

Implicit incarnations of gender roles in the contemporary society

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Abstract

The positions that men and women are supposed to fill depending on their sex are known as gender roles. Based on the social structure and hierarchy, men and women are assigned certain roles, which leads to stereotyping of genders with rigid gender roles. The patriarchal framework also fuels these gender roles and vice versa. The different explanations of the word "Gender roles" are extracted through an examination of the research articles that were conducted on the topic. This investigation into the younger generation's comprehension of the concept of gender roles that have been established by our society has been carried out to gather information. To accomplish this, an initial survey will be carried out on the population that falls into the age category spanning from 14 to 63 years old. The data is carefully analysed to arrive at a conclusion. A personal reaction that we received from individuals on a socially inappropriate subject also included, albeit in a short form, in order to gain an understanding of how far society has progressed from its earlier stages over the course of the years.

Keywords— Biological sex; Gender; Gender roles; Social role theory; Survey

I. INTRODUCTION

The concepts of gender and sex are completely distinct from one another. The term "sex" refers to the biological identification of a person, which is determined at the moment of a person's birth based on their physical and physiological characteristics. whereas gender is something that a person can associate himself or herself with in some way. Meanings and beliefs determine a person's gender (Blackstone et al., 2003). The sex of a person is frequently used to determine a person's appropriate gender position; for example, a female is more likely than a male to be submissive and compassionate. Therefore, positions of compassionate character are generally those that are given priority when hiring a female employee (Lindsey & Linda L., 2020). As a result of the perception that men are more capable of physical labour and intellectual endeavours, society generally expects men to pursue careers in these areas. People are held to different standards based on their gender in our culture, and these expectations are referred to as "Gender roles" (Wharton, n.d.). The concept of gender is one that has been historically constructed through people's

interactions with one another and their surroundings. In the beginning, our culture accorded different positions and values to different people entirely and exclusively on the basis of their gender. (Tong, 2012) These attributions are steadily shifting among people as time goes on, and an alternative perspective on gender norms is being established as a result of this change. Despite this, there are still a lot of people who adhere to the outdated ideas that have been passed down about how men and women should behave in terms of their positions and responsibilities in society. Gender has persisted in our society for a very long time. It is an artificial term that has arisen from interactions among people with each other and with the environment (Blackstone et al., 2003). Gender will continue to exist for as long as people communicate with one another and continue to organise themselves into societies. It is now an inseparable component of society and has fully integrated itself into the obligations that are inherent to society. The concept of gender has been around for a long time, but different people have different ideas about what it means. These interpretations and concepts continue to evolve along

with the shifts in society that are brought about by the passage of time, revolutions, theories, and conversations. The most fundamental aspect of the gender categories that exist in our culture today is gender. As with gender, different individuals will have different interpretations of what gender roles entail, and these roles will shift from society to society and over time according to factors such as culture, sex, and relationships. (Blackstone et al., 2003). When a person is observed for the first time, the gender of that person is the first thing that is characterised, even if there is no significance to gender in the setting in which the observation is being made. Because of the dichotomous nature of gender, people have a tendency to make direct comparisons between men and women, which in turn has contributed to the formation of gender stereotypes. Because of the inevitable contentiousness that arises from discussing gender norms, the topic is rarely broached in contemporary society. There is a blurring of the lines between gender duties and gender prejudice, which suggests that the positions that are allocated suggest that one gender is preferable to the other. (Frawley, 2012) Because of this, it is an important subject of conversation that needs to be zeroed in on and talked about honestly. The beliefs that have been held traditionally about gender roles centre on the roles that each gender is expected to play in terms of responsibilities and behaviours in the professional and household spheres. (Dicke et al., 2019). The researcher looks at how gender roles are interpreted in today's society, how they intersect with gender preconceptions, which actors play a significant role in the passing of gender roles, and how they developed from conventional beliefs. In this research, we performed a survey to look at how gender roles are interpreted in today's society.

Need of the study

'Gender and roles' are two terms that may appear to be mutually exclusive but are in fact extremely interconnected and have a significant impact on other sectors and areas of society. Social Role Theory has added to this area by researching men's and women's conduct as well as prejudices and beliefs that exist in our society. However, this alone does not describe a wide range of subjects of interest. Gender plays a significant role in the world that has been established for politics, economy, and, most significantly, fundamental liberties such as equity, education, and so on. Studying gender and how it influences an individual's job choice through the views of society will help answer questions about the challenges women experience in politics and economics, among other things. In the twenty-first century, when our society has finally begun to embrace people coming out and investigating their gender and sexuality, gender research will make it simpler for people who identify as having a fixed gender. A few

