

Sociological study about sexual harassment in Patriarchal system

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Received: 06/08/2022

Accepted: 15/03/2023

Published: 31/03/2023

Abstract:

In this article, we will try to understand the phenomenon of sexual harassment against women in Arab societies in general and in Algerian society in particular, in the light of structure of the prevailing patriarchal system. By reviewing this phenomenon within the framework of social theories as the theory of symbolic interactionism that stresses the analysis of how our behaviors depend on how we define others and theory of social representations.

Keywords: sexual harassment; Patriarchal system; Social representations; Social control; the Intersectionality.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is known that Arab societies are patriarchal societies but in the truth the god say « o people !we created you from a male and a female. And made you races and tribes. »(quran. chambers.13) this meaning there is no difference between men and women but we see today are violations against women including violence, sexual harassment, and sometimes rape, all this crimes and delinquency make us wonder about the real causes of these social phenomena, although the Islamic religion has established strongly-worded laws against those who harm the dignity of women, as our holy prophet recommended the necessity of being kind to her, this is why we had made this study for understand this phenomenon in terms of social and economic dimensions, where we will rely on the social theories through which we can explain and understood these crimes scientifically, we have relied on the theory of symbolic interactionism that stresses the analysis of how our behaviors depend on how we define others and ourselves. It concentrates on process, rather than structure, and keeps the individual actor at the center and we have used theory of representations social and control theory.

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2. Study concepts

In this study, we have relied on a set of core concepts that help explain the phenomenon of sexual harassment in Algerian society, where we have carded a comprehensive concept for each term.

2.1 sexual harassment

There is many definition of harassment in all the round world but generly Sexual harassment is a form of illegal workplace sex discrimination, pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.⁴ Accordingly, sexual harassment is defined as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment . . . [that] explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment¹.

2.2 The concept of Patriarchy

It self is not a contribution of feminist theories. Many social scientists in the nineteenth century wrote about it as a more civilized or complex form of organization compared to the primitive matriarchies¹. Engels referred to it as the earliest system of domination establishing that Patriarchy is “the world historical defeat of the female sex.”². In this sense, it is said that Patriarchy was a form of political organization that distributed power unequally between men and women to the detriment of women.

2.3 Social representations

are about different types of collective cognitions, common sense or thought systems of societies or groups of people. They are always related to social, cultural and/or symbolic objects, they are representations of something. There is no clear-cut definition used by the advocates, and Moscovici himself gives a number of definitions:

Social representations [...] concern the contents of everyday thinking and the stock of ideas that give coherence to our religious beliefs, political ideas and the connections we create as spontaneously as we breathe. They make it possible for us to classify persons and objects, to compare and explain behaviours and to objectify them as part of our social setting. While representations are often to be located in the minds of men and women, they can just as often be found “in the world”, and as such examined separately³.

2.4 Social control theory

¹ Jill D. Weinberg Laura Beth Nielsen, **What is Sexual Harassment?** , An Empirical Study of Perceptions of Ordinary People and Judges, p41

² Kamla bhasin, **What is patriarchy?** (consulted on 16/05/2022/9h15), https://perpustakaan.komnasperempuan.go.id/web/index.php?p=show_detail&id=4102&keywords=

³ Birgitta Höijer, **Social Representations Theory A New Theory for Media Research**. Nordic Council of Ministers Review, Vol 32. N2. 2011. P 4.

Social control is among the oldest and most distinctly sociological concepts, especially in the work of some of the classical American sociologists. The origin of social control in the history of sociology places the concept and its respective theoretical frameworks in a unique position, given that the intellectual roots of modern and con-temporary sociology have been largely shaped by the European traditions that stretch from August Comte to Emile Durkheim and Max Weber, along with a handful of other continental classical scholars. Throughout the concept's history, social control has undergone important changes in meaning.¹

2.5 The concept of Intersectionality

As a framework and praxis has gathered significance in law and the social sciences over the past 20 years. This article begins by reviewing how intersectionality has been conceptualized, as well as the implications of varying definitions attributed to intersectionality. We then explore applications of intersectionality, first in research that focuses on uncovering processes of differentiation and systems of inequality across a range of topics, including reproductive rights, colonization, religion, immigration, and sexual behavior.²

