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Social and Cultural Construction of Gender and/or Sexuality and Experience in a Global

Age

Introduction

Different societies have changed the perception of how they view men and women. Therefore, all these perceptions are brought about by the cultural determinants in society. Men and women have varying characteristics that make them socially constructed. This comprises values, behaviours and roles that are connected with them as being of a different gender. Consequently, as a social construct, gender is different in societies and can transform within a specific time. This paper aims to explain the social construct of gender theory by viewing how gender stereotypes have developed and social constructionism has brought the narrative that everything people understand is incomplete and is socially situated. The paper will also address feminism based on the narrative “Girl” by Jamaica Kincaid.

Social constructionism is aimed to perceive gender differently and thus making them have different vital roles. These ideas developed into a gender stereotype. A gender stereotype is a concept that has been in existence for years and is the exercise of attributing to a person’s male or female qualities, features or functions through their state in the social group of men and women. In this global age, it is essential to understand this social construction of gender because

it may impact when it undermines individuals' rights (Held et al. 118). Gender has never been a strong signifier of a person; however, people are always performing gender in a different acceptable gender stereotype.

Moreover, an individual can be termed as doing gender when they trust several gender values and involved in activities that indicate those values. Therefore, this activity will implement the concept that there are two common selected groups of gender. Consequently, this will make individuals believe that men and women are fundamentally unlike. Although people have championed feminism, the differences between gender stereotypes are still immense. Gender variances are interpreted fast into essentialism by arguing that men perform their activities in a certain way and women also do the other way (Nealon and Susan 183). Through this understanding gender difference is developed and thus a social association. These stereotypes are performed to enable individuals to be viewed by others differently, for instance, as male or female. Furthermore, the perception can be internalized, making them obtain some worth, such as feeling masculine or feminine.

The social construction of gender is also interaction-based because it is related to each other that differences appear. Therefore, individuals alone cannot initiate gender stereotypes but only through interaction. Nevertheless, it is also omnirelevant because individuals are always adjudicating others based on their behaviours to be female or male. John Locked supported the notion based on the sharing of ideas, where the thoughts and knowledge have a vital relationship that an idea can stimulate the occurrence of another knowledge (Locke). Although the ideas are not linked together, they are developed based on a person's experiences. This theory is essential in understanding the gender stereotypes that occur along the way because children tend to link knowledge by experience.

Immense knowledge given to children at a lower age is associated with gender differences, characteristics and roles. However, if the gender theory could apply at an early age child could learn the differences and improve their minds in generating better ideas through experience. By understanding human ethics, John Lock emphasized that society must train children to relate rewards with good behaviours and punishment with destructive behaviors (Locke). The story Girl by Jamaica Kincaid has focused on the conversation between a mother and the daughter. Although the mother has used Locke's theory training the child early, the advice is gender-biased, hence increasing gender stereotypes.

Feminism is championed in different parts worldwide, but some people are resisting this change because it is against their beliefs and values. This is because the information concerning equality for each gender is an issue that was founded on an individual's personal and direct experiences and not on research data (Locke). For instance, in the Girl story, when the mother recognizes that her daughter has reached maturity age, she is fed with advice on how she is supposed to live and take care of men. The information presented is gender-stereotyped because it indicates some of the work that women need to do and how they can do it.

The current world is working through the feminist movement to eliminate gender stereotypes. Feminism movement has worked to ensure that equal opportunities given to the women. Nevertheless, the current society portrays gender difference from the time children are born. It begins with colours that babies are given; for example, girls will be given pink and boys blue. Although the situation is seen as minimal, it continues to grow and becomes ostensible as adults develop. The present world has gender stereotypes, but people relieve themselves by saying it is not as much as before. Therefore, the notion of gender differences as a cultural construct is presented in contrast to the present actions.

Gender differences are associated with activities that are regarded as men or women. The globe needs to understand that activities and norms people are raised with affects their perceptions towards their opposite gender. Therefore, gender differences have resulted in people having a particular thought when they hear another gender. For example, most men, especially in African societies, have always associated women with the kitchen. A girl story has also fostered gender differences by the mother informing her daughter how women should behave. The advice provided imposes some restrictions on women which the feminist movement are working to eliminate.

The elements of advice that influence girls are an outline to the society of women and an alignment into womankind's presentation. The advice is associated with domestic roles and comprise instructions of social preparation and ethical behaviour. The role of women from the past has been to take care of home chores such as cleaning, taking care of children and cooking, however, they were not regarded as individuals to take part in business, own property or vote. When found performing such activities, they were deemed to be involved in other men's tasks and were brutally glowered. Jamaica Kincaid has stipulated the gender typecast that identifies the difference between men and women by stating that girls should not squat down to the marbles because they are not boys (Kincaid). Notably, women must be groomed, suitable and subtle to a situation that they are restricted in some things, including squatting to play marbles game.

Evaluating the story on the cultural construct, the mother expects her girl to utilize society's probable activities of women by compelling her into suitable colonial distinctiveness. This way, she will develop colonial goals necessary, such as behaving like women and having flawless conducts to achieve an appropriate man and enhance the social ladder. Therefore, feminism has come to eliminate these gender roles in society. Feminism comprises two

categories of claims, including the normative and descriptive. Normative arguments are involved with the way women should or should not be regarded, treated and perceived in the context of justice or wide ethical situation (Held et al. 117). On the other hand, the descriptive argument is based on how girls are perceived and treated, stating that they are not seen based on the morals of justice or standards raised in the authoritarian prerogatives. The two categories are working to eradicate the gender roles and characters stereotypes.

Women and men need to have equal rights and respect together. However, women are oppressed in the society hence making them be denied the right to play marble games because only boys need to squat and play. The story girl has also portrayed how women are shamed in society for being slut. For example, the girl has already completed her puberty stage. Hence, she has begun the process of sexuality, but her mother strictly insists that she maintain being pure. Women's traditional character was required to be shy, appropriate, and sober (Held et al. 121). Similarly, the practical feminist sees one claim and ask how the men gender are treated when involved in these activities. Nevertheless, the claim comprises a specific instrument that divests women, such as respect. Also, the girl is judged based on how she walks as the mother advises that a girl should walk like a lady when going to church and not like a slut (Kincaid). This statement indicated how the mother is worried about the purity of her daughter. The daughter refutes her mother's claim of acting like a slut she insists on trying to be hence the mother is not focused on what the daughter is feeling but on accomplishing her will. These events make it challenging how society expects girls, the jibs they require them to do and even the clothing.

Conclusion

Several gender theories have been established to explain how the behavior of the social construct of age and sexuality are obtained. However, people are not always aware of how gender stereotypes arise in different societies because most of them are introduced to them at an early age. Gender theory is utilized in how people understand the masculine and feminine behavior. The society begins to introduce children to gender stereotypes since birth, which has significant challenges in their experience and upbringing. In the story girl, the mother gives her daughter advice on how a woman should behave and is required to do the things in society. Equality challenges between the girls and boys are observed with men allowed to squat and play marbles, but girls not allowed. Consequently, there is the expression of the clothes girls must wear not to be regarded as sluts. As a result, feminism ensures equality in roles and characters of women and men in society.

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