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Post-Matrimonial Challenge -Gender Role Sharing or Gender Role Reversal: Demystifying Islamic versus Post Development Discourse on Familial Masculinities

ABSTRACT:

In recent times, more women are into jobs and professions. As a result of this move, post-marital issues have risen all over the world. To address this issue, the post-development agenda 2015 focused to redefine familial masculinities by promoting a gender role-sharing approach. This approach has been discussed and highlighted in national and international policy documents calling men to share roles with their partners. Muslim scholars around the world also highlighted the significance of role sharing from an Islamic perspective. However, the recent feminist scholarship calls into question the idea of gender role sharing and presents an alternative model of gender role reversal. This paper seeks to study how gender role sharing or gender role reversal is seen as a post matrimonial challenge in recent times. It also accesses the Islamic perspective on the redefined forms of familial masculinities: gender role sharing or gender role reversal. Thus, it concludes that Islamic scholarship resides with the idea of gender role sharing and finds gender role reversal problematic. The assessment demystifies that the subordination of Muslim women around the world is due to the non-observance of the Islamic model of role sharing due to toxic masculinities engrained within Muslim cultures and communities. It suggests that by introducing and disseminating Islamic notions of gender role sharing, toxic masculinities from Muslim communities around the world can be addressed.



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Ms Aqleem Fatimah (MA Women Studies, University of the Punjab Lahore. M.Phil. Development Studies, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)) is currently a lecturer at Allama Iqbal Open University in the department of Gender and Women Studies. She is also involved in course development, coordination, and research with an interdisciplinary approach in sociology of gender issues, gender & development, feminist philosophy, gender and religion, and gender and policy planning.