

A PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITIQUE ON WOMANHOOD & IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT:

In this paper we attempt to outline the experience of womanhood and gender divide, as it has existed since times immemorial in the cultural and social milieu. We discuss these issues from a nuanced perspective highlighting the evolutionary, psychodynamic, developmental and critical feminist understandings. From a concern that revolves around the survival of species to the role of inherent bodily predispositions to differences in child-rearing to discursive inequalities, gender has continued to remain a topic of much speculation in psychological literature. While on one hand, it is this tendency to think, feel and act uniquely that makes a woman feminine, on the other hand, it is the same novelty of her identity that is subjugated by a patriarchal world to which she is made to belong. Although we witness struggles towards a more humane, rightful and woman-sensitive society in the contemporary times, we also suggest how this gender divide only changes form but continues to exist quietly even in the domain of media and technology. How does the modern woman really negotiate with these psychological, sociological and cultural imbalances is later reviewed in the light of this discussion.

KEY WORDS: womanhood, evolutionary, inequalities, struggles.
