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**Assignment: Is gender relations changing in the 21st century? What are the areas of change and the factor 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. When talking about gender relations, it is also important to make reference to gender roles in the society. Gender role, also known as a sex role, is a social role encompassing a range of behaviors and attitudes that are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their biological or perceived sex.

It is evident that gender relations has drastically changed from what it used to be in the early years. Gender roles have changed and are still changing. The traditional mindset people used to have about gender roles and gender relations has changed due the feminism which has led to change of policies in different countries in order to support the equal rights of both men and women.

In the current 21st century, women have taken more active roles in the society unlike before. Although, some traditions still hold women inferior in their society. But this does not mean that gender roles has not changed.

**What are the areas of change**

Feminist movement gained momentum in the 1060’s and 70’s in the United States together with other Human right groups that advocated for equal rights among all genders which led to a change in gender roles regarding cultural norms, religious beliefs, traditional marginalization and so on. This movement did not stop in the United States, it spread across the world in different countries. Although the process was slow, gender roles began to change, and that has led to the common gender roles adopted by most countries in the 21st century.

Gender relations and gender roles have changed lately whereby women now play equal role as men in owning lead large companies and also owning personal businesses unlike what it used to be. Before women were not allowed to work, lead companies or own businesses because of their gender. But due to a vast change in gender relations in the 21st century, it is now possible for women to pursue their desired careers. In the current 21st century, women make up 40% of the work force in many countries.

Women are now more active in their families and communities. Before men used to be at the forefront of decision making but that is no longer the case. Women are now breadwinners of families and also make family decisions. Women now also make decisions in their communities.

Gender relations has also changed because women now head political positions in different countries. There are countries who have women as presidents or prime ministers. This was not so during the early times. Feminism and women awakening has led to a change in gender relations in the 21st century.

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.

**Factors driving the change**

There has been a shift in gender roles due to multiple factors.

Feminism: feminism is the biggest cause of change in gender relations. Feminists have taken it upon themselves to defend the rights of women all over the world and have also influenced the formulation of new policies in order to safe guard the rights of women. This has led to a change in gender roles..

Education: has also led to a change in gender relations. Education has given women a sense of awareness and enabled people to pursue equality in societies. Education has opened the eyes of women to their rights as citizens of a state and rights as a human beings . There are disciplines that now educate people on gender, feminism and equality which has made people to be more concerned about gender relations.

Social media: in the current 21st century, social media is one of the most powerful instruments that has changed gender relations. People now go on social media to voice out their opinions about how people in the society should be treated, especially women. Because, some countries don’t give women the right or opportunity to express themselves, women go on social media to criticize the patriarchal nature which holds women back from reaching their full potential.

In conclusion, gender relations has changed and is still changing in the society. These changes are mostly targeted towards gender equality, all though, there isn’t complete gender equality in the world today, but it is evident that the current state of gender relations is working towards gender equality in the future.