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THE INTERNAL CONFLICT OF GENDER IDENTITY IN THEMEEPY'S I DON'T KNOW

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People often get confused between the term sex and gender. Sex is physiological. Gender refers to the cultural differences expected by society of men and women according to their sex. A person's sex does not change from birth but their gender can. In the past people tend to have very clear ideas about what was appropriate to each sex and anyone behaving differently was regarded as deviant.

Today people accept a lot more diversity and see gender as a continuum i.e., a scale rather than two categories. So men are free to show their 'feminine side' and women are free to show their 'masculine traits'.

The biological approach suggests that there is no distinction between sex and gender, thus biological sex creates gendered behaviour. Gender is determined by two biological factors: hormones and chromosomes.

The term transgender refers to people whose sense of their own gender differs from what would be expected based on the sex characteristics with which they are born. A transgender person may identify as a woman despite having been born with male genitalia, for example and some transgender people do not specifically identify as men or women.

A transgender person may have persistent feelings, beginning as early a childhood, of gender dysphoria - a disconnect between the person's primary and secondary sex traits and designated gender that person identifies with. While many children who experience such feelings do not go on to as transgender in adulthood, long standing gender dysphoria is common experience of adults who do identify as transgender.

Transgender people may ultimately change physically and socially in ways they feel are congruent with their identity. This might include physical procedures involving surgery or hormones, changes in the way one dresses or behaves, and new markers of identification such as a different names or gender related pronouns. A person may also identify as transgender without making such changes.

Transsexual is an older term used by some to refer specifically to those who seek or have undertaken a medical intervention to change their bodies. In addition to the word transgender, a variety of subordinate terms have been adopted by transgender people to characterize their gender identities. These include trans man- making one who has transitioned to give as a man – trans woman, and non-binary which connects a sense that one is not strictly a man or a woman.

An author called Jessie under her pen name Themeepy had written a short story that expresses the internal conflict undergone by the protagonist Isabella who was fed up being a baby doll to her mother. The story begins with her looking at the mirror. She looks at the mirror, though she has a feminine face she disliked all girly things like hatred to have pink bow on her collar, Angrily she takes it away from the collar and throws it. While moving back home her friends Denise and Sam finds her being sad and they know well the reason behind her sadness. So they tried to console her through their words that they also like boyish things like sports and video games and call themselves as boyish girls but Isabella refuses to listen to their soothing words and gets down by saying what if she is the only boyish girl.

After getting back home her mom calls her as beautiful doll which was hated by Isabella but did not show her refusal openly. She tells them that she has loads of work to complete and moves to her room, She opens her laptop where she had folder named 'not to open' in that she saved her researches about gender identity and the tests gave the usual result and she gets into a conclusion that these tests cannot give a solution to her problem and gets out of bed and cuts her hair and finishes her survey and in the personal data fills her name and race whereas in gender once again she got stuck and finishes it by mentioning it as others as she yet has not found her gender.

When a person undergoes some changes in their gender, it leads to so many mental worries like what are they and in which gender category they belong to? How the society will take them or look at them? The society must treat each and every human being equally irrespective of their gender and accept them as they are and have some empathy towards them. This short story expresses the enormous trauma undergone by the protagonist who tries to identify her gender.

Works cited

Themeeepy. *I don't know*. Place of publication: Wattpad,N.P.,2014,Web.2July2018.