3. women in primitive societies

Through the sum of the relics and fossils that were left by various ancient civilizations, many anthropologists and thinkers were able to discover the patterns of life in primitive societies, and they were also able to know many details of social life in those societies, both in terms of economic or cultural terms, as well as the nature of relationships within those societies. Perhaps what is interesting is the position of women and their role in those societies. « Few people who live in societies where Christianity, Judaism or Islam are followed remain unaware of the tale of Eve heeding the word of the serpent in the Garden of Eden, eating the forbidden fruit and then tempting Adam to do the same. Generally, during the most impressionable years of childhood, we are taught that it was this act of eating the tasty fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil that caused the loss of Paradise, the expulsion of Adam and Eve, thus all humankind, from this first home of bliss and contentment. We are also made to understand that, as a result of this act, it was decreed by God that woman must submit to the dominance of man—who was at that time divinely presented with the right to rule over her from that moment until now. The expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden is not exactly the latest news, but few contemporary happenings have affected women of today any more directly. In the struggle to achieve equal status for women, in a society still permeated by the values and moralities of Judeo-Christian beliefs (which have penetrated deeply

¹ Deflem mathieu, **Deviance and control social**, The Hand book of Deviance, Publisher John Wiley and Sons, 2015. P 31.

² Hajer Al-Faham, Angelique M. Davis , and Rose Ernst. **Intersectionality: From Theory to Practice** .Annual Review of Law and Social Science, 2019 , p 247

into even the most secular aspects of our contemporary civilization) we soon realize that a thorough examination of this creation legend, alongside its historical origins, provides us with vital information. It allows us to comprehend the role that contemporary religions have played in the initial and continual oppression and subjugation of women—and the reasons for this as we have seen today a all societies has judgment by patriarchal system, but in the past matriarchal system was the only one which dominant when In prehistoric and early historical periods of human development, religions existed in which people revered their supreme creator as female. The Great Goddess—the Divine Ancestress—had been worshiped from the beginnings of the Neolithic periods of 7000 BC until the closing of the last Goddess temples, about AD 500. Some authorities would extend Goddess worship as far into the past as the Upper Paleolithic Age of about 25,000 BC. Yet events of the Bible, which we are generally taught to think of as taking place “in the beginning of time,” actually occurred in historic periods. Abraham, first prophet of the Hebrew-Christian god Yahweh, more familiarly known as Jehovah, is believed by most Bible scholars to have lived no earlier than 1800 BC and possibly as late as 1550 BC. Most significant is the realization that for thousands of years both religions existed simultaneously—among closely neighboring peoples. Archaeological, mythological and historical evidence all reveal that the female religion, far from naturally fading away, was the victim of centuries of continual persecution and suppression by the advocates of the newer religions which held male deities as supreme. And from these new religions came the creation myth of Adam and Eve and the tale of the loss of Paradise. What had life been like for women who lived in a society that venerated a wise and valiant female Creator? Why had the members of the later male religions fought so aggressively to suppress that earlier worship—even the very memory of it? What did the legend of Adam and Eve really signify, and when and why was it written? The answers I discovered have formed the contents of this book. When God Was a Woman, the story of the suppression of women’s rites, has been written to explain the historical events and political attitudes that led to the writing of the Judeo-Christian myth of the Fall, the loss of Paradise and, most important, why the blame for that loss was attributed to the woman Eve, and has ever since been placed heavily upon all women¹

4. Women's lifestyle in a patriarchal society

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, many books has demonstrated the links between domestic violence and women’s right to adequate housing and this has been highlighted throughout the work of the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women and on the right to adequate housing. If women’s right to adequate housing is not sufficiently protected, women become more vulnerable to violence. Domestic

