

# **Gender in Socio-Economic Context**

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# Preface

The development of human history is like a magnificent river, endless and flowing. Human beings have entered a new society where knowledge and information present the boundless Internet. In this stage, the struggle between the truth, the good, the false and the ugly is more intense, because the false, the evil and the ugly also appear as the true, the good and the beautiful, and it is more difficult for human beings to distinguish right from wrong. But on the whole, the values of science, democracy, freedom, justice, equality, civilization and equality have become the common language of mankind, and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind has become a general trend. Under the conditions of the Internet, all lies, ignorance, greed, arbitrariness, oppression and ugliness are placed by human civilization in moral and scientific courts. Therefore, the new era is an era of self-discipline in which the people, heroes and leaders are highly morally conscious and respect each other. Do not do to others what you do not want others to do to you. Confucius' teachings are of more practical significance. On October 1, 2020, President Xi delivered an important speech at the High-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly commemorating the 25th anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing, stressing: " To build a world where women are free from discrimination and to build an inclusive society, there is still a long way to go and even greater efforts. Let us continue to work together to accelerate the realization of gender equality and promote the cause of women around the world.

Economics uses mathematics and symbolic logic to develop its own research, aiming to indicate and guide people's economic behavior on how to be more effective. However, when economics is excessively mathematical and symbolic logical, its conceptual framework and reasoning system have been more and more far away from the real economic activities. In this process, it analyzes the economic behaviors widely connected and embedded in social life with the help of some sociological research methods and theoretical orientations. Economic sociology seems to only draw the basic theoretical premises and methods such as rational choice in economics from the study of social phenomena, but does not develop specific research fields from the process of integrating economic and social unity in social life and from the perspective of research objects. In other words, at present, economic life is more just a matter of sociologists, without the crossover of economists. The game theory study of the new institutional school only modifies some assumptions of economic rational people and introduces subjective discussion, and cannot be included in the field of sociology. The purpose is to find some research methods and ideas of analyzing empirical problems from the perspective of the extensive and profound connection of economic behavior and social behavior, from the coordinated

development of economic and society and the promotion of the development of human society.

The logic of economics is a unique perspective to understand social problems, and the normative study of sociology can better sublimate the understanding of economic problems. Aiming at the study of gender discrimination and gender exclusion in the labor market, the combination of economics and sociology will certainly make the theory interpret stronger. It should be said that this is an attempt, but also a journey that needs to continue to study and explore. According to economic analysis, gender differences are different from discrimination, and not all gender differences are discrimination, and only those cases where labor productivity characteristics are the same but are not treated the same are called gender discrimination. Gender discrimination and social gender exclusion in the labor market are a worldwide problem. For thousands of years, the two sexes have never been equal in a real sense. Women are discriminated against and deprived economically, and they are repressed and excluded in the society. Workers of both sexes differ in physiology and psychology, as do their economic and social behaviors. Nevertheless, none of these differences can justify the discrimination or exclusion of female workers. Productivity forces are developing, civilization is progressing, and the concept also needs to be updated. Based on the mutual argument of economics and sociology, this book makes a thorough analysis of the market and social roots and far-reaching influence of gender discrimination and exclusion, and puts forward positive improvement suggestions to resisting the problem of inequality, which has strong theoretical guidance and practical significance.

In the view of economics, market sexism is the result of a preference for a commodity, where its "consumption" needs to pay a price. If it is best to reduce or simply eliminate gender discrimination, there are two ways: to impose strict laws and penalties to protect women and hire women, so that rational employers will not treat women differently through profit and losses. Gender discrimination and gender exclusion in the labor market are a worldwide problem. At the beginning of the emergence of private ownership, due to the development level of productive forces, the economic and social division of labor of "men master outside and women master inside" was formed, and the role of gender society was gradually conceptualized and continues to this day. For thousands of years, there has never been a real equality between the two sexes. Women have been discriminated against, deprived economically, repressed and excluded in the society. The strong influence of traditional culture transcends the development of productive forces and the changes of politics and society, and people's prejudice, discrimination and rejection of women are endless. What is the problem? What are its disadvantages and the dangers of the transmission? Is there any way to avoid this problem? All the questioning led to the formation of the book.

The sociological analysis goes back to the source, regards cultural customs as the basis of gender social orientation, and regards the market discrimination caused by social gender bias as a logical

natural result. Because of the passive position in the market, female workers make employment and development very difficult, so they are so weak and poor, so that they are not easy to enter the social network rich in resources, and they lack the support of social capital. In addition, with the weakness and lack of gender awareness in the system, female workers are naturally excluded from the edge of the market and society. This is even a vicious circle. It is broken by a fair government, because the government has enough power to guide culture, build the legal system and provide policy incentives.