years ago, it was widely assumed that there were only two genders: male and female. However, we have hit a point where individuals have been classified as belonging to a gender that is neither of these. There are over 20 different kinds of gender, including gay, androgynous, demi-gender, intergender, and others. The implication is that changes are happening at a quicker rate than anticipated, and assigning positions based on a person's actual sex is something we should consider. The least we can do is comprehend how society views the highly unpopular topic, 'What are Gender Roles?' As a first step towards addressing these concerns about gender norms, we are undertaking an initial poll of individuals of all ages, origins, genders, races, occupations, and so on.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study is a cross-sectional study that employs primary data. The targeted population is anyone with a basic education to understand the intensity of the survey conducted. Apart from that, no other restrictions were placed on the respondents. Respondents belonging to any age group, profession, ethnicity, gender, or any other criteria could be part of the sample. The sample survey conducted has the responses of the individuals recorded, and from the data obtained, the sample size for the survey conducted is 136. The age groups of the people in the sample range from the lowest at 14 to the highest at 63. The study was mainly comprised of respondents belonging to the middle age group rather than teen adults. So, the study will mostly comprise the perspectives of older generations on the topic of gender and roles. The gender of the respondents was not considered as part of the study because that would mean the responses should be segregated, and that would certainly lead to a different part of the study where the focus will be on how different genders consider the roles they were assigned to base on their biological sex. To avoid further segregation in the study, the gender of the respondents is not considered. There is also assurance that the respondents have all undergone the basic education required to understand the intensity of the topic, the research, and the definitions of the terms used in the survey. A self-structured questionnaire with multiple choice and a few descriptive questions was prepared and circulated among the different age groups. The respondents are considered the sample, and that makes up the sample size of 136. The questionnaire consisted of a total of 14 questions, which were prepared after reviewing multiple literature articles on the topic. The collected data was analysed by statistical analysis and connected with theories related to gender roles for deriving conclusions about gender roles in the contemporary social structure.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sociological Perspective

Sociology is all about the socialisation process, and they point out the gender norms that are followed from the birth of a child depending on the child's gender. The behaviour of people surrounding the child is heavily based on the gender of the child. Female children are handled with care and taught to be docile and emotion-oriented. Male children are taught not to express their emotions and to be goal-oriented. These are followed according to the gender norms that are considered acceptable by the people living in society. As society is not uniform or unique, socialisation and these gender norms vary from one society to another.

Ecological Perspective

The ecological perspective tells us about the interactions between the citizens, the community, the surrounding environment, and the various social groups. This in turn reflects the principle that gender roles are not solely created by an individual. In addition to that, there is a major role played by the physical and social environment and relations that we as individuals operate in and thus are part of. (Blackstone et al., 2003) For example, it is not that a woman and a man working in a company have themselves designed their roles. There are contributions from the surrounding colleagues, the superiors, other companies, and so on. The roles of individuals are, to an extent, determined by the society that we associate with. The roles of that woman and man will be determined by the authority by mimicking what has already been followed in other companies or by assuming that certain jobs should be handled on the basis of gender, and here they consider other factors like biological, cultural, and so on.

Heredity and environmental perspective

There is a general, illogical assumption that females are not as strong as males and that they are not smart enough. Thus, women are treated as the 'inferior' gender and associated with characteristics like being docile, fragile, hard to understand, and complicated. Whereas men are considered wise and brave and are associated with features like courage, valour, intelligence, knowledge, strength, and so on. The studies conducted by scientists have shown with proof that there is no gender-based differences in general and common intelligence between the two genders. That means that the assumptions about 'men are wiser than women' or vice versa are invalid and are merely considered assumptions. Nature and nurture are two important factors that determine the gender of a person. But along with that, the interactions with society and biology will then develop the characteristics that will ensure other

features in both males and females. There are a few studies that show that if a female foetus was subjected to the male hormone called androgen in the 2nd semester of pregnancy, then there is a higher probability of the female developing a personality that will help her break out from the typical gender roles stereotype that is assigned by society. It might not make sense that these two factors—genetics (hereditary) and environment—are two factors that affect gender-roles. (Cleveland et al., 2016) But there has been so much research, and there is still ongoing research, with monozygotic twins (identical) and dizygotic twins (fraternal), that we have concluded that these two are in fact two very important factors and perspectives towards gender roles that we must pay attention to.

Feminist Perspective

This is the newest addition to the perspectives, and this is the most modern view that most feminists will agree with, hence the name 'The Feminist Perspective'. This talks about how so-called gender roles are not fixed. They can be unlearned, and they are not fixed to the gender that you identify with. It further points out the fact that no job or role should be assigned to an individual based on their gender or sex. (Alhumaid., 2019).

