

GENDER ROLE ATTITUDE

“Gender role attitudes” refer to views held by individuals regarding the roles men and women should play in society. It is a term most often used with respect to the distinction between paid and unpaid work. When individuals agree that a traditional division of labor between men and women – with men in the role of breadwinner and women in the role of homemaker – is advisable, they are considered to have traditional gender role attitudes. This is independent of their own behavior. When they do not agree with such a division of labor and instead want a more equal division of labor, they are considered to have egalitarian or modern gender role attitudes.

1. INTRODUCTION:

An individual's gender role attitude is their set of beliefs regarding the appropriate role for men and women in society.

Gender roles and their related attitudes vary significantly from society to society and can also vary over time. Gender role attitudes reflect social definitions of femininity and masculinity and define gender-appropriate behaviors based on culturally specific norms. Gender role attitudes of the men and women are influenced from many aspects of social and cultural stereotypes. Therefore the purpose of the essay is to show that origin of gender role, stereotypes and sources of gender roles and the recent changes on the men and women role in the society.

Society and culture shape the gender role attitudes. Society expects the proper behavior and personality from men and women. The history of the sexism, women have had less status and power than men they controlled only domestic work such as cooking, cleaning and child rearing while whereas men tended to work outside the home such as hunting, foraging and in paid employment. Although, this division of labor might be the part of biological feature as men are

stronger than women, it is the socialization of boys and girls in preparation for a life in these roles that produces difference between men and women. In addition, social scientists believe gender role attitudes influence a wide range of behaviors, including work, education, and family life (Morgan and Waite 1987; Thornton, Alwin, and Camburn 1983; Parsons 1949). When increase of the education level, men and women roles are change as recent decades.

3. GENDER ROLES AND STEREOTYPES:

Sex-role beliefs become sex-role stereotypes when individuals employ those sets of behaviors as rules to be applied to all males and females. For instance, women have more expressive traits like being more emotional or sentimental and more communal than being selfless and concerned with others, whereas men have more instrumental trait which means acting to reach goal (Parson,1955) and more agency, being self-interested, self-assertive, and motivated toward mastery(Block, 1973). Feminine stereotypes are affectionate, gentle, appreciative and sensitive however they also complaining, weak and nagging. On the other hand, masculine stereotypes are forceful, aggressive, independent and ambitious but also boastful, coarse and disorderly (William &Bennett, 1975; Diekman &Eagly, 2000). Moreover, women are known as the child-centered housewife, which was idealized in the 1950s, originated during the industrialization of the nineteenth century. Gerson, (1985), predicates that the development of the factory system during this era resulted in the social, physical, and economic separation of the public and private spheres. The traditional female role, in which the woman performs housework and engages in child care, is associated with low levels of prestige and negative values in comparison to the role

of men (Riley, 2003; Bernard, 1981). Men's role in the many societies is person who is bread winning, which suggests that providers are involved in a competition for earnings.

4. SOURCES OF GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES:

Whether attitudes are converging over time; and to what extent there are generational differences regarding family values. There may have been

pronounced value shifts about some aspects of family life, while other values show greater continuity. Therefore, gender role attitude shaped with different social and individual expectation and sources. Parents, teachers, peers, history, sociology, marriage and family textbooks, everyday language and the mass media are carriers of role models and stereotypes that influence the choices of individuals. This part of the essay will help to understand the effect of these sources in the four categories.

1. Parents, Teachers, Peers:

Parents start to train their children from they were infant in an appropriate way to their gender. Children learn how to be parent, son, daughter, student and businessman in their life from their parent. Mother and father tend to describe their children as tiny, soft and delicate if they are girl, and alert, firm and bigger if they are boys. Toys and color of room or cloths also demonstrates the girl and boys figure. Girls play with dolls kitchen toys, while boys play with soldier lego, vehicle and gun. Teacher effect the children attitude on the way of choosing the future job. Teachers expect to become the nursery and school teacher from girls and engineer and doctor from boys. Teachers encourage boys to be capable and independent and girls to feel helpless and dependent in the social interactions. According to Langlois and Downs, in nursery school and elementary school, children's peers become increasingly strict monitors and enforcers of gender role norms in activities, references, friendships, and so on.

2. History, Sociology, Marriage and Family Textbooks:

Writings and researches about the gender role effects the people's attitudes as their objectivity and factuality of the scientific findings even though sociologists and writer on history base on the stereotypes and bipolar view of gender roles in their writing. Therefore in the recent text books about marriage and family encourage people to avoid from past deficiencies. Many of them emphasize the recent changes in expected role for man and women.

3. Everyday Language :

Our everyday speech often expresses and reinforces gender role stereotypes. Language reflects the inequality between men and women in the society. Language use to show gender stereotypes for example phrases like women doctor and men nurse shows our societies` normal expectation about the sex of individual in these occupations. Language also treats the male as normative and ignores women. The most widespread example of this is use of the masculine as a generic form, as in chairman, layman, policeman, workman, businessmen. These words are used for both male and female sexes

4. The Mass Media:

The mass media feature the predominant presence, authority, and positive presentation of men as compared to women.

A majority of the son's lyrics describe men and women in the

society or individual stereotypes. Moreover television program shows men are smarter powerful rational and stable. Women characters are usually shown as younger, attractive, warmer and happier than men.

5. CHANGES IN GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES:

Women increase their economic power and social interaction in the outside of the home so women's activities changed the stereotypes and gender role attitudes in the world with the effect of the mass media and education. Women become more active in workplaces and scientific studies. This changes effect also men status in the society and home. Both men and women start to share their responsibilities at home and outside. Women get public support for governmental adoption and equality. Worker consideration of people change and this influence the place of women at work. Women's movements are the most effective factors to change the traditional gender role attitudes in the male role at home, work as a partner and parent.

Gender role attitude shaped by stereotypes, family background, society, everyday using language, scientific studies and mass media. All people who are male or female try to act and behave in appropriate way to their gender to get

acceptance and respect in the society. Gender role determine the responsibilities and status of people all around the world. However, many stereotypes are collapsed about gender role with the increasing economic power and education level of women and mass media. In recent, traditional gender role and stereotype lost their effect on people and equality and task sharing between both gender male and female become important.