Admittedly, there are physical and psychological differences in gender workers, and their economic and social behaviors are also different. Nevertheless, none of these differences can justify the discrimination or exclusion of female workers. Productivity forces are developing, civilization is progressing, the concept also needs to be updated. Economic prosperity cannot be separated from the effective use of limited resources. Female labor force is an indispensable factor in the market. Their tenacity, diligence and similarly, excellent wisdom has an excellent contribution to the market economy, so discrimination or exclusion of women is an irrational behavior that respects efficiency. Social harmony cannot be separated from the social participation of gender equality. Female workers are the important partners of social members. They shoulder the responsibility of human reproduction, bear the happiness of family and social stability. Therefore, suppressing or rejecting women is an unwise move to hinder social development. All these actions deserve to be corrected in a timely manner, and the government, employers and ourselves have the responsibility to make positive efforts to eliminate gender discrimination in the market and gender exclusion attitudes.

Worldwide, the rise of women and gender studies is one of the characteristics of the Second Women's movement. Women and gender studies are also seen as important research for change. Women and gender studies in the global development trend, has become more and more eye-catching social phenomenon. Judging from the current development of academic research in humanities and social sciences, women and gender studies are no longer very marginal subject knowledge. In China, the rise and development of women and gender studies has a history of more than 20 years. It is worth noting that during this period, IFF projects and the whole system of Women's Federations have made useful attempts to promote gender research, gender equality, mutual benefit and win-win, and common growth, and carried out relevant women's research in practice.

The book is divided into five chapters. The first Chapter is the significance of sociological research from the perspective of transgender, explaining gender attribute, gender system and gender content research; The second chapter discusses gender socialization from theory, influencing factors and reflection. Chapter 3 Gender division of labor in work and family, from family to workplace, presents a fixed pattern of gender division of labor, this chapter analyzes the status of gender division of labor, reflects on the ideology of gender division of labor, and explains its possible social

consequences; Chapter 4: Mass culture, media and gender. This chapter first starts with the characteristics of mass culture, understands this culture, and uses this as the background to explain the gender content in mass culture. Then, taking the carrier of mass culture as the breakthrough point, it deeply analyzes the gender information in mass culture, and interprets and reflects on mass culture from the perspective of gender. To explore new cultural approaches to gender equality; Chapter 5: Gender equality and Social justice, understanding the trend of gender mainstreaming in the international community, and the efforts and achievements made by the Chinese government to promote gender equality. The writing of this book has three characteristics: the first characteristic is interdisciplinary. The writing background of each Chapter 1s diverse, involving different subject areas, and the writing content of each chapter covers population, fertility and social gender, gender and popular culture, gender and family, gender and occupation. The second feature is reflected in the comprehensive consideration of the structural system. This book provides not only the chapters of the gender chapter, but also the theoretical methods of gender research. The third characteristic is its development as a field of knowledge. The author of this book hopes to contribute to the knowledge field of gender studies in China, and hopes that the social phenomenon of gender equality can be valued and promoted by domestic scholars. The book is divided into five chapters. The first Chapter 1s the significance of sociological research from the perspective of transgender, explaining gender attribute, gender system and gender content research; The second chapter discusses gender socialization from theory, influencing factors and reflection. Chapter 3 Gender division of labor in work and family, from family to workplace, presents a fixed pattern of gender division of labor, this chapter analyzes the status of gender division of labor, reflects on the ideology of gender division of labor, and explains its possible social consequences; Chapter 4: Mass culture, media and gender. This chapter first starts with the characteristics of mass culture, understands this culture, and uses this as the background to explain the gender content in mass culture. Then, taking the carrier of mass culture as the breakthrough point, it deeply analyzes the gender information in mass culture, and interprets and reflects on mass culture from the perspective of gender. To explore new cultural approaches to gender equality; Chapter 5: Gender equality and Social justice, understanding the trend of gender mainstreaming in the international community, and the efforts and achievements made by the Chinese government to promote gender equality. The writing of this book has three characteristics: the first characteristic is interdisciplinary. The writing background of each Chapter 1s diverse, involving different subject areas, and the writing content of each chapter covers population, fertility and social gender, gender and popular culture, gender and family, gender and occupation. The second feature is reflected in the comprehensive consideration of the structural system. This book provides not only the chapters of the gender chapter, but also the theoretical methods of gender research. The third

characteristic is its development as a field of knowledge. The author of this book hopes to contribute to the knowledge field of gender studies in China, and hopes that the social phenomenon of gender equality can be valued and promoted by domestic scholars.

In the process of writing this book, I read and quoted the relevant works and arguments of domestic and foreign scholars, and went to the Department of Sociology of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) as a visiting scholar from April 2014 to April 2015. Participated in all the teaching activities of supervisor Charles Thorpe and worked in the research team in Los Angeles. During the process of learning and communication, I was inspired by the spark of thinking. I would like to express my sincere respect to them. Due to the limitations of my knowledge and experience, the mistakes and omissions in this book are inevitable. Please kindly bear with me and give me valuable comments and suggestions, which have enabled me to continuously improve my academic level.

February in Kunming

Dan Li

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