



## Concept of Masculinity in Men and Their Attitude towards Women

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### Abstract

The present study aimed to investigate the relationship between concept of masculinity in men and their attitude towards women. It was hypothesized that there is likely to be a significant negative relationship between concept of masculinity in men and their attitude towards women. Also, it was hypothesized that concept of masculinity is likely to predict attitude towards women in men. Cross-sectional co-relational research design and purposive sampling was used to recruit a sample of men (N=100). Male Role Inventory (MRI) (Snell, 2013) and Attitude towards Women (AWS) (Spence, Helmrich & Stapp, 1978) was used to assess the study variable. Person product moment correlation and hierarchal regression analysis was used to analyse data through SPSS. Results showed a negative correlation between concept of masculinity in men and their attitude towards women while the concept of masculinity proved to be a predictor of attitude towards women. This study does not only serve as an insight into the concept of masculinity in Pakistani men but also enables to devise strategies to change men's attitude towards women thus combating violence against women.

**Keywords:** Concept of masculinity, Attitude towards Women.

### Introduction

Masculinity is defined as traits and ideas that make up the stereotypical or ideal man of which traditional masculinity is a stereotype. Traditional masculinity is a combination of many forms and constructs, known as norms, it is not only a one aspect. These norms include views and behaviors through masculine roles are formed (Levant et. al, 2009; Mansfield, Addis, & Mahalik, 2003). The theory proposes that as with biological sex gender is not innate, but rather learned through three steps that consist of observation, internalization, and expression (Messner, 2000; West & Zimmerman, 1987). Social processes can lead to the construction of masculinity and femininity, which is the socially constructed exercise of gender (Butler, 1990). Masculinity is normally referred to violence. This violence is against the law, against the women or anything. Men are always the main stream of the violence happening anywhere in the world. Hegemonic masculinity is a specific type of masculinity that is reportedly related to violence (Stoudt, 2006). The term was brought into view by Connell (1995) who explain gender as being produced and re-produced by social interactions. DeBruine et al. (2006) conducted a study to check the relationship between masculinity preference and actual partner masculinity. In a sample of 69

heterosexual partnered women, those who preferred male facial masculinity tended to rate their own partners as more masculine (DeBruine et al., 2006). Tailor and Braham (2013) conducted a meta-analysis to study the effect of masculinisation in men and the reasons of their violent attitude. Researchers investigated that men are over-represented as both perpetrators and victims of violence. The purpose of this systematic review was to examine the relationship between masculinity and violence from the perspectives of the perpetrators and victims. From the starting few years of their lives, girls and boys are treated in a different manner. Where at one side girls play with dolls on the other side boys play physical games. In their families, boys are dominated over girls i.e. they are considered as the successors of their fathers and as a result they get more social exposure, more affection and in some case more education. All these make boy's personality confident, enthusiastic and mature. Conversely, girls end up as being shy, antisocial and immature (Shoaib & Uzma, 2011). Social attitude towards women changes as rapidly as the members of society themselves. Perceptions about the gender role and gender expectations vary greatly from one culture to another (Asha, 1991). In recent years, there has been a great shift in attitude towards women at global level as societies examines critically the value of women have and the roles they should play in society. But, in a typical patriarchal country like Pakistan women do not have their own choice and they have to do what they are said to do or what their elders want from them (Dhawan, 2005). This attitude of males is specifically very lean towards them. In the patriarchal societies like Pakistan these kinds of behaviours are often can be seen in day to day life. The stereotypical behaviours towards the gender roles as masculine and feminine are very strange in our society. Just because of this attitude women's rights are often deprived by male members of the society (Shoaib & Uzma, 2011). Rosen and Jerdee (2009) conducted a research to find out the difference between attitude towards working and non-working women. They found that attitude towards non-working women was less favourable in terms of aptitude, motivation and knowledge than working women. Hahn (1997) determined women role attitude, responses to the 15-item form of the Attitude towards Women Scale (AWS; Spence & Helmreich, 1972) were compare for women working in different profession. In all group women were significantly had difference in their attitudes toward roles of women

### **Hypothesis**

- There is likely to be a negative relationship between concept of masculinity in men and attitude towards women.
- Concept of masculinity in men is a predictor of attitude towards women.

