

SEX DIFFERENCE AND GENDER DIALOGUE: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

By

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ABSTRACT

Sex difference is a divine initiative that is meant for the optimum development of humankind. However, society has capitalized on certain characteristics of the sexes as well as exploited same for the oppression of particularly, the female gender. This work seeks to examine the social conception of sex difference; it also attempts to interrogate the consequences of gender signification and proposes that meaningful progress depends on the willingness of the genders to engage in honest dialogue.

...when parents find a girl playing with her brothers, she will be told to go inside the house and sit there, or work... If she says 'how about them' [her brothers], she is told, 'they are boys, they can do whatever they like, you're a girl, how can you think you're equal to hem?' (ASGEDETSTEFANOS, 9)

INTRODUCTION

Human life is structured in relation to the aspirations and expectations or constraints which the society designs for the two sexes. Emile Durkheim calls this phenomenon "social fact" due to the coercive influence it imposes on the people (72). According to Babara Eakins and Gene Eakins, sex refers to the biological difference between "females and males - differences in the genetic and

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