The Basics Of The Gender Schemas

Posted on May 4, 2020

View this essay online:
https://academic-master.com/the-basics-of-the-gender-schemas/

Introduction

Gender, as a term, defines the social and cultural differences between men and women. It is further classified and adopted by an individual based on gender roles. Gender roles illustrate the difference by laying down fundamental rules of how a certain individual should act, behave, speak, dress and interact with other people in a social group. To further this process, society implemented various learning methods that helped individuals grasp the basics of their specific gender role and its significance within their social group. These learning methods establish a basic cognitive framework that reflects the basics of the gender schemas, declaring the difference between masculine and feminine roles. Numerous socializing agents play an important role in this learning process, too. Among them, the prominent ones relate to knowledge gained from parents, teachers, movies, religion, books, and music. However, parents are found to have the most dominant influential impact on this learning mechanism since they offer the child's initial learning phase and contribute greatly towards their understanding of their culture and social system.

Discussion

Gender roles, as defined by socializing agents or through identification presented by learning schemas, are first adopted during the childhood phase and continue into adulthood for an individual. Parents, as conceived by society, are among the first influences on a specific gender role. A prominent traditional example follows the practice of fathers offering tutelage to boys while mothers adhere to the upbringing of daughters, teaching them the responsibilities affixed with their gender roles.

The process of learning gender roles is transferred from generation to generation, forming a practice or norm traditionally being carried on. Based on this assumption, society explains the gender roles to be identified by men distinguished by the personality traits of being aggressive, bold, and strong, whereas women are specified through the personal traits of someone who's polite, emotional, accommodating and has a nurturing personality. These traits became a common example throughout time and formed the basis of this identification process. All points considered, this distinction is dependent on the way society, culture and ethnic groups hold up their gender specification and role expectations due to their unique understanding varying from group to group (Eccles et al., 1990, 183-201). However, these defining traits for genders can modify over time to adapt to the needs of

that specific time period (Money et al., 1957, 333-336). For instance, among boys, it is noticeable that they prefer blue, whereas girls are found to be giving special preference to pink, but considering the United States, the color pink was found to be a masculine color and blue was considered to be a feminine color.

Among the known facts that circulate around gender roles is the fact that people affirm that certain traits or characteristics that define gender are associated with the individual's biological gender as well. These biological gender definitions provided the underlying understanding of men being "aggressive and assertive," while women are considered to be leaning more towards the "submissive" trait. Further studies concluded that women are supposed to be more emotional as compared to men since men were found to be suppressing their emotions. These statements eventually lead one to follow a narrow path without any chances of failure.

Taking these points into consideration and the well-explained gender roles, societies have long been obscuring or neglecting the third gender. Transgender people have long been fighting for their rights, and the first one known to be struggling to gain acceptance and their rights in the United States was a black transgender woman named Marsha P. Johnson, who is especially known for being the first woman to be involved in the Stonewall Inn Riots, which initiated a new beginning and a movement for transgender people and raised their opinion and voice. Just years prior to this, there were different issues regarding transgender rights. Police conducted a crackdown in San Francisco, among which a notable one was the Compton Cafeteria riots. However, there are other incidents that continue to be undiscussed. These struggles from the transgender community form only a smaller portion of the larger global prevalent concern. Recognizing different genders instead of the typically defined male and female genders from all over the world, individuals who do not identify with the gender they were born with have demonstrated their struggle and efforts towards bringing attention to this gender-biased social opinion. The recent chain of awareness programs conducted in the United States might have brought the voice of these oppressed people, spreading awareness among the public about their existence and their rights and acknowledging their presence.

Furthermore, as it may seem relatively convenient to collectively apply the term "transgender" to sum the entire non-binary gender into one cluster, it is imperative to understand that these individuals are still people who exist in our society. It's necessary to respect their sovereignty and acknowledge their identity as well. A reflection from history illustrates an example when the European colonial system proved its influential strength in inflicting hurt on this topic and contributed largely to erasing gender-variant individuals. Employing the use of Western terminology for the sole purpose of establishing an understanding of the topic and the way it exists in other cultures is going to further increase the harm done to this community. A common term used by Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson was "Transvestite," a term that is rarely used in the present era (Levitt, and Maria 2014, 1727-1758).

The large range of expression based on gender and expressing identities proves a testament to one of the important tenets of advocacy in the Western community. This proves to be an evident factor

that the present system is progressing towards removing all forms of restrictive measures prevailing in the gender system. These systems, which have existed since ancient times and continued into the modern age, are slowly eroding away as modernity and the continuous struggles for recognition of the transgender community continue. These examples exemplify the experiences that are present outside of the binary gender definitions of society, seemingly similar to those defined by modern concepts of non-binary or genderqueer generation.

Conclusions

Gender roles being defined into the two most prominent male and female genders have long prevailed in every society and culture throughout history. The factor of recognition of the third gender, non-binary gender, has continued to be obscured by ignorance and ill-formed assumptions. The societal structure is oppressing the voice of transgender people, and refusing to globally accept them as a gender has resulted in fewer opportunities in society. Transgender people have suffered at the hands of factors such as high poverty, violence, harassment, negligence, a small portion of the market offering employment opportunities, and denial of legal rights. The largely affected groups consisting of transgender people of color or transgender women have been shown to be among the most vulnerable communities in the United States. The change, however, little, has started to take root with awareness programs addressing this conflicted gender topic and reflecting on the hurt society has inflicted on individuals belonging to this non-binary or genderqueer community. Numerous efforts by prominent social movement workers in the transgender community have had a significant effect on this topic. These movements initiated by Marsha P. Johnson and contributing towards eliminating this gender discrimination have brought focus to this concern.

Works Cited

Money, John, Joan G. Hampson, and John L. Hampson. “Imprinting and the establishment of gender role.” AMA Archives of Neurology & Psychiatry 77.3 (1957): 333-336.

Eccles, Jacquelynne S., Janis E. Jacobs, and Rena D. Harold. “Gender role stereotypes, expectancy effects, and parents’ socialization of gender differences.” Journal of Social Issues 46.2 (1990): 183-201.

Levitt, Heidi M., and Maria R. Ippolito. “Being transgender: The experience of transgender identity development.” Journal of Homosexuality 61.12 (2014): 1727-1758.