Instead, all jobs and basic responsibilities must be taught to every single person so that they are capable people who can survive on their own without depending on anyone. It is possible to unlearn and relearn the values, roles, and responsibilities that have been indoctrinated into an individual from childhood by our culture, society, and ancestors.

Socialisation's take on gender roles

Studies about gender and gender roles are very new topics in sociology, but these are very relevant topics. The introduction and inclusion of these topics began with the women's movement, led by those who strongly believed that women were treated unequally in all aspects compared to men. And these people were given the term "feminists." The feminist movement gained attention and thus led to the inclusion of these topics in the study, and later they came to the understanding that there weren't enough studies about women and their roles. Studying this, in turn, will help them determine the roles of men in society. In short, we can say that it is what was initially termed "Sociology of Women" that has morphed and transformed into what is now taught as 'Sociology of Gender' to the aspiring sociologists of our future generation. The conundrum that most sociologists encountered during the study of gender roles was whether it was due to physical and biological factors or other factors like culture, social groups, environment, and social interactions with one another. It is still elusive, and we cannot pin-point one such factor. Nevertheless, what has

been found out and is now focused on is that society and social factors do influence gender roles. The study of this is termed "gender socialisation. Gender socialisation is defined as "processes through which individuals take on gendered qualities and characteristics and learn what their society expects of them as males or females", as said by Amy S. Wharton in her famous book titled 'The Sociology of Gender: An Introduction to Theory and Research'.

Theory of Social Learning

Both positive and negative reinforcements that children are taught based on gender-appropriate and gender-inappropriate behaviour teach them about gender roles. And learning need not be only through instructions or oral knowledge that the child receives. Most of the learning happens through the four factors that determine the process of socialisation: imitation, suggestion, identification, and language. (Pescaru., 2018).

Of these 4, observation and mimicking, which come under imitation, are the ones through which children identify the gender roles that our society has asserted. By reinforcements, we refer to both rewards and punishments. These are the primary differences that children will spot and associate with gender. (scott., 2016) One example is in the case of two children playing in a playground, and if a girl falls and gets injured, she is consoled by her parents and rewarded with chocolates. In case it is a boy who falls and injures himself, if he cries, he is told by his parents that "boys shouldn't cry," and he will be warned to be careful the next time and will be left on his own to take care (Daines et al., 2021). Such minor actions will easily be noticed, and children will read between the lines and associate their behaviour with rewards and punishments at first. As they age, they will start associating their behaviour with gender and will consider those to be their roles.

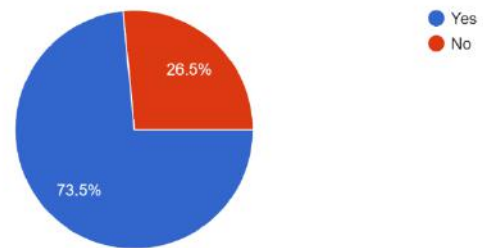
IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of Descriptive Statics of Survey

Age

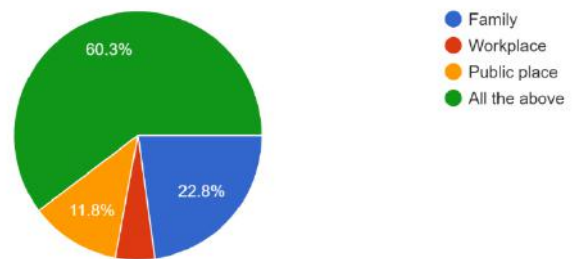
Most of the respondents belong to the age group of 45, which is the middle-aged group. As mentioned before, the gender of the respondents is not prioritised in this study to avoid a change in focus. The youngest person to take part in the survey is a 14-year-old, and the oldest is a 63-year-old.

Experience of gender roles



The pie chart represents with clarity the answer to the specific question. The inference is that more than half of the sample, or 73.5%, acknowledges that they have indeed experienced or come across the issue of gender roles either within their family or with their peers. We are not ignoring the minority group, and it is to be noted that more than 1/4th of the population, that is, 26.5% of the sample, has not had this experience.

