



## NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE DEPENDENCE OF GENDER IN A MERITAL COMTEXT

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**Abstract:** This article is about positive and negative dependence of gender in merital contexts. iffereent qualities of both gender bring variety of colourfulness to the speech and patterns in merital contexts.

**Key words:** relationship, husband, wife, proverb, quality, gender, characterustics.

*1. A blind man's wife needs no paint.*

*2. A deaf husband and a blind wife are always a happy couple.*

This category includes those proverbs in which both genders in a marital context are showing negative dependence on each other. In these proverbs, harsh words are used for the depiction of situations in which husband and wife could stay happy forever. Words such as 'blind', 'deaf' and 'no paint' could have been replaced by decent words which convey no harshness. This is not the issue of current decade or century rather many scholars, psychologists and researchers have been digging into the affairs of married life and how they could be resolved in a proper way to make marriage a happy relationship for both husband and wife. In these proverbs, the most common issues of husband and wife are being targeted in a mock tone. A woman has a moral and religious duty of staying gorgeous and well dressed for her husband.

This not only gets her relationship stronger with husband but also decreases the chances of disloyalty by the husband because men have been generally found violating vows of marriage for other beautiful ladies. But if a husband is blind, society takes away the right of looking gorgeous by wearing nice dresses and putting on makeup from a woman because she has no one to commend her. This shows that the wife has to suffer equally from the imparities of a husband without asking for her consent. This is what society expects from her. Analysis of the second proverb has mentioned the weaknesses of both genders i.e., talks for women and lack of beauty of men.

Usually, women have been observed to be prettier than men and pretty women usually want handsome men to make their wedding couple perfect. Women are the ones which give attention to minor details Uzma Rani & Mazhar Iqbal Ranjha 58 such as



hair of groom, his muscles, and belly etc. before accepting him by heart. If a woman is blind, she is unable to pay attention to these details eventually accepting her husband as a beautiful man.

For men, the gossiping habits of women are often bothersome and they do show desires of finding a perfect solution for this problem and it is considered as a blessing for a man to be deaf in married life. In this way, he does not have to listen to his wife who is chattering most of the times.

1. *A good husband makes a good wife.*
2. *A worthy woman is the crown of her husband.*
3. *Behind every successful man is a woman*

Proverbs in this category are presenting the positive picture of the relationship between both genders whether it is a marital relationship, mother-son relationship or vice versa. These proverbs have put forward the notion that both genders need each other for happy relationships because both are gifted with different characteristics. In the first proverb, adjective good has been used for both husband and wife which covers all qualities one needs to be nice and gentle and probably this is the reason good is preferred as an adjective. In the second proverb, there is a use of word husband but in contrast wife is not there rather the phrase we see is a combination of adjective and noun i.e., worthy woman. Contradictory to the first proverb, the selection of adjective in the second one has made criteria strict for a female to become a crown of man.

Probably here the wife is not just adding joy to his life rather is going to be his crown and crown Representation of Men and Women in English Proverbs 59 has to be beautiful to be worn on the head to add to the handsomeness of a husband. In the third proverb, general words *man* and *woman* are used to state a fact which applies to every relationship.

This could be the reason there is no mention of a particular relationship where man is successful because of a woman. The first proverb is referring to the idea that in the Elizabethan era with the consent of parents, boys were eligible for getting married at the age of 14 and girls at 12. This was acceptable but boys tend to not get married at the ages from 20 to 30. On the other hand, girls' preferable marriage age was either 17 or 21 ("5 facts about marriage, love, and sex in Shakespeare's England", 2016). The age of 17 to 21 is where a human regardless of a gender normally starts understanding worldly affairs and it is easy to mould young mind into a way one wants to do it.

A young girl if married at this age is going to have a major influence from her husband and if he is having great qualities, the wife is automatically going to imitate them. This proverb fits into the situation England were having at the time of Queen



Elizabeth but if we look at this from Pakistani context, this is what often has been observed happening in underprivileged areas where girls are depending on husbands for all types of grooming. The second proverb is not only confined to 15th or 16th-century situation but it is still observable at present times.

This proverb has possibly more than one explanation. If worthy here is taken in terms of wealth and money, in Elizabethan era, women with a good amount of money were treated as the crown of a husband and same is observable in present societies around the world. But looking at the streak of moral values, this proverb acts as both good news and advice for both wife and husband respectively that a wife with good morals, great qualities etc. eventually serves the purpose of a crown of a husband which every woman wants to achieve.

This is nature's law that both genders are made to rely on each other and the role of a woman in the life of a man is very important. A woman has a nurturing and nourishing nature; she is capable of ruling the heart and mind of man and this is why a woman has always a great share of credit in the success of man.

Proverbs for women are greater in number than men that indicate she has been a subject of interest for centuries and her position in the power circle is not clear. These proverbs are also an attempt to define the position of women in the power structure of society. Women are portrayed in a way that they by default qualities are targeted with derogatory remarks such as their talking habit which is essential for newly born babies and they are also born with a high quantity of protein that helps in language development.

Moreover, proverbs related not to seeking any kind of advice from women and showing them as forbidden ones in politics are a mirror to patriarchy at the time of formulation of these proverbs. Deadly nature of women is again presented in a way that they are symbols of danger and are at the bottom of a conflict. There is not even a single proverb portraying their deadly nature with a positive connotation. Females are in few proverbs attributed with great qualities but about marriage and home, not on an individual basis. Proverbs are transmitted from generations to generations and that is why this could also be one of the reasons patriarchal notion is still found in societies.

The negative attributes of men are presented positively and even if they are explicit, societal practices accept them positively such as son full and tattered. Males attributes are expressed with individuality and most of the proverbs talking about men have presented them in positive manners keeping power in their hands. Few proverbs have shown the dependence of both genders on each other where the notion of women rights could be observed. Women have been given importance but in a limited way and



that too from the reference of a man. She is crown but of a husband, she in herself is not a crown, she is wise but if taking care of the house. Power in both conditions relies upon men.

One interesting thing to be noted here is the gender who has formulated these proverbs. Back in Representation of Men and Women in English Proverbs 61 Elizabethan time, the power was relying upon the hands of men. It would be significant to further investigate the origins of proverbs and discuss them according to the features of those eras. This will help researchers understand whether such proverbs are applicable in present times or not. The researchers could not figure out the meanings of a few proverbs that were excerpts of some literature-based proverbs. With more extensive study, such proverbs can reinforce the findings further.

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