EMOTIONAL TRAUMA IN WOMEN: THE HAZARD OF BEING SUBMISSIVE AND INEXPRESSIVE

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ABSTRACT:

Drawing from psychological research and clinical observations, this abstract examines the intersection between submission and emotional expression, highlighting the detrimental effects of repressed emotions on mental health and overall well-being. It sheds light on how individuals may adopt a submissive stance, suppressing their true feelings to conform to social expectations or avoid conflict, thereby exacerbating the impact of emotional trauma. Through case studies and theoretical frameworks, this abstract elucidates the complex interplay between submission, emotional expression, and trauma recovery. It underscores the importance of creating safe spaces for individuals to express their emotions authentically, free from judgment or retribution, in order to facilitate healing and resilience.

Irrespective of general perception, in a deeper sense the emotional trauma is a hazard which is more often a consequence of being submissive and inexpressive. Traditionally social norms have dictated certain gender roles for men and women. Men are generally regarded as dominant, masculine, independent and expressive. In contemporary society, however, women being enforced to perceive themselves as recessive, dependent, submissive and inexpressive. Some women nonetheless continued to adopt gender roles in which self-objectification may persist. ‘Self-objectification occurs when the objectifying gaze is turned inward, such that women view themselves through the perspective of an observer and engaging chronic self-surveillance’. This causes more inexpressiveness and enhances emotional trauma which leads to different chaotic disturbances in women life. This abstract delves into the often-overlooked hazard of submissive silence in the face of emotional trauma. It explores how societal norms and personal dynamics can compel individuals to suppress their emotional distress, leading to profound and often unrecognized consequences. Drawing from psychological research and clinical observations, this abstract examines the intersection between submission and emotional expression, highlighting the detrimental effects of repressed emotions on mental health and overall well-being. It sheds light on how individuals may adopt a submissive stance, suppressing their true feelings to conform to social expectations or avoid conflict, thereby exacerbating the impact of emotional trauma. Through case studies and theoretical frameworks, this abstract elucidates the complex interplay between submission, emotional expression, and trauma recovery. It underscores the importance of creating safe spaces for individuals to express their emotions authentically, free from judgment or retribution, in order to facilitate healing and resilience. Furthermore, this abstract discusses the broader societal implications of submissive silence, including its contribution to cycles of abuse, perpetuation of power imbalances, and erosion of individual agency. It calls for a reevaluation of cultural norms and interpersonal dynamics that discourage emotional vulnerability and promote stoicism at the expense of genuine connection and growth. To address this issue, multifaceted strategies are necessary. Educational interventions focusing on deconstructing traditional gender norms can challenge ingrained beliefs about feminism and encourage emotional literacy from an early age. Mental health initiatives tailored to women’s needs, such as female-friendly therapy spaces and support groups, can provide safe environments for emotional expression. Moreover, fostering inclusive
workplaces and communities that value emotional openness and vulnerability can create conducive environments for women to express themselves authentically.

In conclusion, this abstract emphasizes the urgent need to recognize and address the hazard of submissive silence in the context of emotional trauma. It advocates for fostering environments that validate and support emotional expression, empowering individuals to navigate their experiences with courage, authenticity, and resilience.

**Keywords:** Inexpressiveness, emotional, trauma, submissive, hazard, self objectification, chaotic, feminism

**INTRODUCTION**

We are surrounded by gender lore from the time we are very small. It is every-present in conversation, humor and conflict, and it is called upon to explain everything from driving styles to food preferences. Gender is embedded thoroughly in our institutions, our actions, our beliefs and our desires, i.e. appears to us to be completely natural. The world swarms with idea about gender and these ideas are so commonplace that we take it for granted that they are true, accepting common adage as scientific fact. As a scholar and researcher, through, it is our job to look beyond what appears to be common sense to find not simply what truth might be behind it, but how it came to be common sense. It is precisely because gender seems natural, and beliefs about gender seem to be obvious truths, that we need to step back and examine gender from a new perspective. Doing this requires that we suspend what we are used to and what feels comfortable, and question some of our most fundamental beliefs. This is not easy, for gender is so central to our understanding of ourselves and of the world that it is difficult to pull back and examine it from new perspectives. But it is precisely the fact that gender seems self-evident that makes the study of gender interesting. It brings the challenge to uncover the process of construction that creates what we have so long thought of as natural and inexorable – to study gender not as given, but as an accomplishment; not simply as cause, but as effect; and not just as individual, but as social

Trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event like an accident, crime, natural disaster, physical or emotional abuse, neglect, experiencing or witnessing violence, death of a loved one, war, and more. Dependent personality disorder (DPD) is characterized by an enduring pattern of pervasive and excessive psychological dependence on other people (in order to be taken care of and to meet one’s own emotional and physical needs), fear of separation, and passive, clinging, and submissive behavior. It begins by early adulthood, and it is present in a variety of contexts and is associated with inadequate functioning.

Female inexpressiveness, characterized by a reluctance or inability to openly express emotions, represents a complex phenomenon deeply entrenched within societal constructs and individual psyches. Rooted in cultural ideologies of feminism that valorize traits such as submissive, self-reliance, and emotional detachment, women often find themselves navigating a narrow emotional spectrum that inhibits authentic expression and connection. Moreover, societal pressures to conform to rigid gender roles further exacerbate the suppression of emotional vulnerability, perpetuating a cycle of silence and emotional isolation.

The consequences of female inexpressiveness reverberate across interpersonal relationships, mental health outcomes, and societal dynamics. Within intimate partnerships, the inability to articulate feelings and engage in empathetic communication can foster misunderstandings, resentment, and relational discord. Furthermore, studies suggest a correlation between suppressed emotions and adverse mental health outcomes among women, including heightened rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. In the broader social context, the perpetuation of male inexpressiveness perpetuates harmful stereotypes and hampers progress towards gender equity and inclusivity.

Nevertheless, amidst these challenges lies the potential for transformative change. By interrogating the societal structures and cultural norms that reinforce male inexpressiveness, we can begin to dismantle its pervasive influence. Additionally, fostering environments that encourage emotional literacy and provide avenues for authentic self-expression is essential in cultivating healthier conceptions of feminism. Furthermore, interventions at both individual and systemic levels can empower women to embrace emotional vulnerability as a strength rather than a weakness, fostering richer interpersonal connections and promoting holistic well-being.
This journal serves as a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and scholarly inquiry into the phenomenon of female inexpressiveness. By examining its origins, delineating its consequences, and proposing strategies for its amelioration, we endeavor to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of gendered experiences and promote avenues for positive change. Through collaboration and collective engagement, we aspire to unravel the complexities of female inexpressiveness and pave the way towards a more empathetic and inclusive society.

LITERATURE REVIEW


This article sheds light on the force of gender categories in society makes it impossible for us to move through our lives in a nongendered way, and impossible not to behave in a way that brings out gendered behavior in others. Male and female could not persist as structurally important social categories if we did not perform enough gendered and gendering behavior – if distinct groups of people did not continue to act like “women” and like “men.” In other words, the gender order and the social categories – male and female – on which it rests exist in virtue of social practice.


DPD and the maladaptive manifestations of dependency represent a serious issue; a vast range of negative implications are linked to DPD, and some of them constitute serious clinical conditions (such as harm to self and others, comorbidity with depression, and substance use disorders). Thus, continued research on the etiology and dynamics of DPD is important as well as on treatment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Rationale of the Study:

The purpose of this study is to investigate the causes of female inexpressiveness in the society, how this sickness affects our lives, family relationships, social contacts, the future of the country and to explore the techniques & strategies to abrogate this churlish mindset. As a male delve into the intricate web of female inexpressiveness, he finds himself confronted with layers of societal expectations and norms. Men, conditioned to embody stoicism and strength, often find themselves trapped in a cycle of silence when it comes to their emotions. The stigma surrounding vulnerability looms large, casting a shadow over the authentic expression of feelings. The mask of masculinity, meticulously crafted by societal constructs, compels women to suppress their emotions in favor of projecting an image of unwavering toughness. Fearful of being perceived as weak or inadequate, they bury their innermost thoughts and feelings beneath a facade of indifference. But beneath the surface lies a profound yearning for connection and understanding.

