

РОЗДІЛ 3

ГЕНДЕРНИЙ ДИСКУРС У ПСИХОЛОГІЧНІЙ НАУЦІ ТА ПСИХОТЕРАПЕВТИЧНІЙ ПРАКТИЦІ

COVID- 19 AS A FACTOR IN THE ACTUALIZATION THE URGENT GENDER ISSUES

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Virus pandemic had exacerbated a lot of gender issues – domestic violence, job loss, poverty, depression, increasing the time budget for domestic work, additional responsibilities for elderly relatives, child care, healthy style of life etc. The content of the problems in the conditions of self-isolation appeared fully corresponded to the main six domains, which are singled out as the most relevant in the Gender Equality Index, namely: work, money, education, time, power and health. According to the coverage of gender issues of self-isolation in different mass media, the problems of home violence, gender inequality, divorces have been actualized most acutely in individualistic democratic cultures. In collectivist ones, they primarily affected the impoverished segments of the population, mostly women.

What new challenges have been aroused in the process of overcoming the consequences of the pandemic and for to what demographic group will they have greater extent? Let us turn to the main parameters of measuring the degree of symmetry or asymmetry of the social status of the male and female population mentioned above in the International Gender Equality Index. As we know, each domain includes subdomains: such as the ratio of jurisdictional articles, protected, for example, job flexible working time for women with preschool children or legal protection of domestic violence victims, government support of professional education for poor women etc. For illustration, the domain of education should provide the conditions for lifelong learning, which allows women to job retrain even in middle or late adulthood.

What and whose jobs and sources of income had been suffered the most during the quarantine process in most countries? Male's or female's population had lost more financially? What demographic group was lowering their social status? Small agro-complex enterprises, different service services, where mostly women were the low paid staff, started to be poorer. Women, who were mostly working here, and after self-locking had loosed their place of job. So female, which was at a lower level of economic position on mentioned job places on the eve of the pandemic, are likely to further financial decline in the nearest future. Poverty, according to psychological studies, is a leading factor of mental and behavioural disorders, including depression and anxiety. In this way, the COVID-19 pandemic once again highlights the importance of equalizing the position of women in education, job positions and thus inadequate payment.

These COVID financial lessons underline once more the urgent task for overcoming gender stereotypes about the orientation of female vocational education on trade, service, caring and teaching employment, which are lower in payment and need for full realization the slogan: "Girls – to STEM! Focusing on technical and exact sciences, on mastering engineering and military professions, where until now men job force is dominative will allow women to earn more, to have wider prospects for career development and qualification growth. It should be noted that the revision of traditional views on vocational education from the humanities to technical and natural sciences for women, should be provided from the school bench. It is school socialization activate the most powerful gender stereotypes – girls are being focused on such knowledge that in the future would create an opportunity to combine work with housework and raising children. Girls, as well as schoolboys, should be equally focused on job self-realization and family maintenance. When we will mention the reason for women's tolerance to home violence, we will return to the question of women's financial dependence from their partners and husbands. The category of time in the domain of the Gender Equality Index traditionally involves comparison and equalization of the budget of working (paid) and unpaid work (domestic). The latter primarily includes time spent on average mainly by women on household chores, which in terms of service state tariffs might enrich women at least by additional salary. In reality, this job is performed especially during quarantine free of charge as a stereotyped women's duty felled down solely in double dimension on their shoulders.

COVID-19 guarantee time has increased domestic violence and will be obviously in future the subject of rigorous discussion – did this period activates the problem of psychological, economic inequality in family settings in individual and mass consciousness? Cross-cultural research into ontogenesis of masculinity has revealed how, despite cultural variations, there are commonalities in gender issues between countries in upbringing the negative masculinity effect. For example, Peter Glick and his colleagues (2004) examined stereotypes about men in 16 nations – including the United States, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Peru, and Taiwan – and found that men across all of the cultures are stereotyped as “bad but bold.” That is the main reason why men are striving viewed to be powerful and using their power in negative, often violent ways.

The positive aspects of their socialized power make men well-suited for high-status jobs, but the negative aspects also make them well-suited for the role of oppressor or dictator. Not surprising that domestic violence during the pandemic had increased significantly even in countries that were considered the flagships of gender democracy, such as England or some European countries. We may conclude that the health as one of the equality domain had concentrated inside all the previously mentioned areas of gender women's inequality: financial dependence on men, view for his professional work as an additional income for the family, but not for the sphere of personal self-realization and self-expression. In other words, it can be assumed that those women who ended their domestic quarantine by initiating divorce embarked on a path of self-liberation from patriarchal traditions. On the contrary to those women, who until now continue to be motivated by the slogan: “I was the object of humiliation, but I forgive him because I am afraid to be alone”.

