

Sexual Modesty and How it Functions in Gender Equality

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Abstract. In contemporary society, gender equality has become widely accepted as a fundamental belief. Nevertheless, some people argue that males and females are born different, leading others to oppose the concept of gender equality. Within the author's research into sexual modesty, researchers have devised an experiment employing the IAT testing method to discover the relationship between sexual modesty and moral level. In the experiment, two possible results may lead to significant revelation concerning gender equality. If sexual modesty directly affects people's moral level, males and females may have a great division in body structure, eventually contributing to the central conflict between men and women. If only sexual attractiveness leads to fluctuation in a person's moral level, people must diminish the difference between men's and women's clothing to accomplish gender equality. In all, equality is a trend for all human beings on Earth. Despite their differences, men and women will become more and more equal in future development.

Keywords: Sexual Modesty, Moral Sense, Gender Equality.

1. Introduction

Since human civilization's birth, people have worn clothes to protect themselves from harsh environments. Nowadays, human beings wear clothes to cover their sensitive body parts, but primarily people purchase clothes to satisfy their needs for leisure, identity, affection, and participation [1]. It is a fact that environmental conditions determine the purposes of clothing. People's characteristics and mental traits mainly determine their form.

In nearly every form of society, it is intolerable for men or women to be naked [2]. People would feel overwhelmed seeing someone on the street without any covering. We can tell from the story of the Emperor's New Clothes how weird and dishonored it is not to wear any clothes in public. People usually take this for granted because society has always been this way, asking all social members to put clothes on themselves. Even when they are privately at home, this feeling of moral disapproval stems from sexual modesty. We can conclude that sexual modesty is everywhere in daily life. However, there are also many voices rebelling against sexual modesty. For example, one of the most famous performance artists, Yoko Ono, used her work, Cut Piece, to show that being naked is not a sin but love and peace. The concept also existed in her album 'Two Virgins,' where she and her husband, Lennon, are fully naked on the cover.

The author and his workmate experimented with whether it is Immoral If We Do Not Wear Clothes. An intriguing topic about the relationship between sexual modesty and gender equality has been discovered.

Although there are many essays and literature about sexual modesty and gender equality, there is no systematic study about the correlation between sexual modesty and gender equality and how it may affect gender equality.

This paper will look into the connection of two research factors in Psychology. The author designed a series of experiments about its assumption that has been proven scientific. The conclusion of this paper could lead to a significant breakthrough in alleviating gender conflict. The physiological differences between men and women will not be an obstacle in standing against the equality of human beings.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Definition

Sexual modesty is the social, cultural, interpersonal, and psychological systems regulating individuals' sexual expression and experience at the social, legal, and interpersonal boundaries of acceptable/not-acceptable, private/public, and personal/social. In gender equality, sexual modesty can be seen as equality between men and women in dressing. To be more detailed, women and men can wear the same amount of clothes in the future because of the developing sense of equality. There will be no difference in women's and men's outfits; maybe all people wear the same style of clothes in one day, and all things, including dressing, living standards, and even housing, will be unified in the future. It is possible in a highly collectivist society, but in some cases, making everyone wear uniform clothes suppresses people's personality and results in less cultural diversity. The final form of communism was conceived as an ideal form of society. Everyone is equal in this society, including men and women. Gender does not become a factor in determining an individual's place in society. This paper will discuss whether sexual modesty's influence on moral sense can be gradually diminished.

The moral sense is what people rely on disciplining themselves. Psychologists have long stated that moral standards are essential in bringing control and order into our relations with others and society. Immoral behaviors committed by individuals would be treated as violating moral standards. Evil, so to speak [3] Everyone in the world can potentially act evil, despite their education and self-discipline level. The scale of everyone's moral sense is quite complex.

2.2. Experiments About Sexual Modesty, Nudity and Moral Level.

Many experiments study the moral level of human beings. The Milgram Experiment shows how situational factors impact moral behavior [4]. The Stanford Prison Experiment examined the effects of situational variables on participants' reactions and behaviors [5]. Further study about the nature of objectification also shows that a higher level of sexiness will lead to the redistribution of mind perception, eventually contributing to the objectification of both women and men [6]. The result of this experiment solidifies the assumption that sexual attractiveness (nudity level) may be related to a person's moral level.

To prove that point, there must be an experiment that people from different regions, cultural backgrounds, races, and genders can complete. Those variables determine the relationship between sexual modesty and moral level.

This is an original experiment that uses the method of the Implicit Association test, which functions to measure individual differences in implicit social cognition. (IAT) The designers of this IAT experiment intend for subjects to watch and select a series of clearly logically oriented words consistent with both high and low body exposure levels on the screen. There is a button for high and low exposure levels, and subjects must select buttons based on the word displayed on the screen. Subjects have to choose in a short time. For example, 'freedom' implies a high body exposure level. And the word 'restraint' can mean low body exposure level. Subjects can associate words quickly with pictures. After that, researchers would ask subjects to do a similar test again. This time is to associate the words with high and low moral levels. For example, the word 'violence' would be concluded in the low moral level section, and the word 'Peace' can be concluded in the high moral level section.

When the researchers have acquired enough data from all over the world, they will use a computer program to analyze the subjects' response time to the options. One of the advantages of the IAT experiment is that it is a single-masked experiment, which can hide the real experiment purpose to reduce the social desirability bias of participants [7].