¹Merlin Stone , **when god was a women** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Publishing Company, 1978. P 26

violence has been found to be a leading cause of women's (and often their children's) homelessness, and many women try to avoid homelessness by staying in abusive relationships. Women who are property owners or landowners experience less domestic violence, which points to the importance of guaranteeing women's security of tenure. Assumptions that a woman has to "leave" an abusive home instead of removing the abusive husband and the lack of support for removing the abusive partner by local authorities, community and/or family laws and regulations, greatly undermine women's right to adequate housing as well as their right to live a life free of violence. Overcrowding, poverty and unemployment also have an impact on the above-mentioned rights and directly affect the level of violence and sexual abuse in homes and communities. In addition, insufficient protection for victims of domestic violence, including insufficient shelter homes, legal aid and information to women about their rights, has an impact on the level of domestic violence and women's homelessness. Consequently, Algeria should address all these issues as issues of women's rights to property, land, housing, life, personal security, gender equality and being free from violence and discrimination. Furthermore violations of women's sexual and reproductive health right are often deeply ingrained in societal values pertaining to women sexuality¹.

5. the changing social and women

As a result of the rapid social change that societies are witnessing at all levels, we are today living in social change is vast, and the models supporting it are as different as the ideologies that inspired them. However, generally speaking, we see two approaches: one aims to produce a common understanding among all the participants in a development initiative by implementing a policy or a development project, that is, the top-down model. The other emphasizes engaging the grassroots in making decisions that enhance their own lives, or the bottom up model. Despite the diversity of approaches, there is a consensus in the early 21st century on the need for grassroots participation in bringing about change at both the social and the individual levels²

that is what turned old family to a nucleus family, as there was a change within it in terms of roles and jobs, where - in a short time - the woman's job within the family was to have children and watch over their upbringing and take care of their various needs, in addition to the needs of the husband, and taking care of all the affairs of the house alike, while the jobs were concentrated The man is in the economic aspect, by providing the necessary material necessities for the home, in addition to the task of social control for his family members, as he was the one who commanded and prevented. This, in turn, led to the emergence of new manifestations in the social life of the Algerian family that did not exist before in its entity, « since the pas 50 years, the

¹ Women's rights are human rights, United nation publication, New york, 2014, P 66 .

² Jan Servaes , Rico Sustainable. **Social Change and Communication**, Communication Research Trends, Vol 32, N4, 2013, p 6.

access of women to education were slowly and their participations in the production of knowledge and economic has increased substantially compared with previous epochs. However, what it might seem like a definite triumph of the feminist struggles »¹, but even if it existed, it was not as widespread as we are witnessing today, and among the most important of these issues we find the issue of granting justice Uh, more freedoms in social life, and with the increase in voices calling for this, and the enactment of laws that support this trend, which was positively reflected on the social life of women, as the percentage of educated females in various educational stages increased and became higher than the percentage of males, and thus it was natural that Their percentage inside the university is greater and in all disciplines, which paved the way for them to enter and sweep the labor market, where they are present side by side with their male colleagues in various professions, and this is after their work was limited to some jobs such as medicine and education in an earlier stage, until today we are watching The presence of women in various jobs and their inclusion in the ladder of positions, but this situation has affected one way or another on the family structure.

The need for collective solidarity as a way to protect and support victims of harassment, when we are finding the mentality of Russian society leads to the fact that victims of harassment are often left alone with their problem and, fearing public condemnation, are silent about what happened. In this regard, the first priority is to help victims feel the support and solidarity of the community.

A possible way out of the problem could be empowering the representative bodies of workers (primarily trade unions) with the authority to consider relevant complaints and initiate investigations into the facts of harassment. It is also possible to recommend the creation of special commissions within the trade unions, the purpose of which would be to raise awareness about the fight against harassment and harassment in the workplace, as well as provide psychological assistance, including anonymous one, and support victims of harassment².

