchal structures, are still
 seem to be failed in providing equal
 opportunities to both sexes. In countries
 like Pakistan, where culture and other
 values are considered seriously, early
 marriages, higher education for females, equal
 job opportunities, exposure to public affairs

and economic independence are still not carved out. These opportunities seem to be distant for now.

Yet with the changing world order and growing media influence on the lives of people is also making people aware of the global trends and opportunities. Females are now more interconnected and are aware of the equal rights their law and constitution provides them. Moreover the current feminism is more about realization of the true self of women and women are ready to accept their identities as they are. So the growing world and globalization has ^{somewhat} changed the redundant concepts about nature of females.

To conclude the whole discussion, Simon de Beauvoir's statement of 'one is not born but becomes a woman' is profoundly relevant. A person is not decide their role and behaviour on birth rather they learn it through society. The

GENERAL FEEDBACK FOR ESSAYS

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Content (40%)

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Your interpretation should be in depth, comprehensive and academic.
Always address the asked part. It should be evident in your outline, which should be self-explanatory in nature.
Essays/Outlines that give related information without addressing the asked part do not qualify.
The whole essay should be relevant. Even if 1-2 arguments are irrelevant the essay will not pass.
Distribution of topic should be according to the demand of the topic statement i.e if there is one scoring point it should be given more weight, if there are 2 or more scoring points all should be given equal weight.
All claims made in the essay must be substantiated. Out of 15-17 arguments at least 9-10 should be academically backed with proper references. The rest should be backed by either case studies or generally known information.
Evidence must be authentic and come from proper and authentic academic sources. Newspapers do not qualify as an academic source. Illustrations and vague mentions of events do not qualify as academic evidence.
Essays that are lacking in evidence, do not qualify.

LANGUAGE (25%)

Focus on enhancing your grammar as any essay with 4-5 grammatical mistakes does not pass. And
Your essay must be in the tone and tense of the topic statements. Essays that fail to comply do not pass.
Your sentence structure should be simple, yet clear and diversified. No reference in conclusion.
Vocabulary used should be simple, clear and concise. Expression should always be formal and academic.
You are never to write in 1st and 2nd person pronouns.
You must always use the given keywords and your topic for your thesis statements and main headings in your outline.

STRUCTURE (20%)

Your essay must follow the selected pattern and that structure should be maintained throughout.
INTRODUCTION: The introduction is the longest paragraph of the essay, at least 200 words. It should start with a hook, must give the glimpse of what's to come and must have a thesis statement. Besides hook, your introduction should not have any sort of information and reference. Avoid definitions in introduction.
BODY PARAGRAPHS: Approximately 150 words at most and all the body paragraphs must be consistent in length. Should follow the proper structure of an academic paragraph i.e it must have a topic sentence, supporting point, evidence and concluding sentence. The topic sentence and concluding sentence must align with each other. There should be no new information in the concluding sentence. One paragraph represents one subheading in the outline and consists of one idea.
CONCLUSION: Must start with the concluding phrase. There should be no new information in the conclusion. It should recap the arguments. Conclusion does not have any examples and information. If you are ending it on a hopeful note, remember that solutions and hope are not the same.

COHERENCE (15%)

There should be connectivity and flow between the paragraphs. Use proper connectors for this purpose not firstly, secondly, thirdly and so on.
The sequencing of paragraphs must be logical.