

Gender Stratification : A Sociological Analysis

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Abstract

If we see the social development, it is found that right from earlier age, the discrimination prevailed in society. Gender discrimination was done on the basis of work ability, as which work would be suitable for males and which work was appropriate for female. On this basis, status at various level were also divided. Both man and women represented two different social position, and their work area were also totally different from each other, moreover they were independent for their kind of work. They were not allowed to trespass in each other work jurisdiction

As time passed, this social arrangement come to be known as Gender Stratification. Parson's in his Work named "Social System" said stratification implies the positioning of People in different Strata in society. In This stratification the position of women has also initialed the upper and lower thoughts. Nature had made male and female complementary of each other, but the social arrangement have positioned with too much gap. In this research Gender stratification have been analyzed.

KEYWORDS :- Gender, Stratification, Gender Stratification. Inequality

Introduction

Today we have proceeded so far in this progressing era that we have started creating history every day in respect to culture and civilization, There has been no aspect regarding physical development that has been stopped by us. We have tried in all ways to discriminate the gap between earth and heaven. But unfortunately, in comparison to it our thought and mental immensity had not reach to that level. We are programing only on surface level. The country where we live is unbound with traditional values, rituals and superstition. It's the time that we need to bring a revolutionary changes in our thoughts Ram Prakash Kushwaha (2008) wrote in 'Srijan Samwaad' (May, p.88) –“At present there is a need of scientific revolution for initiated to stop the social process of men's pastconscience, because our thoughts and action are regulated by existing socio-cultural system”.

Since a long time, we have been dreaming of society without social discrimination. It would be a world where all will be equal irrespective of his economical, political and social scenario. Efforts are also being made on this aspect that this equality may not be only on theoretical level but on practical level. The developing countries making every effort to implement it practically by means plans and action. The scientific and technological development in communication have lend new paths towards expression and development. As a result we now a days have started looking that things in a new

way by standing at the door of modernity. Initially our society was divided that two levels based on caste and creed but now, power, position and money also had been added to it.

Andre Beteille (in Caste, Class, Power 1969) have mentioned the stratification on basis of caste creed and power with reference to a village in South India called as Shripuram .This is an appropriate example of unequal distribution of Gender strata, when power, money, and position had been included in it. Different sociologist like Anthony Giddens, Haralambos, T.B.Bottomore, S.C.Dubey,F.G. Welly ,Parsons, K. Davis, Wilbert Moore had studies the division of strata in society on the basis of their regional studies..

In today's context we need to see the studies and documentation of stratification for detailed acquisition of knowledge. In such records we do not find any separate mention of strata related to women. A society as we know as founded by men and women both. Moreover if we see in Indian context, we find that it is still in the grip of traditions. We still are bound with the thought of patriarchal society. In this Stratification of society this patriarchal society has been considered as this best form of society. Gender Stratification has indicated the dominance of males, and had put him in prominent position.

Aim of the Study -

The country and society we live in has a traditional structure. The position, rituals, values, and assumptions of people are based on this structure. The stratification of women was not based on biological but on social thought which shows our character and day to day behavior. Have we ever thought of the consequence of such results?

Method of Study –

In this research paper has been analyses and discussed the relation between gender and social stratification based on the secondary data.

Previous Studies -

There are some studies like :Kamala Bhasin(2000),Doshi &Jain(2000),Aruna Kumari Singh(2003),Ravindranath Premanik & Aseem kumar Adhikari (2006),Shashank Shover Paul (2006), Gopalchandra Dey (2006),Devashis Sarkar (2006), Asha Mukherjee (2006),Vandana Gaud (2009),KripaGautam(2010),V.N.Singh &JanmejaySingh(2010),K.L.Sharma (2011),Madhusudan & Adarsh Kumar (2012),are based on the analysis of gender based stratification in the context of women empowerment.

Gender Stratification-An Analysis-

In Indian society, all stratification is seen to be founded not on physical base, but on social dissimilarity and differentiation.To understand it, we need to describe some concept – stratification, gender and gender stratification.

Stratification :-

In general, division of some social groups in stratas is called as Stratification.Factually in our society we see disparity in structural form, on basis of

physical aspects, it means stratification, was division of people in stratas based on power and money. It has been explained in many ways of different sociologists. Each person has a position, power and money according to the class and hence society was divided into upper and lower classes. Functionalist and Marxist have tried to understand the stratification and bifurcation into different classes based on division of labor. Michael Mann (1986) (Persons, Households/families/lineages, Genders, Classes and Nations) said in the above work, that for social stratification, we need three aspects—class, position and power which are seen in our social structure.

Gender :-

The word Gender reflects some behavioral factors that have been assigned to a male and female which they inherit in the process of growing. It is on social and cultural assumed thought, which is related to a man's and feminine action, and behavior. The behavioral Pattern of a man and women, which is not static and even changeable, is seen to flow from irrespective of time and cultural and even from one family to another. Ann Oakley (1972) in Sex Gender and Society said that Gender is related to culture. It is related to social class, in while a man and female take the form of Mannish and Feminine behavior. In our society we generally that sex and gender are one and the same thing. These two words are used as synonymous of each other.