So in this study we have used data analysis method of approach using Analytics and secondary data from various authenticated resources and tried to compile all the statistics to extract possible causes, effects and ways to abrogate female inexpressiveness.
Data collection:

1. Child Marriage Statistics on the basis of place of residence, educational status and wealth index

The unit level data allows examining differentials in child marriage by socio-economic characteristics of the households and of women. This was estimated separately by the educational level of the girl; place of residence, caste and religion categories, and by the household wealth index, which is a proxy indicator of the economic status.

- Girls with either no or below primary level education have experienced higher levels of child marriage. As per the latest data, 48% of girls with no education were married below 18 years of age as compared to only 4% among those who attained higher education (Fig-2).
- Another striking feature is the variations in child marriage by the household wealth index. Our analysis of the NFHS-5 shows that a staggering 40% of the girls from the lowest quintile were married before they turned 18 years of age. In a clear-cut contrast to this, only 8% of girls from the highest quintile got married before 18.

2. The differentials in child marriage by religion and caste have narrowed down over the period of the survey. Child marriage has been relatively lower among Christians and other religious groups.

- The variations by caste category indicate a higher prevalence among Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SC/STs), with 26% marrying below the stipulated legal age. However, the variations among caste categories have also been narrowing over the year.

3. Divorce Rates In India:


The statistics presented in this post demonstrate that the divorce rate in India is increasing, particularly among urban and educated couples. Kerala has the highest divorce rate of all Indian states, with 6.3% of marriages ending in divorce. There has been a 350% increase over two decades and women are increasingly initiating divorces – accounting for 33-65% of cases depending on location. Drug addiction appears to be an emerging cause for marital breakdowns as well, with 1,023 cases reported due to drug addiction alone in 2019. The age
The group most likely to file for a divorce is 25-34 years old according to data from 2015 onwards. The divorce rate in India is estimated to be around 1%.

- In India, the divorce rate was 13 per 1,000 marriages in 2019.
- There has been a 350% increase in divorce rates in India over the last two decades.
- The divorce rate among Muslim couples in India is 1.5%.
- In Mumbai, the divorce rate increased by 40% from 2014 to 2017.
- From 1990 to 2012, the divorce rate in Delhi rose by 36%.
- 53% of divorces filed in India are by people aged 25-34 years old.
- In 2019, 65% of divorce cases were initiated by women in Delhi.
- In Gandhinagar, the divorce rate increased by 65% between 2012 and 2017. The divorce rates of major cities are given below according to current statistics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Divorce Rate (Data collected till Nov.2023)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telengana</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATA ANALYSIS/INTERPRETATION

From the above study we analyzed all parameters of causes, effects and methods for eradication of emotional trauma in women in the current social scenario.

As we analyzed the data we found that the emotional trauma in women is mainly due to the traditional social beliefs, financial crisis, religious beliefs, inexpressive nature, extreme dependence on partner, fear of being evaluated, lack of maturity, improper communication skills and thought of self objectification. As per the child marriage report by NHFS it is seen that Girls with either no or below primary level education have experienced higher levels of child marriage. As per the latest data, 48% of girls with no education were married below 18 years of age as compared to only 4% among those who attained higher education (Fig-2).
Another striking feature is the variations in child marriage by the household wealth index. Our analysis of the NFHS-5 shows that a staggering 40% of the girls from the lowest Child Marriage in India: Key Insights from the NFHS-5 (2019-21) quintile were married before they turned 18 years of age. In a clear-cut contrast to this, only 8% of girls from the highest quintile got married before 18. The differentials in child marriage by religion and caste have narrowed down over the period of the survey. Child marriage has been relatively lower among Christians and other religious groups. The variations by caste category indicate a higher prevalence among Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SC/STs), with 26% marrying below the stipulated legal age. However, the variations among caste categories have also been narrowing over the year.

Secondly, we analyzed the current statistics of the divorce rates in India and major Indian cities which reflects a clear image of male inexpressiveness and their effects and consequences on the society and the lives of the people. India is considered to have the lowest divorce rate globally, estimated to be around 1.1%. But, in the past few years, India is witnessing a rise of 50% to 60% in divorce rates, especially in the urban areas. For Indians getting separated or divorced is never an easy thing, especially if someone has truly invested in their relationship. Indian relationships are just not formed considering two people, there are a lot of other factors that are involved too such as societal pressure, and families, and getting apart becomes even more difficult if children are involved. Those who wed multiple times face a far higher rate of divorce. In fact, 67% of second marriages end, and 73% of third marriages are dissolved. Kerala, known to be the most literate state has experienced an increase of divorce rate by 350% in the last 10 years. Around 20 years back India had a negligible divorce rate of around 5%. But based on the increasing number of divorce being filed today, the divorce rate in India is expected to rise up at a faster rate in the coming years.

