

MARXIST FEMINISM TO CONTEMPLATE THE SEXUAL DIVISION OF LABOUR
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ABSTRACT

The independence of sex and gender has been professed but it is still debatable as to whether it is a social, cultural or natural phenomenon. Sex is the container and gender the context the former being fixed. Most feminists work on the premise that sex precedes gender without recognizing the relationship between division and hierarchy, which are the quintessential issues to address the question of sex and gender. The biological sex facilitates the different functions for the procreation of males and females that determines from natural, feminist and patriarchal schools of thought. Also biological sex can be taken as a salient factor for making these physiological and social demarcations. But this thinking is dichotomous and hierarchal in nature. Lastly, the concept of Marxist feminism is discussed to give a background setting to study the liberation of women via microfinance institutions. It has been flagrantly nuanced that women are the cynosure in household tasks and national economic development. However, the role of women is impeded because they generally hold a low status in many developing countries. Owing to historical and cultural disadvantages, women are also more vulnerable to poverty. In congruence to being a human rights agenda, the prevailing condition of women calls for taking measures to empower them. The emancipation of women is the baseline for transubstantiating their lives at the household level and in the wider society. In this context, the provision of microfinance is an approach towards women empowerment.

Keywords- Marxist feminism, Microfinance institutions, women empowerment

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