

Ethics of Gender

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Reports of crime and abuse against women are on the increase in the media today. Heated public debates on whether or not boys and girls should be seated together in the class rooms are going on in full swing. So does the legal fights for allowing women to certain places of worships in the country. In a way, these open conflicts of views herald the beginning of lighting up the dark recesses of our human minds in matters related to 'Gender'. It is time to understand the depths of the principle of Gender and begin an Ethical treatment of Genders, more particularly to begin the practice of ethical treatment of women in all walks of life. It is hoped that this article would act as a primer towards this great beginning.

It is true that in many western nations, gender equality is placed in a higher pedestal with practical validity than it is practiced in many Asian countries. Sweden is, perhaps, one of the most advanced practitioners of gender neutrality today. They have undertaken many bold social experiments to erase gender boundaries. One of them is to remove the words "han" (He) and "hon" (She) from the Swedish language and replace both these words with a single gender neutral word "hen", which has

no real equivalent word in English language today, with in the context of the intended meaning. Sweden does not want the ideas of gender discriminations creeping into the minds of young children right from the formative years of their language training.

Often we assign gender roles to children even with their toys. We give Barbie dolls and cooking sets in pink colours to girls and racing cars to boys. These stereotype actions are sowing the seeds of gender notions in the minds of children, unknown to them and to their parents alike.

Physiological differences between men and women are, indeed, there. But they are gifts of Mother Nature for a higher purpose. It is significant to note that both testosterone and estrogen are present in both men and women, differing only in varying quantities at varying stages of life. This demonstrates that Mother Nature does not discriminate but only ensures the efficient utilization of matter through life forms. These physiological differences are the enabling mechanism for the continuity of life on our planet aiming to reach at our evolutionary possibilities. It is sad that we

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humans, in our yet-to-be-developed-wisdom, take gender as a tool for discriminations and sexual exploitations. Time has come to wake up from our ignorant stereotyped patterns of behavior with respect to male-female interactions.

SEX Vs GENDER

The word 'SEX' is often misused even in well-intended purposes. While filling application forms, there are fields, for example, to notify whether the applicant is male or female. The field's description to collect this information is usually "SEX". The most appropriate word to use in this context is "GENDER".

Masculine and Feminine principles manifest at all levels, with in the totality of human experiences. A greater appreciation of the principle of gender will help us to free ourselves from the malady of the unconscious gender exploitations. Gender and Sex are not the same.

Sex is merely a manifestation of the Principle of Gender at the physical level of life. Gender is one of the principles of life. It is a universal principle. Principle of Gender is discussed in detail in "Samkhya", one of the six great ancient Indian philosophies. *Samkhya Karika* of *Ishwara Krishna* is one of the oldest philosophical treatises where the existence of dual realities as "Purusha" and "Prakriti" are detailed.

"Purusha" and "Prakriti" are the fundamentals of Masculine and Feminine principles of Gender in Nature. The importance

of Samkhya will be appreciated only when we understand the fact that Samkhya is indeed the theoretical foundation for Yoga, Ayurveda and Mathematics. *Samkhya* is the very basis of Eastern Philosophy.

In the Western Philosophy too, the Principle of Gender is of paramount importance. The ancient secret Hermetic teachings of Hermes Trismegistus had detailed the seven fundamental principles for the functioning of this universe. (Read "The Kybalion – The Hermetic Philosophy of Ancient Egypt and Greece", by Three Initiates, first published by The Yogi Publication Society, Chicago, in 1912. Resource: www.kybalion.org). Hermes Trismegistus was also known as the 'scribes of gods'. He is believed to have lived in the ancient Egypt and taught Abraham of the Holy Bible. Among the Seven Hermetic Principles, the seventh and final Hermetic Principle is the Principle of Gender.

For some of the readers, the term "philosophy" may appear challenging. Philosophy is commonly misunderstood as mere theoretical talks that are difficult to understand and even more difficult to apply. They are not really so. Philosophies are the result of deepest explorations of human awareness into the nature of reality beyond the limitations of the known and the unknown. Unlike scientific experiments, philosophers do not limit themselves within the confines of physical nature of life. Philosophies have tremendous practical applications, as our own awareness expands.

Both Eastern and Westerns philosophers have recognized the existence of consciousness

(a state of being or a state of self-awareness) in different planes of existences – not just in the physical forms of life and expressions of life as we can see, touch or hear. The following tables would narrate in brief the different planes of existences from both Eastern and Western views. These classifications indicate the three great groups or degrees of Life Manifestations; these classifications are, however, not watertight compartments but greatly overlap one

another to varying extends. There are also further subdivisions to these planes. A detailed discussion on this is, however, beyond the scope of this article. This is indicated here only to put the principle of Gender in perceptive and to appreciate its depth of penetration. Both Eastern and Western thinkers from the ancient world uniformly confirm that the principle of Gender exists in all these three planes of existence.

