

# Gender and Socialization

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**Abstract:-** Gender Socialization is examined through a social psychological lens by applying identity theory and identity control theory. Gender is used to describe the characteristics of women and men that are socially constructed, while sex refers to those that are biologically determined. Socialization is a continuing process whereby an individual acquires a personal identity and learns the norms, values, behaviour and social skills appropriate to his or her social position. The school remains one of the social institutions that can and should build a deliberate gender education and a proper socialization to the benefit of society.

**Keywords:-** Gender, Socialization, Social Skills, Role of the School.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Gender socialization is a process by which individuals develop, refine and learn to 'do' gender through internalizing gender norms and roles as they interact with key agents of socialization- in other words, the people who influence the process- are parents, teachers, schools and the media. Through gender socialization, children begin to develop their own beliefs about gender and ultimately form their own gender identity. Gender is a social construct. An individual's gender is their social identity resulting from their culture's conceptions of masculinity and femininity. We treat our girl and boy child equally! Is it true or is it just a phrase you use to make peace with yourself in your own mind? "You are so pretty" or "Such a cute dress you are wearing" these are some compliments that a girl usually gets. Whereas boys receive some different kind of compliments altogether, like, "You are so strong" or "He is so good at sports." During family gatherings, you always hear these conversations like "Hope you get married to a successful and rich man" or "Your daughter has turned 25, when are you planning to get her married?" But, for boys, these aren't the conversations you hear! "I hope you have a successful business ahead" or "What are you planning to do after your graduation is complete", these are types of things you hear about boys.

## II. AGENTS OF GENDER SOCIALIZATION

The main agents of gender socialization include family, the media, school and peers. These factors form a child's self-concept and teach gender roles to children, making them the main factors in the processes of gender socialization in different societies.

**Family:** Family, a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household and interacting with each other in their respective social positions, usually those of spouses, parents, children and siblings. Most commonly, it consists of two married adults, usually a man and a woman along with their offspring, usually living in a private and separate dwelling. This type of unit, more

specifically known as a nuclear family. An extended family is a family that extends beyond the nuclear family, consisting of parents like father, mother and their children, aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins, all living in the same household. Particular forms include the stem and joint families. Single family means one or more persons, each related to the other by blood, marriage or adoption or a group of not more than three persons not all so related, together with his or their domestic servants, maintaining a common household in a dwelling.

**School:** A school is an educational institution designed to provide learning spaces and learning environments for the teaching of students under the direction of teachers. Most countries have systems of formal education, which is sometimes compulsory. In these systems, students progress through a series of schools. The full form of School are as follows:

**S-** Sincerity  
**C-** Capacity  
**H-** Honesty  
**O-** Orderliness  
**O-** Obedience  
**L-** learning

The main purpose of Indian School provide for the fullest possible development of each learner for living morally, creatively and productively in a democratic society.

**Media:** The word media is a plural form of the Latin word 'medium' meaning 'middle ground of intermediate'. The term media, which is the plural of medium, refers to the communication channel through which we disseminate news, music, movies, education, promotional messages and other data. It includes physical and online newspapers and magazines, television, radio, billboards, telephone, the Internet, fax and billboards. Media and gender refers to the relationship between mass media and gender, and how gender is represented within media platforms. These platforms include but are not limited to film, radio, television, advertisement, social media, and videos

games. The media tends to demean men in carding or domestic roles, or those who oppose violence. Such portrayals can influence perceptions in terms of what society may expect from men and women, but also what they may expect from themselves. They promote an unbalanced vision of the roles of women and men in society.

**Peer:** In Sociology, a peer group is both a social group and a primary group of people who have similar interests, age, background, or social status. The members of this group are likely to influence the person's beliefs and behavior. A peer group is a social group whose members have interests, social positions, and age in common. It is a group of people of approximately the same ages, status, and interest. This is where children can escape supervision and learn to form relationships on their own. A peer group consists of friends and associates who are about the same age and social status. This means that a 4-years-old would not be in a peer group with 12-year-olds. Similarly, college professors would not be in the same peer group as their students.

### III. PEER GROUP IN SOCIALIZATION

Socialization is a process by which culture is transmitted to the younger generation and men learn the rules and practices of social groups to which they belong. The term socialization refers to the process of interaction through which the growing individual learns the habits, attitudes, values, and beliefs of the social group in to which he has been born.

#### **Gender Stereotyping:**

Gender stereotyping is the practice of inscribing to an individual woman or man specific attributes, roles or characteristics on the sole basis of his or her membership of the social group of women or men. Gender stereotypes are preconceived ideas whereby females and males are assigned roles and characteristics determined and limited by gender. Gender stereotyping can limit the development of natural talents and abilities of girls and boys, men and women, as well as their educational and professional experiences and life opportunities in general. **Female Stereotype:** The stereotype begins since a child is a girl their tendency is more to girlish like wear pink clothes, soft toys, playing games related to home. **Male Stereotype:** The stereotypes begins since child is boy, they taught to be strong, to be protective, playing with toys like trucks, car, robot, etc.

#### **Gender Roles**

Many feminists and women are advocating for women's rights and greater equality in India. But their views on gender roles are still considered backward in comparison of western society. The role of each gender in Indian society is one that is stepped in religion and culture and makes for an oppressive tradition.

Gender roles and norms can change overtime: Gender roles and norms also change with respect to time. For

example, in some cultures males were the decision makers of the family. It was the right of male members of family. Now the same cultures accept women as decision makers. Thus these Gender roles and norms are dynamic and change over time. All these roles are enforced by the society not by nature.

### IV. Conclusion

Gender socialization is a lifelong process to provide women and men with social roles that society has considered based on sex. Most societies have different role expectations for women and men. Although sex refers to biological differences between girls and boys, gender is a social and psychological identity that society determines for men and women. Gender socialization is the process of teaching and transferring gender roles to subsequent generations. Girls and boys learn different values, skills, behavior patterns, and standards through gender socialization. So, this is a social process and is a based on nurture, not nature. This process requires the factors to be transferred to the next generation. Family, peer groups, schools, and mass media have been presented above as most important agents which internalize and reinforce gender roles in different ways. Some theories try to explain how gender differences work and develop in the society. Biological theory focuses on different hormones and importance of physical differences between men and women. Psychological theory tries to find a relationship between psychological differences between men and women. Social learning theory focuses on the importance of learning gender roles. Cognitive development theory explains the gender roles according to the growth stages of a child when she/he starts to understand her or his identity in a society. And gender schema theory discuss how gender schemas are a guide to teach different gender roles to girls and boys. In general, the key argument in gender socialization is in internalizing gender norms through different agencies. This process reproduces gender inequality because it was formed based on gender stereotypes causing the development of gender discrimination. Gender socialization is teaching gender roles and specifying different places and function for women and men in society. So, this process opposite of sustainable development goals (SDGs) which reduce inequality and seek equality between women and men. In general, understanding this fact that nature has an inconspicuous role in the process of gender socialization and this phenomenon is socially constructed helps to improve SDGs in real life. In fact, gender discrimination and gender inequality are not something that women or men were born with, and it is not natural phenomena; it is a social discrimination that is controllable though improving awareness and having a neutral socialization.

V. REFERENCES

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