



4. The Myth of a Gendered Mind

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Abstract

Dr. Irina Bokova , Director general UNESCO, says equal participation of men and women in the cultural sphere is required for building a better future. Gender discrimination is a harsh reality, and so are racial discriminations based on Cast /Creed / Language and Religion. This is Social Darwinism, due to which we forgot the laws of complementarity in nature, in society, in family. The phrase "Social Darwinism" was coined by Emile Gautier in his 1880 book Le Darwinisme social'.

Social Darwinism is a set of ideologies that combine Charles Darwin's theory of evolution with theories about human societies and economies. It is predicated on the notion that social inequality and rivalry among people, nations, or races may be rationalized by citing the rules of nature. It's frequently linked to the "survival of the fittest" theory, which holds that certain people are inherently superior to others and that success is evidence of this. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the rise of this significant intellectual movement. It had an impact on social, political, and health movements in Japan. Additionally, it indirectly fuelled World War I and German militarism.

The present paper focuses on the scientific aspects of gender biases to break the myths of a gendered brain. Further this paper proposes the Family-oriented self-governance system and humanization of education based on existential philosophy propounded by A. Nagraj , as a tool to eradicate gender biases and establish men and women complementarity as the fundamental unit of family and society .

Key Words: gendered mind, Gender discrimination, Social Darwinism, Coexistence,

INTRODUCTION

There is nothing in Nature without an intelligent reason and a firm Role in the evolution. Have we ever thought the reasons behind our differences? Brain is a part of Human Body, which is governed by the consciousness, so the differences are just biological, for making

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orderliness in family, society and universe. “There may be hints of brain differences in transgender people, but you’d expect that because their life experience is going to have been quite different,” says Eliot (2009). There is no evidence to support the Lady Gaga theory that I was "Born This Way" (Carter, Megan E., 2010). We also hear the tale of David Reimer, a victim of gender bias, who lost his penis at the age of eight months due to a botched operation (Gaetano, Phil ; 2017). His testicles were removed when he was 17 months old, and he was given the new name Brenda. But as it turned out, Brenda had always felt like a man and had returned to his natal sex as an adult. Let’s discuss some obvious questions, which can clear out the fog created so articulately in our brains in the name of a rational scientific theory.

- **Why is Sexual production Popular in nature?**

Thanks to sexual reproduction, makes each of us react somewhat differently to parasites: The genetic shuffle creates a diverse population, better able to cope with a changing environment, says **August Weismann**, a German biologist (Churchill, Frederick B; 1968). Lizards possess rare asexual species. they go extinct far more quickly than sexual species. The few that still survive are those that have retained large amounts of genetic variation by tricks

- **Are you a man or a woman?**

Some people may choose to undergo physical alteration to conform to their gender identity, cross- dress sometimes, or do nothing at all because they have always felt they were born into the wrong gender.

- **Gender role – Psychological or Social?**

The behavioral, cultural, or psychological characteristics that are commonly linked to one sex are known as gender. The FDA (National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality; 2021) began using gender as a person's self-presentation as male or female based on their gender presentation in 2011 and sex as their biological classification.

- **Is one gender form superior over others?**

According to biology, there is absolutely no differentiation at the physiological level. According to biologists, heterosexual gender varieties are superior because they strive to produce offspring, whereas evolution has no purpose. Currently, gender is mostly used in human sociology, with feminist thought playing a significant role. Many biologists will mainly disagree with Simone de Beauvoir's statement, "One is not born, one

becomes a woman," which reflects this dualism (Simone de Beauvoir, 1956).

- **Is the concept of female brain a Myth?**

There is nothing like a Pink Brain or a Blue Brain. The brain is just like any other organ in human body like liver, kidney or heart, there is no question of it being gendered (Eliot, 2019).

We have been listening to the propaganda of pink and blue brains throughout these years. Some prejudiced scientific researches published shallow results to show that men have a bigger brain volume, the cortex is thicker in women or the amygdala, which works for emotion processing is larger in men. "These are statistical differences, but not predictive individual differences. There is tremendous overlap."

CREATION OF THE MYTH OF NEUROSEXISM AND A GENDERED BRAIN

The myth of a gendered brain was outcome of a MRI analysis performed on an insufficient number of 21 men and 27 women by researchers of university of California (R. J. Haier et al. *NeuroImage* 25, 320–327; 2005). The outcomes of this study was superfluous and needed much deeper evaluation, but it went viral in corporate leadership conferences and teacher education due to non-serious, phony publicity through newspapers and blogs to television.