Lastly, we analyzed the personality disorder in people with dependent personality disorder usually create dependent relationships. Dependent partner is not aware that his/her partner can be discouraged by their demands, creating much frustration in the relationship, and participate in a process that creates conditions for domestic violence (Dutton 1995). The pathologically stable relationship is often formed with people with narcissistic, emotionally unstable, and obsessive-compulsive features. Dependent people need these types of partners as a substitute for the dominant parental figure (Goldman 1956). These partners may like that a dependent partner serves them, fail to set boundaries, they can exploit them, and favor satisfying their own needs in front of their partner’s. Dependent features, however, may also be associated with the stability of the relationship. However, the person in a relationship with a dependent personality is often exhausted from the low independence of dependent partner. The higher degree of dependence of the partner is thus associated with a lower level of satisfaction of a “healthy” person.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

Emotional trauma in women due to inexpressiveness can result from various underlying causes, leading to profound effects on mental health and overall well-being. Understanding these causes, recognizing their effects, and implementing effective strategies for eradication are crucial for addressing this issue.

The following causes are responsible for emotional trauma in women due to inexpressiveness.

**Social Expectations:** Societal norms often dictate that women should be nurturing, supportive, and emotionally resilient, which can create pressure to suppress emotions perceived as negative, such as anger or sadness. This pressure to conform to idealized standards of femininity can lead to inexpressiveness.

**Gender stereotypes:** Traditional gender roles may reinforce the idea that women should prioritize the needs of others over their own and should maintain a composed and agreeable demeanor at all times. These stereotypes can discourage women from expressing their true emotions for fear of being perceived as weak or overly emotional.

**Cultural and family dynamics:** Cultural beliefs and family dynamics can play a significant role in shaping women’s attitudes towards emotional expression. In cultures or families where emotions are stigmatized or viewed as a sign of weakness, women may learn to suppress their feelings as a means of fitting in or avoiding conflict.
Past Trauma: Women who have experienced past trauma, such as abuse, neglect, or invalidation of their emotions, may develop coping mechanisms that involve shutting down or numbing their emotions. This can be a protective response to avoid re-experiencing painful memories or feeling overwhelmed by emotions.

Lack of Supportive Relationship: Women who lack supportive relationships or who have experienced invalidation or dismissal of their emotions from caregivers, partners, or peers may struggle to express themselves openly. Without a safe space to process and express emotions, inexpressiveness can become a learned behavior.

Effects:

Psychological Distress: Suppressing emotions can lead to heightened levels of psychological distress, including anxiety, depression, and feelings of emptiness or numbness. The inability to express emotions may result in internalized stress and unresolved trauma, exacerbating mental health issues.

Relationship Strain: Inexpressiveness can strain interpersonal relationships, as partners, family members, and friends may feel disconnected or unable to understand the woman's emotional needs. This can lead to feelings of loneliness, isolation, and alienation from others.

Physical Health Impact: Chronic suppression of emotions can have detrimental effects on physical health, including increased stress levels, elevated blood pressure, weakened immune function, and heightened risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disorders.

Low Self-Esteem and Identity Issues: Women who struggle to express themselves emotionally may experience diminished self-esteem and feelings of inadequacy. Suppressing authentic emotions can also lead to a sense of disconnection from one's true self and identity.

Risk of Maladaptive Coping Mechanism: In the absence of healthy outlets for emotional expression, women may turn to maladaptive coping mechanisms such as substance abuse, self-harm, or disordered eating patterns to numb or escape from difficult emotions.

Strategies for Eradication:

Promote Emotional Awareness: Encourage women to develop self-awareness and emotional literacy by identifying and validating their feelings. Providing education and resources on emotional intelligence can empower women to recognize and express their emotions in healthy ways.