Prominence of Gender roles



This topic must be carefully understood. The majority of the sample, 60.3%, stated that gender roles are widely visible in all three areas, namely the home, the job, and public locations. Again, 22.8% said it happened in the household, with 11.8% saying it happened in public areas and then at work. When it comes to where a person spends the bulk of their time, all three areas are extremely important to an individual's existence. When they are a member of a family, they go through a period where they are moulded into an individual with a distinct identity. What a kid sees is what he or she will remember, and they will integrate those lessons into their behaviour even if an adult does not tell them to. Such a shift in behaviour will develop with them and will soon become part of their character as well as their beliefs and ideals. The workplace is where an individual must demonstrate everything he or she has learned as well as connect and converse with other human beings. Restaurants, educational institutions, groups, faith sites, the government sphere, and other public locations will be included. Gender norms are also prevalent in these regions. For example, in the past, males dominated the political arena in schools because they were seen as competent at guiding the youth. Similarly, men were given

greater standing than women in schools and church institutions because they were deemed intelligent and well-educated. family, they go through a period where they are moulded into an individual with a distinct identity. What a kid sees is what he or she will remember, and they will integrate those lessons into their behaviour even if an adult does not tell them to. Such a shift in behaviour will develop with them and will soon become part of their character as well as their beliefs and ideals. The workplace is where an individual must demonstrate everything he or she has learned as well as connect and converse with other human beings. Restaurants, educational institutions, groups, faith sites, the government sphere, and other public locations will be included. Gender norms are also prevalent in these regions. For example, in the past, males dominated the political arena in schools because they were seen as competent at guiding the youth. Similarly, men were given greater standing than women in schools and church institutions because they were deemed intelligent and well-educated. Despite the fact that our society has moved on from these ideals, there are still many examples of gender roles in different areas. Another massive subject that has piqued the interest of youthful scholars is gender responsibilities in the contemporary age.

Family

The primary roles begin in the family. A conventional family consists of a mother, father, children and other distant relatives like grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins etc. You can evidently see the gender roles taken up by the different members in a family.

Marriage

Among couples, there are prevalent gender roles that they are assigned to carry out once they are married. These are determined mainly by their culture, religion and country. In an orthodox family, women could be forced to give up their job and take up household duties and the male partner is pressured into stable employment and family support. Under current gender roles followed in most of the countries, men have the role of breadwinner and women have the job of feeding the family.

Parents

Both mother and father take on the responsibilities of parents and have a role in guiding the child in various ways. This largely depends on the gender roles, or rather has reached a stage where it is defined by gender roles. Mothers are considered nourishing figures due to their biological role in upbringing of a child. When a baby is born, the nourishment it needs to survive comes from the mother. This is one of the most important reasons why mothers have a supportive and caring role whereas fathers are seen to be stricter and play a greater role in decision-making and management of the family's financial condition.

Workplace

This is an important area where gender roles are concentrated. Before industrialization, men majorly focused on agriculture and women looked after the family. After industrialization, with the growing demand for labour, women also slowly entered the working class. During this time, there were some jobs which were considered feminine like nurses, bakers, cleaners etc and given to women and those who accepted the jobs defined by men like army, construction work, teachers, doctors etc were disapproved. Even today, after so many revolutions and manifestations, the segregation of jobs based on gender roles still exists in some parts of the world.

Another part of the workplace that is gendered is people who work in the same field. In a patriarchal world, women are undercut and considered inferior to men. In interviews, a woman's ability to manage her personal and professional life together is questioned, whereas for a man this is of no importance. When focusing on projects or business trips, priority is given to a woman's family background and obligations to her family rather than her skills and the hard work she brings to her job. Women are encouraged to fill secretarial positions when it comes to taking care of their work supervisor's work, ensuring everything runs effortlessly, and scheduling. Men play leadership roles that involve leading a team, making important decisions, managing people and so on.

Peer Group

After family, gender roles are imposed on peer groups. Stereotypical messages passed on between peers can influence people. One collects information about one's gender role from one's peers and accepts it, assuming it is general and normal.

Educational Centres

The primary centre where children are exposed to and taught about gender and gender-associated roles It is through the socialisation that occurs in school—the conversations with teachers, interactions between students, and the textbooks—that the child gets an idea about gender roles.

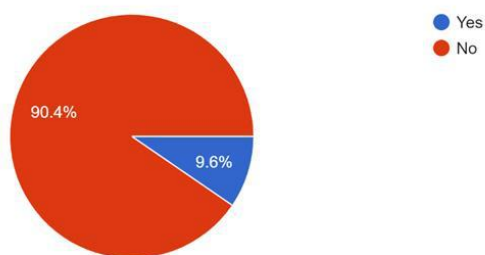
Teachers

How the teachers socialise with the students shapes their thoughts on a variety of issues. That's why teachers are important agents of socialisation and can have a direct impact on the future citizens of the country. Children learn in depth about various subjects from their teachers, and it is necessary for the teachers to be familiar with the appropriate gender roles in order to pass them on to the next generation.