2.3. Possible Results

In our experiment, the independent variable is exposure level, the dependent variable is moral level, and the mediator variable is sexual attractiveness. There are only two kinds of predictable results. In the experiment process, many other variables (such as gender, race, region, etc.) have been well controlled during the experiment. Therefore, according to the comparison of the subject's reaction time, we can judge through the collected experimental data whether these other variables act between exposure level and sexual attractiveness or between exposure level and moral level, directly affecting people's moral level. Regarding the measurement of sexual attractiveness, the experimenters decided to use the Likert scale. Rate sexual attractiveness from one to five.

They are believed only to have two kinds of predictable results. The first (result 1) is that sexual modesty (what researchers mainly explore in the IAT test) would directly relate to a person's moral level. And other variables would influence sexual attractiveness. Another possible result (result 2) is that moral level is affected by sexual attractiveness. The latter is believed to be more likely the result that would occur in the actual experiment. This is also the result of reviewing a series of related experiments conducted by psychologists before [6].

2.4. What Does This Result Indicate for Gender Equality

Today, in the twenty-first century, gender equality is a serious topic that has been taken seriously. Pursuing gender equality reflects people's buoyant demand for equality in human beings. However, it is evident that men and women have different body structures and play different roles in life. Men usually go to work and provide for their families, while women stay at home and are in charge of household chores. The social status and labor division of male and female has laid the groundwork for the unequal status of men and women. It is an intriguing topic but not what the author wants to discover in this study.

Given that men and women have different body structures; for example, women have a uterus that can give birth to babies. Men have testicles and penises that can fertilize eggs, and some people may argue that biological differences lead to differences in gender norms, which fundamentally affect the inequality of status between men and women [8]. There is a direct or indirect connection between sexual attractiveness and moral level. In that case, does sexual modesty work more on women? On the beach, women wear more clothing than men. Men need to wear swim pants to cover their genitals as well as women. But women have to wear extra clothes like bras to cover their boobs. Is it just because a woman's chest can cause a latent sex drive? [9] Or can it be explained by people's universal moral standards? One thing is for sure: wearing clothing to cover the chest and nipples naturally has become a moral act since Genesis when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit; they could feel shame, so they covered their sex organs with fig leaves. This provokes the author to think further about sexual modesty and gender equality. It is possible to explain some of the present arguments in the discussion of gender equality.

3. How the Results May Function in Gender Equality and Future Outlook

According to our experiments, two possible results may have different explanations for gender equality.

First, if the final result of the IAT test is result 1, it means that sexual modesty directly affects people's moral level. That is to say, people think that being exposed to clothing is equal to immorality. This also explains why most people divert their attention when they see other people's sensitive parts of their bodies exposed. People tend not to look at others' breasts because doing so will make people feel that their moral level is relatively high. It is generally believed that only people with low moral standards will not hide their desire for sex; that is, the bums on the street always look at the girls passing by and say flirting words.

Regarding gender equality, women will be more disadvantaged than men because they need more clothing to cover their upper body. In contrast, men do not need to cover their upper body because

male nipples have no sexual meaning in long-term evolution [10]. The difference in body structure leads to the difference between men and women at birth, which makes the society have different moral standards for men and women. This makes it difficult for the sense of gender equality to break through the physical limitations. Unless society's acceptance of female nudity increases, or female breasts no longer have the function of breastfeeding (this may take a long time to evolve) to achieve gender equality from physiology to morality.

For result 2, the reduction of moral level caused by sexual attractiveness can be better explained by Freud's pansexuality theory. Sometimes, intimate relationships can be implied as sexual desire. And there is always about sex when it comes to love. Freud said that sexual instinct is fundamental for all types of love. So, sexual attraction would lead to fantasy about sexual behavior, and it is a moral sense that it is obscene and disgusting to experience sexual desire when people see strangers wearing fewer clothes, no matter whether the stranger is male or female. Gender equality can be achieved because both women and men feel the same when they see persons with high exposure levels. Regarding this conclusion, the researcher believes designing a questionnaire about the exposure acceptance of men and women is possible, similar to Roy Levin and Cindy Meston's for Nipple/Breast Stimulation and Sexual Arousal Research in Young Men and Women [11]. Based on the data provided in the questionnaire, gender equality can be better defined regarding sexual modesty.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the experiment about sexual modesty (IAT Test) can reveal the relationship between sexual modesty and moral level. The results can be Inferred from the subject's reaction speed. There are two possible results. Result 1 is that sexual modesty is closely connected with people's moral level, and result 2 argues that a person's moral values may be influenced by sexual attractiveness.

Both results can come up with different interpretations of gender equality. Result one shows that physical differences between males and females will contribute to gender inequality because sexual modesty would directly decide a human's moral sense. And this determines the differences in the social division of labor, treatment, status, and many other differences between men and women. In the end, males and females cannot be completely equal. And that may lead to many problems, such as discrimination towards women. Result 2 is assumed to be the most likely to appear in the experiment. The emergence of this result means that sexual attractiveness leads to changes in people's moral level. After previous research by many psychologists, it has been known that both men and women can trigger sexual urges because of body exposure. This conclusion proves that inequality in social relations between men and women can be eliminated by dressing. Suppose men and women do not wear revealing. More directly, if men and women wear the same types of clothes all the time, gender equality can be achieved through sexual modesty.

Nowadays, the conflict between men and women is becoming intensive because some people believe today's patriarchal society has deprived women's rights for a long time. For example, in Islamic states, women have no voting rights and must cover their whole body. The study about sexual modesty will help people better understand gender equality in dressing and all rights shared by men and women. All humans are created equal; there shall be no immense divide between man and woman.

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