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MATRIC NUMBER: 17/SMS09/086

COURSE CODE: IRD 318

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

**CONTENT**

1. What is gender relations?
2. The areas of change driving gender relations in the 21st century
3. How gender relations factor is being driven in the 21st century

**WHAT IS GENDER RELATIONS?**

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 distinguished by the belittlement of women in decision making and other forms of power sharing in the home and places of authority.

Gender relations can also be defined as the way in which a culture or society defines rights, responsibilities, and the identities of men and women in relation to one another (Bravo-Baumann, 2000). Society is powerfully structured by gender relations that conspire to render women less powerful than men.

**THE AREAS OF CHANGE DRIVING** **GENDER RELATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

In the present 21st Century, gender relations are changing as families are increasingly reliant upon working mothers as breadwinners or co-breadwinners. some traditions still hold women inferior in their society

The feminist movement gained momentum in the 1960’s and 70’s (the First wave) in the United States together with other Human Right groups that advocated for equal rights among all genders in recent centuries after observing the female gender is being domesticated by cultural norms, religious believes, traditional marginalization yet for the few women who were out spoken, 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 major 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.

Our present-day society demonstrate equal participation of both genders to an extent 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 a man being the head of a 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.

**HOW GENDER RELATIONS FACTOR IS BEING DRIVEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

The relationship between men and women are still developing and changing, depending on need, circumstance and personal choice. Men and women are both establishing their relations within the twenty-first century society.

Women were often perceived as the weaker/ morally upstanding sex. Before the up rise of the feminist movement, women could not participate in politics, women could not express sexual desires, women also could not attain the same level of education a man can. Today, traditional roles have been exchanged for a mutual relationship in which both sexes are recognized to have personal aspirations, hopes and dreams.

Men are no longer the sole breadwinner and women are no longer solely responsible for the domestic responsibilities in a home. As at then, patriarchy was the only socially acceptable form of familial organization. Women can be seen participating actively in some countries when it comes to politics. The breaking down of the patriarchal system has given men the opportunity to express themselves and not being seen as being weak, it has also given women the same inherent value as men.

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