Create Safe Spaces: Establish supportive environments where women feel safe to express themselves without fear of judgment or reprisal. This can include therapy groups, women's circles, or online forums where women can share their experiences and support one another.

Provide Trauma-Informed Care: Train mental health professionals and service providers in trauma-informed approaches that recognize the impact of past trauma on emotional expression. Create trauma-sensitive practices and interventions that prioritize safety, trust, and empowerment.

Challenge Gender Stereotypes: Challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes that limit women's emotional expression. Encourage open dialogue about the harmful effects of gender norms and promote alternative models of femininity that embrace authenticity and emotional diversity.

Encourage self-expression: Encourage women to express themselves through creative outlets such as art, writing, music, or movement. These activities can provide a safe and therapeutic means of processing emotions and reclaiming agency over one's narrative.
Provide Supportive Relationship: Foster supportive relationships and social networks where women feel valued, heard, and respected. Encourage active listening, empathy, and validation in interpersonal interactions to create an environment conducive to emotional expression.

Promote Self Care Practices: Educate women about the importance of self-care and healthy coping strategies for managing stress and processing emotions. Encourage activities such as mindfulness, meditation, exercise, and journaling to promote emotional well-being.

Advocate for systematic change: Advocate for policies and initiatives that address the systemic factors contributing to emotional trauma in women, including gender-based violence, discrimination, and lack of access to mental health services. Support efforts to promote gender equality and social justice at all levels of society.

By addressing the underlying causes of emotional trauma in women resulting from inexpressiveness and implementing targeted strategies for eradication, we can create a more compassionate and inclusive society where women feel empowered to embrace their emotions and seek support for their mental health needs.

SUGGESTIONS:

Psychotherapy (talk therapy)

It is the treatment of choice for personality disorders. The goal of treatment is to help you uncover the motivations and fears associated with your thoughts and behavior. In addition, you can learn to relate to others more positively. This is a structured, goal-oriented type of therapy. A therapist or psychologist helps you take a close look at your thoughts and emotions. You’ll come to understand how your thoughts affect your actions. Through CBT, you can unlearn negative thoughts and behaviors. You’ll learn to adopt healthier thinking patterns and habits. Therapy for DPD may especially focus on examining your fears of independence and difficulties with assertiveness.

Meditation

There’s currently no medication that can treat personality disorders. But there’s medication for depression and anxiety, which people with dependent personality disorder may also have. Treating these conditions can make it easier to treat DPD. For the best results, however, you should take medication in combination with psychotherapy.

Addressing emotional trauma in women requires a multifaceted approach that considers their individual experiences and needs. Here are some strategies:

Therapeutic Intervention: Provide access to therapy and counseling services that specialize in trauma-informed care. Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) are some effective approaches.

Support Groups: Create safe spaces where women can share their experiences, validate each other’s emotions, and receive support from peers who understand their struggles. Support groups can help reduce isolation and provide a sense of belonging.

Educational Awareness: Raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of emotional trauma in women through educational campaigns, workshops, and community events. This can help reduce stigma and encourage more women to seek help.

Empowerment Programs: Offer programs focused on building resilience, self-esteem, and assertiveness skills. Empowering women to recognize their strengths and take control of their lives can help them recover from trauma and prevent future victimization.
Access to Resources: Ensure access to resources such as shelters, hotlines, legal aid, and healthcare services for women who have experienced trauma. Having access to basic needs and support systems is essential for recovery.

Trauma-informed Care: Train healthcare providers, social workers, law enforcement officers, and other professionals to recognize the signs of trauma and respond in a sensitive and supportive manner. Trauma-informed care involves creating environments that prioritize safety, trust, and collaboration.

Cultural Sensitivity: Recognize the intersectionality of women’s experiences and tailor interventions to meet the specific cultural, ethnic, and linguistic needs of diverse communities. Cultural sensitivity promotes inclusivity and ensures that all women receive appropriate support.

Prevention Programs: Implement prevention programs that address the root causes of trauma, such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and inequality. By addressing these systemic issues, we can create safer environments for women and reduce the incidence of trauma.

Holistic approach: Encourage holistic approaches to healing that incorporate practices such as mindfulness, yoga, art therapy, and nature therapy. These approaches can help women reconnect with their bodies, regulate their emotions, and find inner peace.

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