What socio-psychological factors do determine the vectors of gender socialization, especially polar egalitarian and patriarchal? Social psychology draws attention primarily to the leading role of the social character of society, which is divided into social psychology into two major groups – individualistic and collectivistic. Collectivist culture is based primarily on the values of respect and dependence on the group, especially the family and clan. Mostly these are cultures of the East, which are dominated by patriarchal gender values. Was self-isolation in collectivist cultures being connected with the increase in domestic violence? Judging by the mass media information, in particular from China, it was accompanied mostly by divorces than by domestic violence. Thus, the spike divorce statistics in China during pandemic isolation can be interpreted as a phenomenon bright evidence of growing women “s egalitarian consciousness and striving for liberation.

Interestingly, that domestic violence declared by women in public, have been more vivid in masculine individualistic cultures, especially on the post-Soviet space, such as Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus (outbreaks of domestic violence have been observed in all of them). Domestic violence was virtually non-existent in that period in individualistic cultures that are called feminine. These are, first of all, the Scandinavian countries: Sweden, Finland, Holland and others, where the values of gender equality are learned and socialized from the preschool age.

What factors did cause outbreaks of domestic violence in post-soviet societies at the time, when the official ideology of the post-soviet countries and their national constitutions in their content has promoted the need and demand of gender equality? The application of the case method of study, accumulated over many years of psychological counselling of women of different ages, qualitative and quantitative analysis of their narratives about their former fights, conflicts with husbands or partners, a reflection of their own experiences of self-judgment and relationships with people of the opposite sex, made it possible to apply the data on the problem partner’s domestic violence, which in gender research psychological literature received the term “Violence in intimate partnership” to COVID-19 period. A short summary of analyzing intimate partnership violence during lockdown will present a bit new side of this gender problem.

The psychological basis of domestic violence at the beginning of a relationship usually was not spontaneous, unmotivated aggression of a male partner towards a woman. The ontogenetic manifestation of subordinated position towards a woman-partner (or future wife) was based primarily on women’s demonstration subconsciously or consciously glorification of the partner “s superiority, totally excusing his exhibition of her ignorance in different situations from the very beginning of the relationship. The further disharmony in the process of intimate relationship “s development usually started to be reinforced by growing economic, psychological women’s dependence from the partners, whose social and professional status usually remains less prestigious and lower.

Most women in their narratives remind that after the first cases of a mild level of emotional violence and lack of protests from the woman’s side, men started to be more persistent in manifestations of arrogance. The content analysis of a lot of women’s recovery stories confirmed that women’s exculsive behaviour was not motivated by” pink glasses” effect. Mostly they were driven by typical women’s phobia, like: “I was afraid, he would leave me”; “I have hidden the desire of his resignation by diving deeper and

deeper in my slave serving position, because of feeling shame and fear to be alone”. This widespread phenomenon of primary women’s predisposition to accept intimate partners’ violence stems from a lot of social and psychological factors.

Interview with some women, who are even in a patriarchal social environment made the decision not anymore be tolerated to any violation her personality rights from the partner, as criticizing her point of view, not accepting her opinion as mature or ignoring her will, and made their decision for divorce, usually came to this decision grounded on some background. Mostly these women, young or elder, have a stable professional position, positive self-esteem and concept of the self, which was often grounded on their stable employment, professional education and beloved job activities.

What are the roots of mass cases of women’s’ low self-esteem? It postulates that because women are from childhood are mostly oriented by their parents on home and will keep this responsibility for the house, parenting, motherhood from early childhood. Such gender socialization emphasizes the importance of responsibility in relationships to their daughters and they accept this concept as self-accusations. So growing up in ambivalent gender cultures (mass media usually are oriented on traditional values and conveys mostly messages of women’s responsibility, beauty, tolerance, patience, would have the result internalization of women’s role. This role is mostly connected with the low self-esteem and self-concept which rooted in the idea: all problems because of my fault. Everything is wrong because of me, I am guilty!

Boys from a childhood obtain problematic satisfaction or dissatisfaction from external factors, outside home communication and interaction (while parents pushing their sons into independence in a social environment). Thus men tend to display externalized roots of the factors, which might determine their negative emotional states and symptoms of rejection. That is why their negative emotions in problematic situations have mostly external character- outward (from the self to the world, from me – to others). External factors for men’s psychology usually – the cause of some problems in a relationship, not me!

Undoubtedly, the rupture of relations, especially caused domestic violence, most are being interpreted in gender study as pathological growing up the boys, future men, in an aggressive family atmosphere. Of course, this factor is substantial in understanding the aetiology of aggressive disorders among future adult violators. But woman’s assertive behaviour, their self-sufficient development of personality is mostly being ignored and analyzed from the position of the victim of the domestic violence, but not from the position of the self-sufficient, professionally and financially personalities.