

The Impact of Modernization on Female Gender Roles and Gender Stereotypes: A Psychological Review

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ABSTRACT

India is a land of customs and rituals. It has a vast diversity of traditions. Indian society is said to be very diversified. India is very rich in terms of traditions. But these customs and rituals vary according to culture and society. This is because of the stereotypical mindset of people. Our society is divided into two different worlds. Patriarchal dominance can be noticed. But as time passes and with the rise of the modern world, the situation of women has changed. The impact of modernization is now clearly visible in India and the world. The old belief systems have become a matter of the past but still, there are so many cases where we have seen females treated as objects and considered weak. yet we cannot say that gender inequality is completely demolished with time. It still exists in some parts of society, maybe in a different form than in the past. In this article, we will review how the modernization of society will influence gender roles and gender stereotypes existing in the community.

Keywords: *Modernization, Gender Role, Gender Stereotype, Society, Discrimination*

Patriarchal regimes have ruled India's history up till the present. No exemption applies to the 21st century today. Because of this, women's standing has been diminished in society at large, including in modern times. The majority of men view women from a traditional point of view, which is at the root of many of their problems. Today the attitude of men who call themselves modern is exceptionally modern in the case of women. In the current situation, women and men are treated equally in all spheres of life. Although the Indian constitution grants men and women equal rights, Indian society is nevertheless regarded as being patriarchal. A patriarchal culture is one in which men govern society and how they interact with people (Napikosi, 2020). Males determine a woman's obligations both at home and in society. This custom has existed for a very long time. Women's status is determined by their place in society, not by their aptitudes or competencies. In Indian society, women are only seen as mothers, wives, and subordinate partners in their domestic lives, and they are not given enough opportunities to rise above (Nambisan, 2005).

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Occupational trends change as society modernize and conventional agricultural economies change into industrialized and service-oriented economies (Gobind et al., 2024).

Modernization in India

India claims to have achieved modernization as a concept, but in practice, it still exists in khap panchayats, where male dominance still dominates and prevents women from escaping the constraints of long-standing traditions and practice (Tayagi, 2018). Rahman and Rao (2002) used survey data to examine how culture, economy, and government policy affected women agencies in India. Women agencies include female mobility and the environment in which they participate in home decision-making. Findings show that females earning higher wages make a woman better in terms of agency. In contrast, females have a negative impact as an agency if males have higher wages as compared to females.

Parveen and Mathpal (2017) investigated how male and female higher secondary school students were modernizing. There were 60 students in the sample—30 boys and 30 girls. The results showed that men were significantly more modernized than women. Males enjoyed more freedom in marriage, politics and career than females. Rabbani and Pathan (2015) found that Hindu students are found to be more modern than Muslim students, while male students are found to be more modern than female students. There is a considerable gap between Hindu and Muslim students' levels of modernization.

The Concept of Gender Role

Any study of society must consider the status, function, and even position of women inside it. The foundation of Indian society was made up primarily of women. Today, we recognize that while gender norms have varied historically and culturally, they remain essential elements of all social systems. A deeper knowledge of gender as a cultural phenomenon has emerged over the past 25 years as a result of the convergence of many distinct scholarly research areas. According to UNDP's 2004 gender-related development index (GDI), India is ranked 103 out of 161. The GDI assesses average accomplishment in the three fundamental areas covered by the Human Development Index (HDI) Despite increased literacy rates, the male/female illiteracy gap has only slightly decreased (18%) over the previous 30 years (World Bank 2002). Women hold only 3% of executive positions in the business sector and earn 60% less than men do in the same work (Dow Jones International News, 2002). In Indian civilization, a woman's and a girl's primary function is to take care of the household. Her standing is closely related to her responsibilities as a wife and mother. In contrast, men are thought to provide for the family financially throughout their entire lives (Patel & Parmentier, 2005).

According to a recent meta-analysis of studies on gender role behaviour, females are more friendly, empathic, good at communicating nonverbally, and more likely than males to facilitate social interactions in groups. Furthermore, they made the argument that the prominence and activation of gender role expectations, skills, and abilities may have an impact on how gender and behaviour are related (Eagly & Woods, 1991).