Textbooks and magazines

Information in textbooks is pivotal to how a child interprets gender roles. The words and images that are represented in the pages are of great significance. It indirectly highlights the traditional role of the child in society and makes it easier for the child to accept it. A child is encouraged to follow the rules assigned to him by an authority figure that is taken over by parents at home and teachers at school. They blindly follow the rules without questioning, and hence it is easier to influence them with the pictures in the textbooks and associate them with genders. How the characters are portrayed in the books indicates how the children analyse the outside world and relate to the roles assigned to them. It is more significant in the primary classes as the child is more curious to learn, has keen observational skills, and analyses quickly (Atay & Danju, 2012).

Gender roles and Sex



The indirect inference is that we can interpret that those who belong to the majority, that is, those who believe gender roles and the sex of a person are independent of each other, have a clear definition and understanding of the two terms, gender and sex. Many times, people assume that both gender and sex are synonyms and that they are of two types: male or female. The reason for this assumption is that these respondents were able to understand the terms properly enough to come to the conclusion that both are independent attributes. Sex is a biological concept, and there are three possibilities that will be assigned to an individual upon birth. These 3 possibilities are: female, male, and intersex. On the other hand, gender is what an individual identifies themselves with, and it is not limited to these three possibilities. It is normal for a person assigned as female at birth to later identify as male. Here, female is the biological sex assigned to the individual, and the gender that the person identifies with is male. So, when the question is answered, the majority says that the roles and duties assigned to the person should be based on their sex, which is not based on female sex. The minority might or might not have understood the definitions of the two terms. It cannot be concluded. Either way, their interpretation is that the

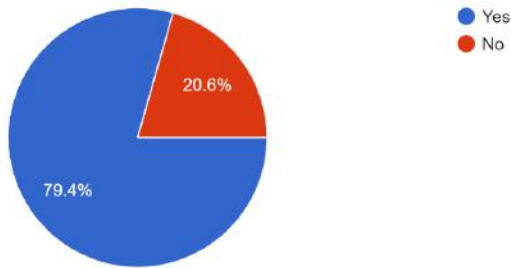
roles must be assigned based on the female sex and not on the male gender that 'he' considers himself to be.

If your answer is "yes" for the previous question, then why?

Since this was a descriptive question, a wide range of responses were obtained. But since it was answered by people who answered the previous question as "yes," only a very small percent of the total respondents had answered this question, that is, 9.6% of 136 respondents. The study will be more precise and accurate if attention is given to analysing the individual answers. Further, this will improve our understanding of the thought process behind the answers and why exactly they stuck to the misinterpretation that gender roles should be assigned based on the biological sex of a person. Most of the answers are 'Gender roles should be based on gender,' or rather, they point towards the same answer through different words. This gives us clarity regarding how most people are still not clear about how different these two terms are and that they are not one and the same thing. 'Sex' refers to the biological sex of a person that is determined at birth. Whereas "gender" is more about acquired values and morals and what an individual identifies with. It could be the same as their biological sex or entirely different, and both situations are normal.

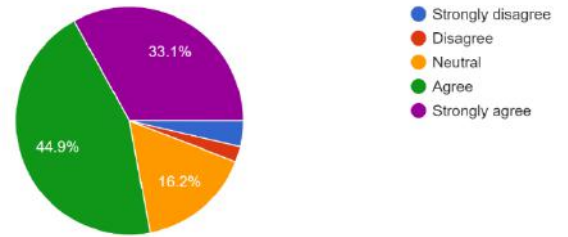
Then there were very few whose answers were from a whole different perspective of how women and men are different in nature, like their physiques, strengths, personalities, and so forth. This is not an entirely wrong point of view, but it is not that all people of the same gender and sex have the same behaviour according to which the roles and duties are assigned. In the majority of cases, society is responsible for moulding the personality of an individual, and it is their expectations of how a man and woman should be that are passed on to young boys and girls. Children observe such differences, try to incorporate them into their habits, and soon behave according to the likes and dislikes of the community. At some point, people will realise that this is not who they are and will work towards the change that we can now see happening around us.

Gender roles among heterosexual and homosexual couples



Research and theoretical studies have been conducted on this topic, and that will be helpful in understanding why there is more equality and balance in dividing work between homosexual couples than heterosexual couples. Whether it is gay couples or lesbian couples, they follow different strategies that ensure balanced housework distribution, which is very rarely seen in heterosexual couples. The studies took into consideration numerous cases, including those of childless heterosexual couples compared with those of homosexual couples with no children. Another set was a comparison between the siblings, which includes one sibling who is in a homosexual relationship and the other in a heterosexual relationship. In all these cases, equality in sharing household work was seen in same-sex marriages. When it comes to work, we know there is paid and unpaid work. Unpaid work mainly comprises household chores that are a must, and every individual must know how to manage such work, which is never taught anywhere. Sharing of these household chores is seen in lesbian and gay marriages, irrespective of each other’s income, education, and employment (Bauer, 2016). Different strategies are followed by couples in homosexual relationships. In lesbian relations, it is mostly found out that they believe in egalitarian methods, and the chores are either done together or on an alternate basis. Shechory & Ziv (2007) Among gay couples, there is a division of work, but it is mostly each individual sticking to the work that they are comfortable with and are experts in. (Bauer, 2016). The same results are visible in the survey analysis, where the majority of the people, 108 out of 136, strongly believe that there is an egalitarian system followed in homosexual marriages compared to heterosexual marriages when it comes to sharing work and chores.