Actually that two are varied. Sex (ie gender) is provided to a child by nature during its birth. Every child is born either as a girl or a boy. At that instance sex ie gender is recognized by its genital organs. Gender is that which is provided by the society to a child. Based on gender, the behavioral pattern of a male and female is assumed. Nature had made man and female as complement of each other. Then it is questionable that from when this discrimination has arisen. It's true, that society has imbibed this manly and feminine factors in them. This thoughts gradually leads to stratification, which leads to upper and lower position of male and female respectively.

That is to say, Sex is a natural system and gender is a social form of sex. Some basic difference between them is as follows.

SEX	GENDER
Sex is a biological or an physical	Gender is a cultural and social
In sex there is differentiation of genital organs	In Gender there is difference in manliness and feminine virtues and behavior
It has been given by nature	It have been given by society
Sex is permanent and unchangeable	Gender is non-permanent and changeable

So, the concept of Gender creates a differentiation between male and female in a society. But today, Gender is being looked up as a social concept, which not only includes manliness and femininity behavior but also it bifurcate the sexual division between the categories.

As a result Gender in a vocabularical way, indicates, towards biological factors, but this is a social concept. Every society have some characteristics, which may either be called as manly or feminine. Our culture, determines womanhood and manhood, and which develops by the process of bringing up. To cite an example, If a boy cries, mother will react as saying ‘Why are you crying like a girl ? as it only girls are meant for crying. That’s why it’s aptly said **A women is not born, but she is being made** by the society. This implies that gender is directly to related to society.

Gender Stratification :-

In our society, the division of labour , was not on the basis of biological or natural reasons , but it was assumed that women was not suitable for hard physical labour due to her physical structure and her ability to reproduce . This immense ability of women was looked upon as a easy task by the patriarcl society. This position and status of women, was not because of biological or natural factors, but was the consequence of social system. So if we see gender is the context of social stratification, we can easily visualize the dissimilarity that persist.

The roots of this lies the depth of our social system, which is a Patriarchal society. In olden days, The role of man was thought to be important regarding accumulation of food and hunting, as compared to women. Later with time, they acquired a dominant position. Hence, men’s work was related to manual hardships and power, whereas, women were confined to the periphery of her house.

Thus, women became engrossed within her home, looking after her household chores, bringing up her children and looking after her family. On the other hand the males, worked outside the homes, they dealt with aspects of power, finance, and those things needs to be distributed. The situation reached as such, that the status and position of a women was bring assigned on the basis of power and finance of a man. If man had more power, position and financial status, the position of the women was ranked accordingly. This is called as **Gender Stratification**.

John GoldThorpe (Social mobility and Class Structure in Modern Britain, 1987) said “Today women may go for higher post in jobs, but her status and position would be ranked according to her husband’s position. But it is also a fact that if women does lowly work, then in stratification, she holds a lower position. Actually the fact is a such that most of women depends on her man for her financial aspects hence the status of a women depends on the status of man.

The relationship that are formed on the basis of sex, is seen not in stratification, but in structure of society, as the position of women is judged by the her man. This is their derogatory position, which is being judged by the manly and feminine behavior. This structure has been nurtured by our patriarchy and caste system prevailing in the society .In such society if a women makes programs in her position, her credit is being assigned to her parents or her husband, i.e.to say her programs in being ornamented to males or parents in a patriarchal society.

The Gender Stratification have placed women in a secondary position irrespective of her progression, which can be seen our country, nation, society and family. This

Gender Stratification is nurturing intellectual pollution. Its here that a male is assigned a status of person but a female is assigned is nomenclature as a women, It involves a categorization of superior and lower level feeling. This dual position is a great hindrance towards progression.

Sexual discrimination is totally biological and physical aspect. **Michel Mann** wrote, “The women has been always defined as if she is not a human being, by a female. She is being defined on that parameters, which she is lacking.”

This gender bifurcation is the foundation of patriarchal society. The discrimination and inequality that prevailed in the past, it still persists but in new form. Women at that era were treats secondary, irrespective of her achievements, she still today is suffering due to gender discrimination.

Today we need to defined gender stratification in a new way. We need to abolish the gender sentiments in our day today life. We need to give women, equal opportunities, scope and leadership, equivalent to man in development aspects such an education, employment and medical fields. Today in many countries, lots of understanding writings and discussions as being done. According the regional research, it is reading assumed that in stratification system. The position of women is same as that of her husband are father. Today many things are happening in our county too, i.e. today gender stratification in being made with the consideration that women should be kept equivalent to males, This awareness is flowing through every village, cities and everywhere, which exclaims that when nature had made male and female complementary of each other. So where the question of discrimination did had raised.

Awareness in gender aspects is being seen these days in countries like Europe and America. Studies are also being made in this direction. Some results are also being seen in this aspects That is to say, today, we need to know the name of father along with her mother during the admissions of a child, women are also given ownership along with her husband in land and property. There can be taken as the change or new reformation that is the field of gender stratification.

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