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                                                The Role of Women in Society

Virginia Woolf once said, “ As long as she thinks of a man, nobody objects to a woman’s thinking”. This statement refers to a common experience indicating the way women are expected to focus on the men in their lives. Woolf also wanted to show that women lack independence in society, and how it is guilty of giving priority to men. Society expresses inequality towards women in all sorts of ways, especially through men. The role of women in society is based on culture, resources, and media.

One aspect that expresses the role of women in society is culture. Society is filled with controversy, misunderstandings, and stereotypes. Culture plays a huge role in shaping society all over the world. Culture has all sorts of different perceptions that build peoples day-to-day activities in all sorts of societies. Not only in America, places all over the world are filled with cultures that shape people’s mind set and views on women. Cultures have one thing in common; it portrays this theory that men are the “hero” and the “protector” of mainly everything. Women are expected to rely on men as there go to person for everything. Their whole life should revolve around the men in their life, and women should act a certain way and do things that keep them at ease.

The perceptions of culture are what mainly portray the role and image of women in all societies. Many theories are made towards women that affect there every move.  Christya Freeland, a journalist from the New York Times, expresses the theories made towards women due to culture. She states, “It doesn't matter what country they're in, or what religion they claim. They want to control women”(Freeland, 5-7). She is referring to a statement Hillary Clinton said at the time of the 2016 presidential election. She expresses the fact that extremist, in all sorts of societies, and all sorts of religions, mainly want to control women.  There main focus is to control their every move, and they’re every action. Culture in most societies portray this thought that before doing anything, women have to ask permission from their husbands, or the man in their life. Men are the ones who are women’s protective guard, and the person they should depend on. Freeland also discusses the differences between tight and loose cultures. She states, “Tight cultures hold women back, Loose cultures, by contrast, do not have clear norms and are more tolerant of deviation from the rules”(Freeland, 27-30).  She is referring to two professors at the university of Toronto, who stated these two ideas. Tight cultures are viewed as restricted places for women. They are very limited to what they can do and what they can even think. Loose cultures are viewed as an open space for women, a place to think and make their own decisions. Places like Japan, Malaysia, Norway, and Pakistan are all societies that express tight culture. America, Australia, and the Netherlands are all societies that express loose culture. Culture makes things very hard for people, especially women to be their own self.

Another aspect that expresses the role of women in society is resources. As per to culture, resources play a huge role of portraying the role of women because it shows the availability given to them in all sorts of societies. Society shows that women are not given the same amount of freedom as men because of lack of resources. This is one of the many reasons why women are not given the same amount of freedom as men, and this one of the main factors. An Interview from Georgiana Karvunis, a high school English teacher and feminist, expresses the lack of resources women have, and what resources should be given to them. She states, “ Women in eastern cultures and background, don’t have the availability or easy access to go to stores, movies, the mall. The young teenage girls are suppose to go to school until a certain level, and then the rest of their lives are expected to stay home, get married and have children.”(Karvunis’s). She indicates that the lack of recourses is what influences people to have a low thought of women. Women are trained at a young age that these activities, and things are not for them, they are for men and women should just be where they are expected to be. Recourses include access to got to a certain place, the thought that they too are allowed to go out and have fun. Karvunis also stated that, “ After marriage, men lay down ground rules that women are not allowed to do certain things, and are given certain items that they should be happy and thankful about. There education would be the only recourse they have however, they are expected not to be too educated or use their education in something useful” (Karvunis). Not only in eastern countries, western countries as well, have the idea of giving women less recourses so she go by the stereotypes made by society.

A third aspect that expresses the role of women in society is media. Media is a source that is made up of many different elements. These elements include, Internet, and television. Internet, and television collide in a way because whatever is shown on television is what’s on the Internet. The Internet is a broader use of media because once you click on something; it can lead you to many different things. Media has a reputation of false advertisements and creating images that can become a norm in society. Women are very restricted due to media because of the images they made. Television and Internet portray women as a perfect figure, so that in reality, women have to live up to a certain standard. In a CNN Report by, Emanuella Grinberg, she discuses the images portrayed by the media and the affects by it. She states, “We live in a sexualized society where the gap between fantasy and reality is vast and harmful”(Grinberg, 7-8). She previously was expressing the idea of half-naked women, lying across the couch, with her lips pouched, and cleavage prominent (Grinberg 1-3), showing what media portrays. They present such a beautiful women, who has a fit body, and beautiful face and makes an ideal for women and men. This limits women from being who they are because of what the media portrays. This also indicates that the more media portrays these beautiful women, the more they would have to keep up with what’s new in society. If they are not up to date, then that would result in loss of viewers and fans. According to a documentary by the Representation Project, they express the affects of media. They talk about the amount of hours on average people spend on social media, television, Internet and how it affects the viewers and the women being portrayed. They stated, “ On average, the normal teenager spends about 10 hours and 45 minutes discovering the media” (The Representation Project). The more people explore the media the more people discover new things. The ways women are portrayed are not what they in reality. They also stated, “ The more people explore the media, the end result would lead to depression, guilt and anxiety”(The Representation Project). This would result in Media having a widely affect on not only the views, also the people being portrayed. The way women are portrayed leads to viewers either doing outrageous things to become like them, or come to the conclusion that they can never attain that goal and become depressed.

The role of women in society is based on culture, resources, and media. These all aspects play a huge role in shaping the view on women back then and in today’s world. Women all over are expected to do so much, however are looked down upon when wanting to do something on there on, or for themselves. They are the main person that runs the house, takes care of the family, and has too live up to expectations made up by society. Culture, resources and media restrict women in all sorts of way, they have no choice but to follow what the stereotypes say and live by it. However, if the role of women in society were never characterized in these three aspects, would men and women be treated equally?

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