Several irrational facts were repetitively exaggeratedly thrown into the public domain like ; men have "six-and-a-half times more grey matter" than women; women have "ten times as much white matter" as men; men's have natural talent at mathematics and women's ability are for to multitasking. The fact is that these differences would claim those women's heads were about 50% larger than their preset size. These are all registered as Neurosexism .

Let us now discuss the scientific facts which support us in breaking the myth of neurosexism and a gendered brain.

FACTS:

1. Equal Intelligence

It's true that men have physically larger brains than women, but size doesn't determine intelligence. The neural connections build through various experiences and its complexity determines intelligence.

2. The sense of gender

“One’s psychological identity – your sense of your own gender – is influenced by how your brain trains itself across life”. Eliot.

Children’s “cerebral sponges” differentiate starkly pink-versus-blue cultures in which they are soaked from the moment of prenatal sex reveal(Rippon,2019).

3. Brain Size

When we compare small-headed men to large-headed women, they have no relationship to differences in hobbies or take-home pay. (E. Sommer ;2008). Some excellent works in rooting out “neurosexism”- the myth that man and women have different brains are as follows:-

- Rippon,- “a gendered world will produce a gendered brain”. (2019)
- Angela Saini- ‘Inferior’(2017)
- Cordelia Fine - ‘Delusions of Gender’(2010)

4. The Weak Statistics

Boys and girls follow different trajectories of career and success and influence their self- confidence and risk-taking ability. All these years the media, the popular scientific lectures were busy establishing a wrong picture in our minds regarding female inferiority, which was sheer sexual discrimination. Scientifically the idea was based on misinterpretation, publication bias, weak statistical power, inadequate controls and worse and brain-building cycle of differential expectations.

5. The Impact of a Gendered World on the Human Brain

“The New Neuroscience that Shatters the Myth of The Female Brain”; Gina Rippon , professor of cognitive neuroimaging (2019) is a breakthrough work in neuroscience—and an incisive corrective to a long history of damaging pseudoscience—that finally debunks the myth that there is a hardwired distinction between male and female brains. By exploring new, cutting- edge neuroscience, Rippon urges us to move beyond a dual view of the brain and to see instead this complex organ as highly individualized, extremely adaptable and full of limitless potential.

We live in a gendered world, where we are constantly bombarded by messages about



sex and gender. On a daily basis, we face deeply entrenched beliefs that sex determines our skills and preferences, from toys and colors to career choice and salaries. But what does this constant gendering mean for our thoughts, decisions and behavior? And what does it mean for our brains? Gina Rippon unfolds the stereotypes that surround us from our earliest moments and shows how these messages mold our ideas of ourselves and even shape our brains.

6. Male–Female ‘Complementarity

Women are not really less intelligent than men, just ‘different’ due to biblical teachings and the status quo of gender roles. Darwin in an 1860 wrote a letter to a colleague Asa Gray. Much of our modern understanding of sex differences came from Charles Darwin's struggles to explain the peacock's tale. How could such a cumbersome and extravagant display ever contribute to the animal's survival? Darwin's solution was "sexual selection“.

7. The Conflict in the theory of Sexual Selection

Darwin wrote a letter to her scientist friend explaining the role of peacock’s tail in evolution. It described the competition between peacocks to prove their worth through direct combat and impress the peahen and convince her to pair –up with the winner.

It’s a fact that Males are "passionate" and females are "coy“, across the animal kingdom.

But the evolutionary biologist Angus John Bateman said that this is purely based on economy. Sperms are produced in millions but it takes a lot of nutrients to produce an egg. So females try to conserve it naturally until they find a suitable partner.

Women have a distinct physiology so that she can give birth to a healthy child. Mother feels affection for her child instantly and so is aware of values like affection , and a benevolent provider. Mother not only nurtures body, but all humanitarian values e.g. language, culture, Behavior. Mother we give s unconditionally, and cultivate a feeling of self- respect, mutual faith and values.



HOW TO BREAK THE MYTH OF A GENDERED BRAIN

Our brain is designed for deductive thinking. It takes decision based on a survival instinct. This stops human brains to think creatively, think out of the box and try new ways and means for problem solving. These deductive methods were employed in research and education too, due to which the society was directed by misleading concepts.

The proper root cause analysis is required to know the purpose of life and purpose of human beings as the most complex creation of the nature with a well-developed brain. The right attitude and the right mind set is the solution.

