

NAME: EFEBO MAGRET B.

MAT/NO: 17/SMS09/031

DEPT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

COURSE CODE: IRD 318

COURSE TITLE: GENDER STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

DATE: 24-04-2020

QUESTION: Is Gender Relations Changing in the 21st Century? What are the areas of changes and the factors driving the change?

Gender relations refer to relations between men and women that are socially determined by culture, religion, or socially acceptable ways of thinking or being. These relationships between men and women, as they exist in most societies, are characterized by the marginalization of women in decision making and other forms of power sharing in the home and places of authority.

Gender relations intersect with all other influences on social relations – age, ethnicity, race, religion, etc. – to determine the position and identity of people in a social group. Since gender relations are a social construct, they can be transformed over time to become more equitable.

Gender relations in many non-Western societies are complicated by an intermingling of custom and religion in the law of personal status that governs gender relations. In nineteenth century British debates around numerous gendered practices in colonized regions, the agenda of rescuing non-white women from the barbarity of the culture into which they had the misfortune of being born played an important role in justifying the imperial project. Gender equity norms symbolize the advance of the human rights agenda.

In the current generation of 21st Century, gender is often misunderstood as promotion of women who have taken more active role in different sectors and careers despite some traditions still hold women inferior in their society like numerous cases reported in Indian cultures women still come from traditional strict households, they have accepted their roles and feel comfortable in their decisions or lack thereof. Feminist movement gained momentum in the 1960's and 70's in the United States together with other Human Right groups that advocated for equal rights among all genders in recent centuries after observing women gender being domesticated by cultural norms, religious beliefs, traditional marginalization yet for the few women who were out speaking role models showed great hope. Gender roles in communities changed lately whereby women now play equal role as men in owning lead large companies, very active in their families and communities, own personal businesses, manage big organizations, head political groups, earn higher academic degrees from all sectors equal to men, to mention but few as compared to early centuries. Both genders actively attend sporting events; go to bars and all other outdoor activities that were dominated by men alone. The 21st century demonstrates equal participation of both genders in different activities as compared to early centuries that kept women behind by being responsible for domestic chores. Gender being a central organizing principle of society in social construction which governs the process of production, reproduction where consumption and distribution are elements in that setting, gender has remained a critical and major focus of society despite equal rights. Young genders both males and females are groomed up with knowledge of man being head of family. Religions across all denominations still hold believe of man being a superior being from woman gender. This naturally has left a gap between the two genders where by man still carries weight of being the head of the household though women headed families also perform equal roles but the family still

remains incomplete without a man due to title, security, and other duties that women can't perform.

One can agree that yes in fact, gender relations has changed compared to the early centuries like the 50s- 60s. The drive for gender equality began over hundred years ago and it is still changing. The areas where change is visible are; Women are now allowed to vote and be voted for, this was impossible before and during the early 60s. Also in the case of women occupying organizational positions has been made possible when before women were not allowed to work because it was believed that their place belonged in the kitchen and other domestic chores. The evidence of gender relations change is noticeable in today's world, thanks to those who have fought endlessly to achieve the set goals.

When we talk about the factors driving the change, the obvious answer is simply the Feminist movement, also the zeal and the future generations, previous generations have put in much effort and work so that today's testimony of gender relations can be achieved and this present generation is also fighting for complete gender equality. All these and more are considered the driving force for the changing gender relations.

Reference

1. <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1207>
2. <https://ist-tft.org/new/transformation-gender-relations/>
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/gender-relations>
4. L. Obiora, R. Perry, in International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001