### **Method**

#### **Sample**

Sample was comprised of (N=100) young adults including (n= 33 teachers, n= 30 doctors, n= 27 bankers).

#### **Assessment Measures**

In the present research following tools were used:

**Demographic Information Sheet** included age, education, monthly income, family system, profession, job experience, number of siblings, birth order, mother's education, father's education, marital status, and number of dependents.

**Male Role Inventory** was developed by Snell (2013). It is a five points Likert type scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The scale consisted of 30 items and has three subscales

namely Inhibited Affection subscale, Restrictive Emotionality subscale, Success Preoccupation subscale. Success Preoccupation subscale contains item numbers 1, 11, 14, 16 and 17. Item numbers 4, 6, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29 included in the Restrictive Emotionality subscale. The Inhibited Affection subscale contains the items 2, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 30. Only the item number 30 had reverse scoring.

**Attitude towards Women Scale** was developed by Spence, Helmrich & Stapp (1978). It is a 4 point Likert Scale ranging from agree strongly to disagree strongly. The scale consisted of 15 items, assess is the attitude which people have about the role of women in society. Item number 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11 and 14 have reverse scoring. The test retest reliability of AWS is .86.

### Procedure

Permission was sought for the use of Male Role Inventory (MRI) and Attitude towards Women Scale (AWS) from the respective author. Researcher took informed consent from the participants and administers the demographic information sheet, Male Role Inventory (MRI) and Attitude towards Women Scale-short version (AWS). Only those participants will be included that will fulfil the inclusion criteria and who show willingness for the participation in the research. They will be made assured about the confidentiality of the responses as well the right of withdraw from the research at any time without any penalty.

### Results

This chapter was aimed at investigating the relationship between Concept of Masculinity in Men and Attitude towards Women. The analysis involved performing: (i) Descriptive analysis for the Demographic Variables and Study Variables and (ii) Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis for assessing the relationship between Concept of Masculinity in Men and their Attitude towards Women and (iii) Hierarchal Regression analysis to assess that was the Concept of Masculinity predict the Attitude towards Women. Furthermore the reliability analysis for scales was also conducted.

### Reliability Analysis

The reliability analysis was carried out for each assessment measure using Cronbach's Alpha. The Male Role Inventory (MRI) had reliability 0.77. The Attitude towards Women Scale (AWS) had 0.71 reliability. The reliability values of the scales were good to carry out further analysis. It was hypothesized that there is a relationship between concept of masculinity in men and their attitude towards women. To find out the relationship Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was conducted. The results of Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis are shown in the table.

**Table** *Correlation between Education, Family System, Marital Status, Wife's Employment*

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.SPSS	-	.57**	.47**	-.80***	.04*	-.17	.17*	.15*
2.RESS	-	-	.56**	-.07**	.12*	-.10	.16*	.21*
3.IASS	-	-	-	-.11*	.05**	.00*	.05*	.07**
4.AWS	-	-	-	-	.21*	.88**	.17**	.13*
5.Edu	-	-	-	-	-	-.02*	.01*	.09***
6.FS	-	-	-	-	-	-	.34*	-.15*
7.MS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.88**
8.WES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>M</i>	14.55	37.99	24.46	45.38	1.26	1.61	1.53	510.15
<i>SD</i>	5.31	9.05	11.38	5.67	0.46	0.66	0.50	501.23

*Status, Concept of Masculinity and Attitude towards Women in Men (N=100)*

*Note.* \*= .05; \*\*= .01; \*\*\*= .000; SPSS= Success Preoccupation Subscale; IASS= Inhibited Affection Subscale; RESS= Restrictive Emotionality Subscale; AWS= Attitude towards Women Scale; FS= Family System; MS= Marital Status; Edu= Education; WES= Wife's Employment Status