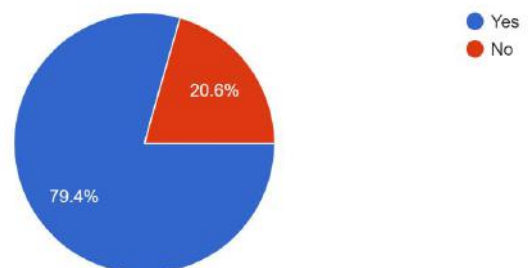
Society is responsible for instilling the concept of gender roles



A negligible number of people disagree with this statement. Gender is developed in response to various attributes of life and behaviour. These characteristics are not part of us when we are born, but at a later stage, we develop them. Based on these roles, both men and women are assigned roles by society. Society will start becoming an integral part of a person’s life from childhood. At a young age, society will comprise immediate family, educational institutions, and entertainment media, which will become a larger circle as we grow up. Society is also responsible for instilling gender stereotypes. Stereotypes influence an individual’s thoughts, and they tend to have a mostly negative effect on people. Few examples equate women with individuals who are sensitive and lack logical thinking. Men are associated with characters like leadership, rational thinking, independence, etc. These notions and assumptions have the ability to suppress the potential of an individual to escape from these stereotypes instead of living under constant pressure and expectations from society. (Mihalová et al., 2015)

It is crystal clear that as time passes, more people are getting a vivid image of how society has a role to play in instilling gender roles, and people are trying to realise and relearn the terms and characteristics.

Responsible for women

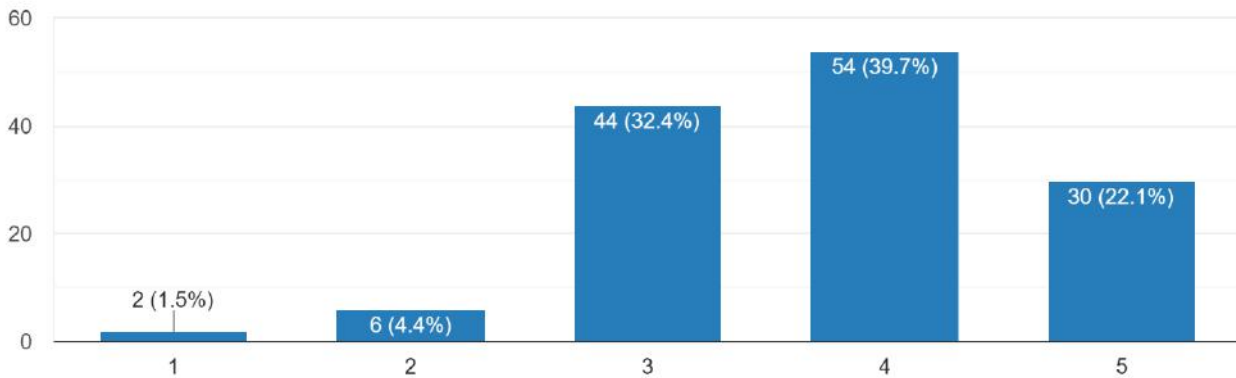


Gender bias is very common in the hiring sector. Various studies conducted using different sample sets led to the same conclusion: employers exhibit gender bias, either knowingly or unknowingly. (Gonzalez et al., 2019) If a man and a woman apply for the same job and both have similar achievements noted in their resumes, and if the company

offers the job to the man with no specific reason as to why the woman was rejected, then this is called gender bias. The conscious or unconscious tendency to select a man to carry out a task even though women are equally capable is termed "gender bias. This gender bias decreases as the qualifications of a woman increase, but it increases for a woman who is a mother. In most countries, employment is a gendered sector that views men as possessing greater commitment, leadership, and ambition to work and succeed. In addition to this, there are cultural norms that justify what

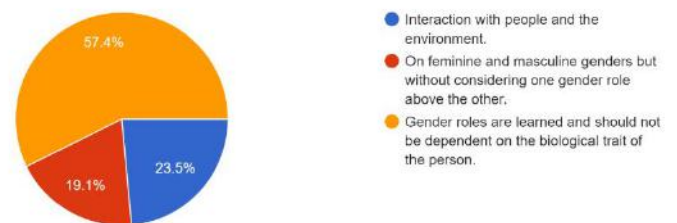
men and women are supposed to do and not do. All these beliefs and values tend to be in favour of men, and thus they get the jobs easily when compared to women. There is also stereotyping about not-working men and working women that presses them to live according to the ways of society. 79.4% have rightly said that gender roles have contributed to the inequality women face in the hiring sector.

