

**MOITREYEE**

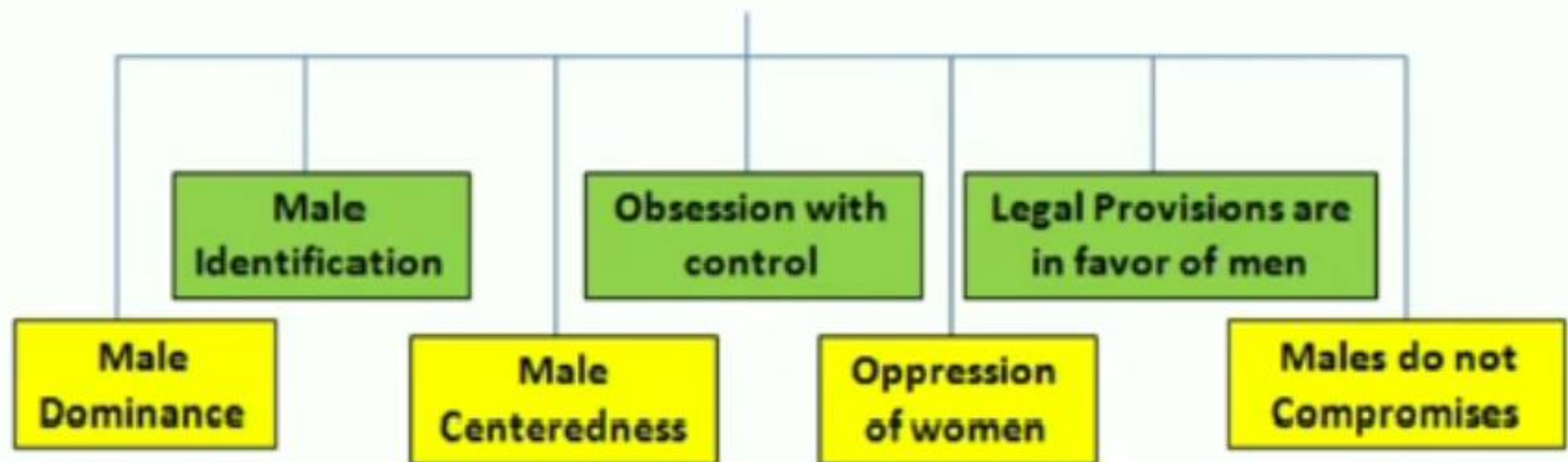
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B.Ed. Department

Semester - 4

**TOPIC – CHARACTERISTICS OF PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY**

# Characteristics of Patriarchal Society



a) **Male Dominance**

The society is been dominated by male. He is the one who will take all the decisions.

b) **Male Identification**

The identification of everything is from male. For e.g. – The last name or surname of a girl is of father before marriage and after marriage of a husband.

c) **Male Centeredness**

Male is the center of everything. For e.g. – The owner of the property is male not female.

c) **Obsession with control**

All the powers are in control of man. He is the highest power in the society. He will give the permission for everything. Every decision will be taken by man.

**e) Oppression of women**

**Women are dominated by men in the society. Women are supposed to serve the men. They have to do household work and take care of family.**

**f) Legal Provisions are in favor of men**

**In a Patriarchy society all the rights and laws are the favor of men. Women do not have any right for them. For e.g. If a marriage ends, the custody children goes to father.**

**b) Males do not Compromises**

**There is no kind of compromises from men, a woman only adjusts without any complaint. For e.g. After marriage females shift to husband's family.**

**Women's productive or labour power** : Men control women's productivity, both, within the household and outside, in paid work. Within the household, women provide all kinds of services to their husbands, children and other members of the family throughout their lives. Feminist writer Sylvia Walby calls this as the "patriarchal mode of production", where women's labour is expropriated by the husbands and others who live there. She calls housewives as the producing class and husbands are the expropriating class. The work done by housewives is not considered as work at all and housewives become dependent on their husbands.

**Men also control women's labour outside the home.** They make women to sell their labour or they may prevent their women from working. They may decide what women earn, often women are excluded from better paid work. They are usually working in jobs with low wages; or work within the home in what is called home based production, which is itself an exploitative system.

This control over and exploitation of women's labour mean that men benefit materially from patriarchy. They benefit economically from the subordination of women. This is the material or economic basis of patriarchy.

**Women's Reproduction** : Men also control women's reproductive power. In many societies, women have no control over their reproduction capacities. They cannot decide how many children they want, whether to use contraceptives, or a decision to terminate pregnancy. In addition, men control social institutions like religion and politics which are male dominated. Control is institutionalized by laying down rules regarding women's reproduction capacity. For example, in the Catholic Church, the male religious hierarchy decides whether men and women can use birth control contraceptives. In modern times, the patriarchal state tries to control women's reproduction through its family planning programmes. The state decides the optimum size of the country's population. In India, for example—the birth control programme limits the family size and discourages women from having more than two children. On the other hand, in Europe, where birth rates are low, women are lured through various incentives have more children. Women are given long paid maternity leave, child care facilities and opportunities for part-time jobs.

Patriarchy idealises motherhood and thereby forces women to be mothers. It also determines the conditions of their motherhood. This ideology of motherhood is

considered one of the bases of women's oppression. It also creates feminine and masculine character types and perpetuates patriarchy. It restricts women's mobility and it reproduces male dominance.

**Control over Women's Sexuality :** Women are obliged to provide sexual services to their husbands according to their needs and desires. Moral and legal regulations exist to restrict the expression of women's sexuality outside marriage in every society, while male promiscuity is often condoned.

Another way of exercising control over women's sexuality is when men force their wives, daughters or other women in their control into prostitution. Rape and threat of rape is another way in which women's sexuality is controlled through notions of shame and honour, family honour. Lastly, women's sexuality is controlled through their dress, behaviour and mobility, which are carefully monitored by the family and through social, cultural and religious codes of behaviour.

**Women's Mobility :** Besides control of women's sexuality, production and reproduction, men also control women's mobility. The imposition of purdah (veil) restriction on leaving the house, limit on interaction between the sexes are some of the ways by which the patriarchal society controls women's mobility and freedom of movement. Such restriction are unique to women, while men are not subject to such restrictions.

**Property and other Economic Resources :** Most property and other productive resources are controlled by men and are passed on from father to son. Even in societies where women have legal rights to inherit property, customary practices, social sanctions and emotional pressures that prevents them from acquiring control over them. According to **UN statistics**, "Women do more than 60% of the hours of work done in the world, but they get 10% of the world's income and own 1% of the world's property."