


MODULE -1KEY CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGIES TOPIC- PATRIARCHY


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PATRIARCHY


- Social system in which male gender role as the primary authority figure is central to social organization
- Where father hold authority over women, children & property
- Implies the institutions of male rule & privilege, & entails female subordination
- Historically- patriarchy manifested itself in social. Legal, political & economic organization of a range of different cultures.


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- Subordination of women to men is prevalent in large parts of world
 - Women were also subjected to discriminations, humiliations, exploitations, oppressions, control & violence
 - Women experience discriminations in terms of right to food, health care, educations, employment, control over productive forces, decision making & livelihood
 - This is not because of their biological differences but due to the differences in social construct
 - Gender differences are man made & they get legitimised in a patriarchal society

- Patriarchy literally means rule of father in a male-dominated family
- It is a social construct which considers men as superior to women
- Sylvia Walby in “Theorising Patriarchy’ calls it “a system of social structures & practices in which men dominate, oppress & exploit women”
- Patriarchy is based on a system of power relations which are hierarchical and unequal where men control women’s production, reproduction and sexuality.
- It imposes masculinity and femininity character stereotypes in society which strengthens the unequal power relations between men and women.

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- Patriarchy is not a constant as gender relations which are dynamic and complex have changed over the periods of history.
 - The nature of control and subjugation of women varies from one society to the other as it differs due to the differences in class, caste, religion, region, ethnicity and the socio-cultural practices.
 - Thus in the context of India, Brahmanical patriarchy, tribal patriarchy and Dalit patriarchy are different from each other.

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- Patriarchal societies propagate the idea of motherhood which restricts women's mobility & burdens them with the responsibilities to nurture & rear children
 - Sigmund Freud stated that for women 'anatomy' is destiny & it is women's biology which primarily determine their psychology & hence their abilities & roles
 - Traditional notion of public-private divide, which located politics in public sphere & family & personal relationships in private sphere as non-political

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- Political sphere- reserved for men
 - Private sphere reserved for women & excluded from politics
 - These theories of male supremacy have been challenged by feminists
 - Feminists argued that the biological difference might lead to some difference in their roles, but that should not become the basis of a sexual hierarchy in which men are dominant

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- Dismantle these theories enable us to acknowledge that patriarchy is man made
 - Gerda Lerner- "The Creation of Patriarchy" - 1986- argued against single cause theories & against looking for one historical moment when patriarchy was established.
 - Patriarchy has been conceptualized & analyzed by several feminist scholars in different ways.
 - Feminists have challenged patriarchal knowledge, ideology, values & its practice
 - All feminists do not like the term patriarchy & prefer to call the term gender & gender oppression

PATRILINY

- System in which one belongs to ones father's lineage
- Involves inheritance of property, names or titles through male lines
- Literally a father line- line of descent from a male ancestor to a descendant
- A mans genetic Y DNA & family name descended down the same line from father to son
- More common than matrilineal descent
- In early period- inheritance occur within family & purely agnatic i.e. ones genetic relative exclusively through males- a persons pure male ancestry
- Women were largely excluded from inheritance