Gender stereotypes overlap with gender roles



Attitude theory is a theory that defines a person's inclination to have a favourable or negative opinion of something. For ease of analysis, it is categorised into three classes: cognitive, affective, and behavioural. Cognitive refers to the assumptions the person has with respect to the labelled object; affective refers to the person's emotions associated with the object; and behavioural refers to how the person behaves towards the object. (Eagly & Mladinic, 2016) It is the cognitive class that helps us analyse stereotypes. Gender stereotypes refer to the assumptions made about the character and behaviour of a person that they are thought to possess. Stereotypes are a result of the gender roles that are present in society. 54 of the total 136 respondents gave a rating of 4 on a scale of 1–5 and think gender roles play a crucial role in the gender stereotypes that exist. There is a very thin line between gender roles and gender stereotypes that is blurred. Gender is not binary. It is not what a person is born into; rather, it is what the person identifies with. Most societies recognise only two genders: male and female, and the gender roles that exist are founded on these two genders. These are the roles that society considers acceptable for that particular gender. Gender stereotypes are when we generalise the roles played by a person according to their gender and simplify them to a great extent.

- On feminine and masculine genders but without considering one gender role above the other
- Gender roles are learned and should not be dependent on the biological trait of the person



57.4% of the respondents believe that gender roles are learned and should not be dependent on a person's biological trait. This clearly demonstrates that gender roles are perceived differently in today's society and that they do not need to be based on an individual's biological traits. Society will assign roles to the members of the society, but rather than based on gender, the roles should be acquired based on their interest in handling the position, skills, and compatibility.

Basis of gender role

- Interaction with people and the environment

Domestic work to women and not men

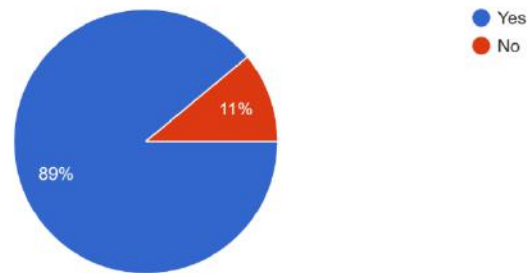


In this research question, we investigate why responders believe that domestic work is attributed to women more than men, even though it is a basic survival skill that everyone should have without any gender disparity. Based on the analysis, we could gather that almost half of them responded by saying the reason is that women are perceived as more nurturing than men.

Men are viewed as being more assertive, whereas women are seen as caring. This is also visible in the type of occupation that they choose. Men are more dominant in jobs that require physical power and assertiveness, whereas women are more dominant in sectors that require care and attention. A survey conducted shows at least a 50-minute difference in the time spent on household activities by men and women, with more time focused on food and drink preparation. Statistics, B. L. (2008) We can see a difference in the regions they spend their money on to help others. Men tend to spend more money on emergency rescues, and women donate money to NGOs and orphanages. These differences were related to the biological differences between men and women, and it was stated that the basic difference that men have more muscle power and the ability of women to reproduce are the reasons for their primary behaviours to be assertive and nurturing, respectively. The difference in the hormones secreted, testosterone and oxytocin, was also considered a factor in the behavioural differences. As a result, gender differences are frequently viewed as firmly based in evolution and hard-wired in the brain, mirroring the distinct roles for men and women. But from the scientific insights, a different conclusion can be gathered. A single hormone is not responsible for a specific behaviour, and its secretion is based not only on gender but also on the situations a person faces. Both men and women can produce the same hormones, depending on the situation at hand. Similarly, many studies were conducted on the brain to see if there were any differences in brain tissue, but the results did not show any reliable differences. Studies on cognitive abilities between men and women also showed more similarities than differences. From this, we can infer that the behavioural gender differences that exist in our society are not based on the biological difference between the genders; instead, it is the societal roles that are assigned

to men and women that enlarge this difference. (Ellemers, 2018)