6. analyse sociological

because sociology is extremely wide ranging, from the analysis of passing encounter between individuals on the street up to the investigation of global social processes The discipline covers an extremely broad range that includes every aspect of

¹ Sandra benitez herrera , patricia figueiro spinelli, **girl of today and women from the past. When the History of Female Scientists is Used to Engage Girls with Science**, International Journal for the Historiography of Science, 2019 , p 35.36

² Larisa sergeevna kirillova, Kazan Federal ,**Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Legal Methods to Protect Employees**, Utopía y Praxis Latinoamericana, University, Rusia ,vol. 25, no12. 2020.

human social conditions; all types of human relationships and forms of social behavior¹.

and the crime is one of this a most important behavior. For that we need to measuring crime. Most straightforwardly we are interested in determining just how much crime there is in society and how prevalent different types of crime are. Inevitably we will also be interested in finding out whether crime is increasing or decreasing and whether crime is more prevalent in some places than others. Obtaining clear information about the nature and prevalence of crime in society is also important for the development of theories of crime. A good theory of crime, for instance, will provide a satisfactory account of the most notable patterns in criminal behaviour, such as the over-representation of men and young people in crime statistics. In short, we want to ensure that we have a clear picture of the phenomenon that we want to², and Sociologists are primarily interested in human beings as they appear in social interaction and the effects of this interaction on behavior according to frequency of every society. And when we talk about some phenomena In all societies traditional as crime of harassment or raped « There is no record of the prevalence of violence against women especially within the home. This is because women hardly report violence to the police for fear of reprisal from both the husband and wider family. In addition, the law enforcement agents do not readily entertain complaints of domestic violence. They treat such complaint as a minor offence of ‘two people fighting’ or laugh it off as ‘husband and wife problem »³

and here we have tried to analyse according to Sex-based theories on sexual harassment suggest that social status plays a vital role towards an individual to resort to harassment; for example, females that tend to have conventional masculine aspects such as being self-confident, forceful, influential etc. are viewed as a risk towards a male's social status in a workplace environment. Similarly, males that tend to exhibit conventional feminine actions are most likely to take on position mainly held by female employees. Subsequently, leading to masculine overcompensation, where the male employees would be more likely to target strong female figures in the workplace and this not only results in discrimination, but also promotes the forged perception that females do not have the potential to become independent individuals and take on leadership roles in the workplace, and that males having feminine aspects are a disgrace to the gender (An Exploratory Research into the Causes, Consequences, and Patterns Regarding Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in the US Technology Industry⁴.

¹Zerihun Doda, **Introduction to Sociology**, Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative, Debu University, 2005, p 15.

² Russil Durrant, **An Introduction to Criminal Psychology**, Second edition published Routledge, New York, 2018, p 05.

³ Makama, Godiya Allanana, **Patriarchy and gender inequality in Nigeria: The way for word**, European Scientific Journal, June 2013, edition(Print), vol.9, No.17, p125.

⁴Giorgio Sleiter, **An Exploratory Research into the Causes, Consequences and Patterns Regarding Sexual Harassment in the Work place in the US Technology Industry**, University of Westminster, International Business dissertation, April 2019, p 06.

6.1. social representations Theory

We have included within our sociological approaches the theory of social representations because it is a theory that helps in understanding and explaining the phenomenon of sexual harassment.) that representations are not just fields of opinions to go further, and consider them as well-organized cognitive structures within groups¹.

we find that a man is influenced by the opinions and impressions of stronger individuals than him within his surroundings, when parents, brothers or community members describe the non-molested man and call him a spoiled child The (un sharp) and the soft, this affects the formation of his identity and affects his healthy mental development and creates in him contempt for himself, while we find that the representations, perceptions and judgments that praise the harassed man and raise his status contribute to his self-esteem, and according to Clarck's experiment that he conducted in America on a group of Black children when he put two dolls in front of them, one black and the other white, and asked them to choose the most beautiful doll, so they chose the white doll, because no one likes black dolls According to the perceptions prevailing in their society, even from the blacks themselves, which are basically representations and judgments of strong groups, sexual harassment can be understood as the product of strengthening the prevailing social representations in the patriarchal society, which gives males preconceptions about their roles that must be played in order to achieve social status, and this What affects the psyche of the individual and contributes to pushing them towards harassment in an attempt to emulate those who issued those negative judgments, and representations are basically dynamic structures that change and can disappear according to the social environment, and it is possible to distinguish between three periods in the history of social representation, the stage of emergence which precedes The emergence of independent knowledge or independent judgment on a subject².

