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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

SAP-DRS of UGC (2002-2020)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

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EQUALITY IN DIFFERENCE: AN ANALYSIS WITH REFERENCE TO 'MOTHERHOOD'

Kasturi Datta (Majumdar)

Abstract

Gender discrimination is one of the important topics of Practical Ethics. Any kind of discrimination hinders the growth of society. All human beings deserve equal rights and opportunities irrespective of race, caste, religion, sex. Biological differences of individuals could never be taken as criteria of gender discrimination. Motherhood is considered as glorified aspect of women's life, but this is a patriarchal ploy to keep women in a cage. Now this is the time when we should re-think our traditional theories in order to assure equality to women.

Keywords: *Gender, Discrimination, Equality, Maternal Instinct, Super-ego*

Philosophy introduces new areas of study to discuss social issues from ethical perspective. Any kind of discrimination hinders justice / equity. Differences from any aspect (race, class, sex, religion) should not be taken as the cause of inequality which in turn results inequity or injustice. Here I try to analyse how could we be able to assert equality amidst differences with reference to 'motherhood'.

Motherhood is a significant phase of a woman's life. It is an institution which includes certain responsibilities and duties. It is usually a wonderful experience for most women. But to sustain the uniqueness of motherhood women should not be discriminated by their gender characteristics that are related to motherhood.

There are biological differences between females and males, but the fact that gender roles vary so much between cultures indicate that they cannot be based on or explained away by 'sex' alone. We should remember a simple rule of science-- Variables (gender roles) cannot be explained by Constants (chromosomes, genitalia or sex). Inequality between women and men are (by) man made. Inequality is constructed