Ancient Indian Philosophy	Ancient Greek Philosophy	Illustration
<i>Bhoutika Bruhat Mandal</i>	The Great Physical Plane	Elemental, Human, Animal and Plant Kingdoms, with a physical appearance; they are nothing but energies at lower rates of vibrations (Refer to Einstein’s theories of relativity). In this plane movement is bounded by space and time. Example, we can reach from A to B only in time and through physical movement.
<i>Manasika Bruhat Mandal</i>	The Great Mental Plane	Thoughts, feelings, dreams etc. which are of mental nature (Energies at higher rates of vibration). Here movement is not restricted in space and time. Example, we can reach from A to B instantly in our minds without the restrictions of space and time.
<i>Athmeeya Bruhat Mandal</i>	The Great Spiritual Plane	Energy is at the highest rate of vibration; in this plane time and space does not exist. This is where pure awareness manifests as separate state of being (loosely expressed in everyday language, as separate units of awareness, with a separated existence)

Male and female human forms are not mutual instruments for manipulations and exploitations, as we foolishly think and practice here on planet earth. Sexual abuses of women (mostly), separately seating boys and girls in the class rooms, barring entry of one gender to the places of worships so on and so forth, are hot current topics of debates and discussions today; these practices are the results of lower states of

human awareness. Higher our awareness grows and greater our consciousness expands, these abrasions in human character will disappear.

Principles of Gender

The principles of gender are a natural principle, like gravity, electricity and magnetism. Gender is present in all the three levels of existence. The fact of the matter is

that, Gender is most visibly manifested in the Physical plane, as male and female bodies. In the animal kingdom (we are part of that) gender is expressed as opposite male female bodies. In the plant kingdom they are expressed as Androecium and Gynoecium, which is a component of the body. In the elemental kingdom Genders are manifested as positive

and negatively charged ions. Likewise, there are mental genders and spiritual genders too. It is only in the absolute oneness of *Brahman* that it is fully ONE and ONE alone, as taught in the ancient Indian scriptures. The principle of Gender is summarized in the following tables, as they are manifested in the three Great Planes of existence.

	Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender
Physical Plane – Animal Kingdom Physical Plane – Plant Kingdom Physical Plane – Mineral Kingdom	Male Body Structure Androecium Positively Charged Particles (Protons)	Female Body Structure Gynoecium Negatively Charged Particles (Electrons)
Mental Plane	Conscious Mind/Objective Mind	Subconscious Mind/ Subjective Mind
Spiritual Plane	<i>Purusha</i> (Inspiration or Idea Generation)	<i>Prakriti</i> (Creative process)

In every woman there is a male principle. In every man there is a female principle. This fact is evident at the physical level by the presence of estrogen and testosterone in both male and female bodies. The “*ardha-narishwara*” (half woman-half-man) concept of Indian scriptures is symbolic in nature to inspire this concept of inseparability of genders from one another. Likewise, many plants are bisexual, meaning both types of reproductive systems are found in the same body in many plant forms. Within the atomic structure of the Mineral Sub Planes too positively charged protons and negatively charged electrons are present with in the same atomic structure.

At the Mental Plane the genders are manifested as dual mind phenomenon about

which all modern psychology students are familiar with. Conscious Mind or Objective Mind is the directive and discriminating thoughts and energy within us. The Subconscious Mind or Subjective Mind is the memory banks at the recesses of our mind.

At the Spiritual plane, the idea generation or inspiration is the male principle in us. The actual process of the creation is the female principle. The concepts contained within this will be easily understandable if you would think the respective roles of a Designer and a contractor in a creative process. The designer is the masculine gender and the contractor is the feminine gender. In *Samkhya*, this feminine aspect of creation is called *Prakriti*. *Purusha* is masculine concept in *Samkhya*. *Purusha*

is the mental aspect as masculine gender and *Prakruti* is the mental aspect as feminine gender. The very process is continued into all planes of existences, namely, mental and physical, finally culminating in the male-female bodies.

Ethics of Gender

Sex is not Gender. Gender is one of the noblest expressions of God manifesting in various levels of realities. We ignorantly misuse the gender manifestations for sense gratifications by exploiting one another. There are molecular forces of attraction and repulsion at the subatomic energy level. There are forces of attraction and repulsion that work between different minds. Similarly, there are attraction and repulsion that exist between the male and female forms. These are the manifestation of the same divine energy, functioning under the inviolable cosmic laws. Calling it “sexual

attraction” is the crudest form of human misunderstanding of this great principle of gender functioning in the cosmos. This is where the role of parents, teachers and mentors begins in giving the right knowledge and right attitude to children regarding the opposite genders and explain how they function in harmony in the universe.

It is not the composition of the class room that one should debate and focus on - it is about improving the standards and quality of content of education that one should focus on. It is about debating the ways and means of increasing the awareness of the cosmos and cosmic laws operating here that one should discuss. Preparing children to treat the opposite genders with respect is of paramount importance. Establishing this natural harmony in individual lives is the essence of the Ethics of Gender.