Differences between the past and current gender roles

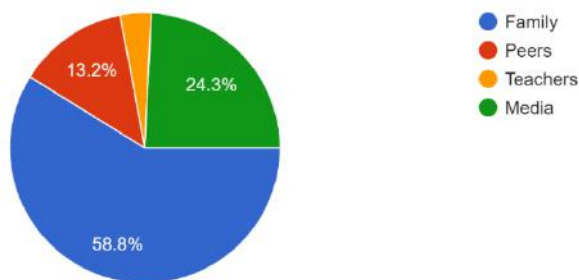


The majority of the respondents agree that there have been differences noted between past and current gender roles. There is definitely a change if you compare the past gender roles with the current gender roles. It might not be very evident when we take it as a whole, but if we consider each society or ethnic group, we can clearly see the difference that time and other changes in society have brought to gender roles. Earlier, only men were considered the breadwinners in a family, and women took care of the house. Even though this is still followed in various societies, we can see a significant difference. There are numerous families where both men and women share the financial and domestic responsibilities, and, in some parts, you can even see men taking care of the house while the woman earns. In terms of occupation, it is evident that women are also coming up in fields that were earlier termed masculine and male-dominated. This clearly depicts the change. But if one has to be precise, then the change should be noted in different sectors separately. This will provide a more reliable analysis of whether there has been a significant change or not in gender roles in the past and present.

If yes, has it become better or worse?

The majority of the answers indicated that the situation was improving, and a few responses indicated that it was better only in certain parts of society and that the observed change was not sufficient. People have become increasingly aware of gender and gender-based roles. We still have a long way to go to restore gender equality between genders instead of treating one gender as superior to the other. In a male-dominated world, the rest of the genders are treated inferiorly and are not offered the same opportunities and rewards. Males are favoured and given incentives because of their gender without considering the more essential parts like talent, skill, or hard work. Misogynistic and patriarchal thoughts need to be suppressed, and a person should be recognised and appreciated for their work instead of the gender they identify with, which has nothing to do with the context.

Socialization of gender roles



From the survey, it was observed that 58.8% think family is what influences a person the most on gender roles. Family is the first agent of socialisation that an individual comes into contact with, and the child absorbs the activities that take place around him. The gender roles that the child is exposed to from the beginning shape his thoughts about them and impact his behaviour towards society. It is the roles that the child observes his parents taking up that give him an idea of how women and men are perceived in society and lead to assumptions about their roles based on their gender. The parents' view on gender roles is absorbed as such by the child, and though it could be changed at a later stage, most people tend to stick to the same views. The family's take on gender roles also impacts career choice, behaviour, and other activities that are associated with gender. (Gender-Role Socialisation in the Family: A Longitudinal Approach, 2000.) For example, if the family believes the male child is better at mathematics than the female child, then naturally more focus will be given to the male child when it comes to math subjects, and this will be reflected on their score. This difference was created as a result of gender differences and will continue to widen the gap between the two genders and their assumed roles in society.

V. CONCLUSION

The gender roles are an integral part of society, and with the fuel it obtains from patriarchy, gender polarisation, and stereotypes, they are getting more and more rigid, and the roles are being constrained very much by every individual (Miller, n.d.). From the current study, we can know how impactful and influential gender roles are on the various age groups among the members of society. It is evident that with time, gender roles and perceptions are evolving (Ann Oakley, *Father and Daughter: Patriarchy, Gender, and Social Science*, 2014). Gender norms have an impact on everyday life, even when competing with the effects of other societal positions. Occupational positions, in particular, may have expectations that are more or less

compatible with gender norms. To account for such situations, social position theory was extended (Eagly et al., 2020). The current study also shows that gender roles are very much ingrained among the people, and they are subconsciously carried forward and accepted as normal in the social structure. Families act as the primary source of carriers of gender role typification, passing it down to generations of social mobility. Gender norms have an impact on everyday life, even when they contend with the effects of other societal positions. Occupational positions have expectations that may be compatible with gender norms. Extending social position theory to account for such conditions (Eagly et al., 2020). The work exhibits that people are facing the implication and existence of gender roles in various aspects of life like family, the workplace, schools, public places, and their friend or peer circle. The perception that has been carried forward by the people as part of social evolution is one of the major causes of gender roles and gender stereotypes. Women are treated as the weaker gender by the majority of society, which causes them to be assigned mostly domestic, nurturing, caring, and emotional roles and to be perceived as devoting their time to family, homemaking, and motherly roles (Scott, 2006). Which causes polarisation of gender incline with work and role assigning, which automatically leads to patriarchy and the dominance of men in authority and governance of the socio-economic structure. Thus, the existence of gender roles in society is an evident phenomenon of gender in society.

VI. LIMITATION

The study has a limited sample due to the time constraint on the researcher's availability of resources. Hence, there is scope for a similar study to be done on a larger scale with a huge sample.

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