Hence, I am proposing the philosophy of coexistence which promotes complementarity in place of the struggle for survival. The philosophy of family-centered self-governance model of society propounded by Sri A. Nagraj (1998) shows a path to reconcile the gender discrimination, and gender biases establishing the fact that men and women are complementary to each other and together they can create a humane society .

FAMILY-ORIENTED SELF-GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

The first place for justice to be proved in human consciousness is the family. A person recognizes all the relationships in the family, upholds values, lives justly, evaluates, lives prosperously, that is, living in the family means living in coexistence.

Understanding is the basis for living together in the family. The family is the first unit in which the individual learns and certifies humane conduct which extends to the society. When all families live contentedly and prosperously, fearlessness is proved.

Order means mutual responsibility and spontaneous complementarity, participation in the family based self-governance system for a fearless and prosperous society. The purpose of the system is to attain the human goal, and to establish value of life in the human tradition.

Participation in the system of justice, the system of health care, the system of education, the system of production, the system of exchange is the proof of



understanding. It is the right and duty of every human being to prove the awakening, innate talent and personality of every man and woman.

Violent tendencies and injustice towards women can be eradicated in the family-oriented Self- governance system. Human beings do not want conflict, disparity and rebellion. This happens due to compulsion in a confused man-made environment. The concept of fearlessness is incomplete without an integrated social system.

Universality is the basis of human society. Without an integrated humane society, human tradition cannot succeed. With the manifestation of human consciousness, self-evident and compassionate acts automatically destroy violence, exploitation and inequality.

HUMANIZING EDUCATION TO CHANGE MINDSETS

The family-oriented self-governance system of human-centered co-existential philosophy is fully capable of changing the mindset for male and female equality. And for this, humane education has an important role. Education is the benefactor of values. Change in mindset is possible with education.

With the consciousness development, value education, development of human culture, the dignity of human beings as a unit of the state of knowledge is established. The usefulness and complementarity of both men and women in the universal system of family and the status of a human being as a seer at the center of the four stages of material order, plant order, animal order and the order of knowledge are possible. Human beings yearn to be full of humanity. And the direct arrangement of belonging to human culture is human education and system.

The first education is received by the parents, the second by the family, the third by the education center, and the fourth by the humane order. The human values are inculcated by the education received in these four stages. This education establishes the concept of humanity, integral society and universal order in human beings. The formation of the human society begins at birth in the awakened family. In fact, traditional education gives a lot of skills and technical know-how, but it doesn't teach to live with faith and fearlessness as the individual, family, society, nation and global citizen. Today there is a need for humanization of education.



The humanization of education means the elevation of animal consciousness to human consciousness. From lack of compassion to emotion, from ignorance to knowledge, from fear to fearlessness, freedom from subjugation, freedom from a mentality of material enjoyment to a purposeful mentality, appropriate education for transformation from communal mentality to an integrated society mentality.

The concept of such humane education is available in the form of consciousness development value education. Such education can teach us to live in a co-existence mode with solution, prosperity, fearlessness. Only such education will be able to eradicate many disparities like male and female inequality.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN FAMILY ORIENTED SELF – GOVERNANCE SYSTEM:

Politics is not an instrument to govern, but to maintain a humane order. Giving high political positions to women is not empowering them politically; this is reflected in the present environment. Human order is the basis for political empowerment. The purpose of politics is the protection and purposefully employing the physical, mental and intellectual wealth of all human beings in the humane system. Politics is for the safety of the human capital consisting of its physical and mental labor, its mind and body.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN FAMILY ORIENTED SELF-GOVERNANCE SYSTEM:

The acquisition of wealth and misuse of resources are the reason for economical inequalities. The inability to protect the physical and intellectual wealth of the masses leads to the whole class conflict. War is because of economic inequality.

In the humane system, the delivery of economic prosperity is through the production and profit- loss less exchange in accordance with the laws of nature. Profiteering, indulgence, cannot lead to a sense of prosperity.

In such a system, economic empowerment will flow automatically. For that, there will be no need to give financial assistance to any woman or man, but only the policy of

good use and security of physical and intellectual wealth can be the basis of prosperity.

CONCLUSION

Biological differences shall never be used to discriminate men and women. Brain and body is part of unconscious, controlled by consciousness. Men and Women are complimentary to each other in all relations and they have their own journeys.

The family-oriented self-governance system of human-centered co-existential philosophy is fully capable of changing the mindset for male and female equality. And for this, humane education has an important role. Education is the benefactor of values. Change in mindset is possible with education. Political and economic empowerment of women can be achieved through the humanization of education.

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