Table indicated that there was negative correlation between success preoccupation subscale (SPSS), Restrictive Emotionality Subscale (RESS), Inhibited Affection Subscale (IASS) and Attitude towards Women Scale (AWS) which mean that if concept of masculinity is high in men then they have non-egalitarian attitude towards women which indicated that the hypothesis was accepted. Moreover demographic variables (Education, Marital Status and Wife's Employment Status) had positive correlation with the study variables. Other hypothesis was also accepted that education, marital status and wife's employment status had positive correlation with attitude towards women. Only family system had negative correlation with SPSS and RESS. It was hypothesized that concept of masculinity is a predictor for the attitude towards women. With IESS, RESS and SPSS hierarchal regression analysis was used to check the hypothesis. Along with the independent variable some demographic variables such as (education, family system, marital status and wife's employment status) also checked to predict the attitude towards women.

**Table** *Summary of Hierarchical Regression: Effect of Demographic Variables and IASS, RESS, SPSS on Attitude towards Women in Men (N=100).*

Predictors	Attitude Towards Women Scale	
	$\Delta R^2$	$\beta$
Step 1	.18*	
Education		.64*
Marital Status		.03*
Family System		.23*
Wife's Employment Status		.14*
Step 2	.24*	
Inhibited Affection Subscale		.33*
Restrictive Emotionality Subscale		.14*
Success Preoccupation Subscale		.32*
Total $R^2$	.42*	

*Note.* \*= .05; SPSS= Success Preoccupation Subscale; IASS= Inhibited Affection Subscale; RESS= Restrictive Emotionality Subscale; AWS= Attitude towards Women Scale.

Table indicated that education, marital status, family system and wife's employment status are the significant predictors of the attitude towards women. The table also showed that IASS, SPSS and RESS were also the significant predictors of attitude towards women which mean that if a man had higher concept of masculinity he will have violent or low egalitarian attitude towards women. Hypotheses were accepted with both the variables (Independent and demographic variables).

## Discussion

The present study was aimed at investigating the relationship between concept of masculinity in men and their attitude towards women. The present research indicated that there was a negative relationship between concept of masculinity in men and their attitude towards women and these results were consistent with the study by Parrot and Zeichner (2003) who suggested that

extremes of masculinity lead to physical aggression towards women. Similarly, Moore and Stuart (2005) conducted a research on masculine characteristics were more of the representative of violence than any other factor which is again congruent with the findings of the present research. The reason to be the fact that frequently, researchers conclude that men's masculine ideology is associated with aggression against women (Gallagher and Parrott, 2011, Moore and Stuart, 2005, Murnen et al., 2002 and Reidy et al., 2009). Thus men with more rigid views about their masculinity tend to have more narrow approach towards women. Moreover, present research found that concept of masculinity was a predictor of the attitude towards women. Same results were generated in research conducted by Wright (2014) which investigated the gender roles assigned to men as masculine lead them to do crime and to do violence against women. Another finding of the present research concluded that higher concept of masculinity showed significant negative correlation with stress. Whitley and Gridley (1993) conducted a study to investigate the relationship between sex role orientation, self-esteem, stress and depression. The results of this research are consistent with the results of the present study. Further, the present study showed that men whose wives were house wives had low egalitarian attitude towards women than those whose wives were employed. These findings are congruent with Twenge (1997) who showed that attitude towards women was affected by their job orientation. Similarly, Tipton (1976) also showed that employment of women affects the attitude of men towards women. Similar results were generated by Misra and Panigrahi (1996) who also concluded that men have egalitarian attitude towards working women than house wives.

### **Suggestions**

- Use of indigenous tools would be more helpful.
- Inclusion of private sector would be more helpful.
- A larger sample size would be more helpful.
- Inclusion of more profession would be helpful.

### **Implications**

- This study serves as an insight into the concept of masculinity in Pakistani men and to strategies accordingly.
- The study also addressed the stereotypical depiction of men and women thus having implications in gender issues and social psychology.
- The study can have implications in deriving strategies to gender sensitization workshops and training as well.
- The study can help to derive strategies to combat violence against women.

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