Gender Stereotypes

In general, gender is viewed as a social construct that represents "the psychological, social, and cultural differences between males and females (Giddens, 1989). The various aspects of gender stereotypes have been enlarged by contemporary social-psychological studies to include physical appearance and conventional role-related behaviours; however, personality

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traits continue to be a key element (Ashmore et al., 1986; Deaux, 1984). Women being more receptive and helpful than males is a widespread gender stereotype (Wheeler et al., 1983). According to Western gender stereotypes, women are more socially adept, emotionally sensitive, vocal, and concerned with interpersonal connections than men (Eagly, 1987). Within Hindu religious traditions, women were worshiped as goddesses in ancient India. Women had a fair amount of freedom in their marriage decisions and took part in social discourse, despite the fact that society remained predominantly patrilineal and patriarchal (Devi and Subrahmanyam 2014; Punam & Sharma 2017; Kokate 2020; Patel 2020). Men are perceived as being more agentic than women, taking the initiative and exercising control, while women are perceived as being more communal, responsive to others, and forming relationships (Broverman et al., 1972; Eagly & Steffen, 1984).

METHODOLOGY

Database searches of the peer-reviewed literature were completed in the subsequent database Google Scholar, Research Gate, Science Direct, Jstor and PsycINFO with keywords such as modernization, gender role, and gender stereotypes, were used to search the database. All research reporting on the role of modernization on gender roles and gender stereotypes was included.

Modernization and Gender Roles

According to Inglehart and Norris (2003), Modernization brings changes in gender roles and it has a huge impact on the women who are professional and also gain the vote and are elected through any constituency. Modernization has affected gender roles, especially in females they are now given equal opportunities for higher education like males, and women are free to make decisions for their marriages and careers as well, they are now going beyond the traditional gender roles (Hussain et al., 2015). Some studies have revealed that apart from the modernization level there are some institutional factors like family structure, religious practice, and religious groups which can impact gender roles in different societies (Voicu & Constantin, 2014). The attitude towards women varies from country to country all over the world, people from more modernized countries are more broad-minded about the roles of females in society as compared to the people of less modernized countries (Bergh, 2006; Ilo & Seltzer, 2015). Some research indicated if the education level or occupation status remains the same it can minimize the gender gap in the process of modernization (Roig et al., 2020).

Research shows that Most of the married working females in South Korea and Japan have to do more household work whereas, in the United States, the males are also equally involved in house related work this difference is mainly because of the education level which is a by-product of modernization (Tsuya et al., 2000).

Gender Stereotypes in the Current Scenario

Some people question whether women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries saw new urban environments differently than men. One group emphasizes how women have limited access to urban areas, while another claims that the modern metropolis gives women more freedom (Griselda, 1988; Wolf, 1985). According to Seguino (2007), the increased participation of females in employment has affected the norms and stereotypes made by society about females. Apart from the socio-economic boom in society, modernization also brings revolutionary changes in the field of technology globally. According to research, people's attitudes and expectations about traditional gender roles are significantly influenced

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by their exposure to stereotypes in the media (Herret- Skjellum & Allen, 1996; Signorielli, 1993). Studies revealed that education had a significant impact on women's attitudes regarding social norms, traditions, marriage, and women's status as well as religion and caste (Chaudhary, 2015). Casil-Batang (2021) argued that Philippine literature from the twenty-first century is full of prejudicial views, and women are disproportionately assigned unfavorable stereotypes compared to male protagonists. In a study conducted by Gobind et al. (2023) they conclude that modernization has empowered women and brought changes in social norms and a change has come in gender roles and traditions.

CONCLUSION

Women's roles in the home and workplace have been re-evaluated as a result of the expanded educational and career opportunities brought about by modernization. The increasing acceptance of women's abilities in several formerly male-dominated sectors is indicative of the breakdown of some gender stereotypes. But even with these encouraging advances, there are still issues since strongly embedded gender norms and expectations continue to shape public opinion. It is critical to understand that modernity by itself does not ensure that gender stereotypes will disappear. Social and cultural traditions frequently impede quick change, which fuels ongoing inequality. Changes in mindset and legislative actions are required to establish a climate that supports genuine gender parity. Furthermore, to address the particular difficulties experienced by various groups of women, the intersectionality of gender with other variables like race, class, and ethnicity must be taken into account.

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Conflict of Interest

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