

# Occupational Stereotypes: A Static Phenomenon in This Dynamic World

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**Abstract**—In this modern sovereign world the single word which is given with the topmost priority is 'equality' i.e social equality, economic equality, technological equality & of course gender equality. Specifically in Indian context altruism regarding women's freedom & women's independence is yet to develop. There are clear-cut demarcation between man's job & woman's job. Here man is denoted as bruiser who can handle all the tough jobs hence are suitable of higher occupational positions which require more physical & mental strength. On the other hand woman is regarded as frail and incompetent of doing hard work & hence deserves lower position. Even there are some strong stereotypes regarding men's job & women's job, such as a man can't be a homemaker or a woman can't be the chief wage earner of the family.

The main objective of our study is to extrapolate the general people's fanatic concept about the 'gender roles' in society with special reference to the occupational positions. By interviewing & amalgamating the responses of the representatives from all social strata (class wise representatives like upper, middle, lower & also caste wise representatives like general, SC, ST) as well as gender strata we could arrive at an archway from where we can conclude about the looking glass of our society.

**Keywords:** equality, occupational position, job stereotype, looking glass, glass ceiling.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this modern sovereign world, the single word which is given with the topmost priority is 'equality' i.e. social equality, economic equality, technological equality & of course gender equality. Specifically in Indian context altruism regarding women's freedom & women's independence is yet to develop. There are clear cut demarcation between man's job & woman's job. Here man is denoted as bruiser who can handle all the tough jobs and hence are suitable of higher occupational positions which require more physical & mental strength. On the other hand woman is regarded as frail and incompetent of doing hard work & hence deserves lower position. Even there are some strong stereotypes regarding men's job & women's job, such as a man can't be a homemaker or a woman can't be the chief wage earner of the family.

## 2. WOMEN THEN AND WOMEN NOW

In Vedic era women enjoyed very high social and cultural status as well as a life of dignity and honor. Without their presence many of the rituals were not possible. In the medieval women's status were reduced and they were considered as commodities. After then came the British rulers in 18th century. But the condition of women were in a standstill, although the British were broad minded and permitted the education and freedom of women but the social set up of India didn't allow women's education. After independence, India has got a very liberal constitution imported from Britain. Inspire of the constitution considered equal status and right of both men and women, the dogmatic thoughts, religious customs, cultural backwardness and traditional conservations blocked the way of improvisation of women's status.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF OUR STUDY

The main objective of our study is to extrapolate the general people's fanatic concept about the gender roles in society with special reference to the occupational positions. By interviewing & amalgamating the responses of the randomly selected students (both male and female) of Bidhanchandra krishi viswavidyalaya, we can have an idea that how the well educated young generation perceive the gender specific occupational positions as well as how they conceptualize a profession as men's job or women's job.

## 4. MODUS OPERANDI OF THE STUDY

At first a questionnaire was prepared containing the names of 10 occupations that are doctor, engineer, scientist, teacher, artist, cook, army personnel, politician, astronaut and pilot. Then 30 students were selected randomly (15 boys and 15 girls) and they were asked to put any arbitrary name that would come first in their mind while imagining the job written in the questionnaire. They were strictly prohibited from putting any name that really involved with those very occupations, So that respondents' the awareness, intelligence or other situational variables would not come in the way of their general perception.

**TABULATION OF THE RESULTS** : Here the results are presented in tabulated form:

| Names of the occupations under study          | Responses of the male respondents |        |   |        | Responses of the female respondents |        |    |        |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|---|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|----|--------|
|   | M                                 | P      | F | P      | M                                   | P      | F  | P      |
| Doctor  | 13                                | 86.67% | 2 | 13.33% | 8                                   | 53.33% | 7  | 46.67% |
| Engineer                                      | 13                                | 86.67% | 2 | 13.33% | 8                                   | 53.33% | 7  | 46.67% |
| Scientist                                     | 13                                | 86.67% | 2 | 13.33% | 9                                   | 60%    | 6  | 40%    |
| Teacher                                       | 12                                | 80%    | 3 | 20%    | 4                                   | 26.67% | 11 | 73.33% |
| Artist  | 12                                | 80%    | 3 | 20%    | 7                                   | 46.67% | 8  | 53.33% |
| Cook  | 12                                | 80%    | 3 | 20%    | 8                                   | 53.33% | 7  | 46.67% |
| Army personnel                                | 15                                | 100%   | 0 | 0%     | 15                                  | 100%   | 0  | 0%     |
| Politician                                    | 13                                | 86.67% | 2 | 13.33% | 12                                  | 80%    | 3  | 20%    |
| Astronaut                                     | 12                                | 80%    | 3 | 20%    | 6                                   | 40%    | 9  | 60%    |
| Pilot   | 15                                | 100%   | 0 | 0%     | 9                                   | 60%    | 6  | 40%    |
| Here, M=no. of respondents written male names |                                   |        |   |        |                                     |        |    |        |
| F=no. of respondents written female names     |                                   |        |   |        |                                     |        |    |        |
| P=percentage                                  |                                   |        |   |        |                                     |        |    |        |

## ANALYSIS

We can divide the overall analysis process into two segments viz. data analysis from male point of view and data analysis from female point of view. As far as the male are concerned, they imagined most of the occupations (like doctor, engineer, teacher, artist, scientist, cook) as men dominated. Very few, only about 13.33% of them imagined women as doctor, engineer or scientist, 20% of them imagined women as cook, teacher, politician, artist. 100% of them imagined men in the so called masculine jobs like army personnel and as pilot.

Now if we consider the perception of women, we can see that women's perceptions are quite equal for both men and women in case of the jobs like doctor, engineer, cook (53.33% male names and 46.67% female names). But in case of the occupations like scientist, army personnel, pilot and politician most of the women (80 to 100%) sees men as dominating gender.

This study reveals so many interesting facts-

- Most of the men don't perceived women as wage earners.
- More than 50% women don't perceived themselves as wage earners.
- Not only men but women themselves don't perceived women as in the so called masculine jobs like army or pilot.
- The qualified young men don't giving women equal weightage for various job sectors.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The glass ceiling in case of jobs is very much present in this society, not only in illiterate persons but even in well qualified university students. This stereotypical concepts about men's job and women's job are very much alarming in today's society. The main reason behind these kind of stereotypes are the conceptions which a child develops from it's parents, peers, teachers or from the overall surrounding. These conceptual stereotypes are so deep rooted within a person's mind that it is really very tough to eliminate these only with formal education. To establish equal rights for men as well as women and to form an amicable relationship between them, we must have to prepare an environment in which the children can learn the lesson of equality and compliance. The parents, peers and teachers are the potters; they have to make a perfect mould where the innocent childhood can get a proper shape for the future life. Only then we can dream for a society where women can live a life of equality and dignity.

## REFERENCES

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