6.2. Intersectionality Theory

The central issue for intersectionality theory is the understanding that women experience oppression in varying configurations and in varying degrees of intensity . The explanation for that variation is that while all women potentially experience oppression on the basis of gender, women are, nevertheless, differentially oppressed by the varied intersections of other arrangements of social inequality. These vectors of oppression and privilege include not only gender but also class, race, global location, sexual preference, and age. The variation of these intersections qualitatively alters the

¹ Patrick Rateau, Pascal Moliner, **Social Representation Theory**, (consulted on 25/05/2022 h11:30) <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292251059>

² Jeremy methivier, **L'impact de la peur sur les représentation sociales**, Thèse de doctorat, spécialité psychologie ,université de Montpellier, France. 2012. P 25

experience of a woman— and this alteration, this diversity, must be taken into account in theorizing the experiences of “women.” The argument in intersectionality theory is that it is intersection itself that produces a particular experience of oppression, and one cannot arrive at an adequate explanation by using an additive strategy of gender, plus race, plus class, plus sexuality , for example, A woman who lives in a patriarchal environment frequently experience harassment in employment Because they are shy women according to the patriarchal environment in which they were raised, but a family of these routinely refuse to recognize this harassment—unless it can be shown to be a case of what is considered general discrimination, “ environment kind discrimination”, . In characterizing these as vectors of oppression and privilege, we wish to suggest a

fundamental insight of intersectionality theories—that the privilege exercised by some women and men turns on the oppression of other women and men. Theories of intersectionality at their core understand these arrangements of inequality as hierarchical structures based in unjust power relations. The theme of injustice signals the consistent critical focus of this analysis.¹

6.3. social control theory

We relied on the theory of social control in explaining the phenomenon of sexual harassment, where we dropped this theory on the phenomenon, and this phenomenon is based on several important points in understanding the behavior of individuals based on the Positive self-concept that involves not only self-esteem but also seeing oneself as conventional as opposed to criminal; A commitment to long-range, legitimate goals and Setting realistic objectives in addition High tolerance for frustration and Identification with lawfulness and respect for the law.

From the perspective of sociological theorizing, the major theoretical significance of Reckless’s theory was that the social networks of young people constituted something more than socioeconomic status and subcultural membership. He also gave ascendancy to internal control and to the recognition of individual differences in socialization.²

Travis Hirschi’s *Causes of Delinquency*, a classic cross-sectional study assumed that there are individual differences in morality. For Hirschi, the moral ties consist of attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief in the validity of the law:

Where we find that there are many young men who sexually harass women despite their knowledge of the stipulated legal punishment, mostly because they do not believe in the legitimacy of this punishment, and they also see that, according to the control

¹ George Ritzer, **Sociological Theory**, Eighth Edition, University of Maryland, New York, 2011, p 481.

² James Bonta , D. A. Andrews, **The Psychology of Criminal Conduct** , Sixth Edition, New York , 2017, P 49.

system prevailing in his group, non-harassment is surrender,

And that this individual would rather go to prison than surrender, and this is what we often find in neighborhood gangs

Judgments and perceptions issued on the subject of harassment, whether positive or negative, are subject to change with time due to the emergence of new dominant dynamics that reject old prevalent perceptions. For example, we find a child who lives in A general environment and moves to residence in a bourgeois environment. His perceptions about the phenomenon quickly change due to the perception prevailing in the new environment, which rejects the phenomenon of harassment, unlike what it used to be. An issue in its first environment that gives positive impressions about the phenomenon. The connotations carried by a particular subject are hostage to the dominant social perspectives.

7- Conclusion

The nature of social upbringing prevailing in Arab societies is what reinforces and perpetuates the phenomenon of sexual harassment through the system of male domination that perpetuates the principle of gender disparity. We also find that the total social representations attached to this system play a major role in directing the behavior of individuals, as social control is forced. The individual does not engage in inferior deviant behavior or is classified within the homosexual group. The individual in Arab societies, according to the theory of social representations, is considered unprofessional and unruly if he is not harassed. This is away for change this hard system we need to change our upbringing methods. Changing the traditional methods of upbringing that contribute to the reproduction of the structure.

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