

A new approach in perception of gender in education: Gender biases in Iranian textbooks

Amir Biglar Beigi Ghajarieh

amirbiglarbeigi@yahoo.com

University of Malaya

August 20, 2009

Gender studies should be situational bound due to the fact that what might be considered sexist in a situation cannot be generalize to a new setting (Ridgeway & Correll ,2004).

Feminity and masculinity both are influenced by masculine hegemony. “Hegemonic masculinity needs to incorporate a more holistic understanding of gender hierarchy” (Connel, 2005,849). In this respect, we should consider the fact that masculine hegemony is constructed at three levels of local, national and global (Connel, 2005).That is, unlike the old definition of musicality which emphasis on patriarchal belief as the only influencing factor in this hegemony, we have different levels of masculine hegemony considering local, global and national factors (Kemel, 2005). One of the social dynamics of Iranian society in terms of global factors is the new process of globalization that is happing in Iran (Nadei,2008). With respect to the texture of Iranian society where gender biases are pervasive and more importantly the portrayal of patriarchal thinking is more clear in men and women’s life , which is considered one of the issues in many developing countries (Warhurst,2009; Stromquist,2007), the present situation of Iran is likely to make a deteriorating situation for men and women both, On the one hand , the market in Iran is adopting the characteristics of global economy (Nadei,2008) which means more job opening for women and less opportunities for men. One the other ,due to the masculine hegemony of Iranian society and cultural biases, many women are not allowed to

work outside , which seems not appropriate in the eyes of many religious families in Iran and on the other hand, in view of the fact that Iran is struggling with a staggering figures of unemployment (Amuzegar,2004; *Iran unemployment rate,2008*) and the patriarchal believes forcing Iranian men to be the sole breadwinner of families put utmost pressure on men as well as women. Therefore, gender studies in Iran should be focused on men and women both due to the fact that they are both at a disadvantage.

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