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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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RETHINKING OF MASCULINITIES: AN EVOLVING PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this research is on the evolution of male identity and cultural conceptions of masculinity. Traditional notions of masculinity have often been overly narrow, contributing to the maintenance of harmful stereotypes and assumptions. But a more inclusive, diverse, and caring perspective on gender is leading to a rethinking of what it means to be masculine. This essay investigates the complexities of masculinity, the pernicious impacts of rigid gender norms, and the ways in which our culture may be altered to promote healthier, more authentic expressions of gender. The intricate web of gender identities, violent experiences, and emotional restraint. This new perspective furthers gender equality, the acceptance of many identities, and the removal of harmful stereotypes that hold men and society back from reaching their full potential. By analyzing the rethinking of masculinity in this context, this article hopes to encourage a more nuanced and empathic perspective of masculinity. We can help men reach their full potential as people and as contributors to society if we challenge and expand our ideas of masculinity. This process of reassessing masculinities is also open to female participation. This movement is representative of a broader cultural trend that challenges traditional notions of masculinity and the worldviews of its members. By working to eradicate gender norms and adopting a more open perspective on gender, we can create a more equitable society that values and celebrates a wide range of masculinities while eliminating harmful power dynamics.

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INTRODUCTION

In this post, we will delve into the historical and cultural contexts that have contributed to the perpetuation of harmful norms associated with traditional masculinity. To highlight the diversity of men's experiences and identities, we will look at recent literature and research through the perspective of queer masculinities, trans masculinities, and subordinated masculinities, among others. We will discuss the importance of emotional intelligence training, positive role models, education, and awareness in questioning and reforming cultural notions, as well as the harmful effects that rigid gender norms have on both men and women. Overall, this study intends to spark debate and analysis in order to propel a transformative strategy toward masculinities that aids in the promotion of gender equality, social justice, and individual flourishing. Relationships, mental health, and people's freedom to be themselves might all benefit from a societal re-evaluation and adoption of a more inclusive vision of masculinity. To build a more equitable and loving world, it is everyone's responsibility to begin the process of reevaluating old male roles. The social ramifications of masculinity are receiving more attention. Traditional notions of masculinity are strongly correlated with the marginalization of many groups. One area where masculinity overlaps is in the rise of the military, which has negative effects on social development and equality.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this research is to investigate the ways in which masculinities connect with militarism, as well as the outcomes of these interactions and the criticisms that have been leveled against them. It also seeks to comprehend how military masculinities contribute to the worldwide problem of economic and social inequality.

METHODOLOGY

To accomplish these goals, a survey of previous research on maleness, militarism, progress, and parity will be done. In addition, case studies will be utilized to dive further into challenges that arise in particular settings. The results will be used to guide suggestions for the future. To counteract the dominance of patriarchal leadership styles, the emergence of authoritarian populist governments, the unprecedented levels of militarism, the endurance of war and political violence, and the resistance to progressive changes in the contemporary era.

Masculinity and the Conceptual Process: Understanding the complex nature of gender identity relies heavily on the conception of masculinities. Recognizing the variety of ways in which people and

communities develop and perform masculinity, modern discourse is reevaluating the old view of masculinity as a fixed collection of features and actions. This article examines the numerous definitions of masculinity, delving into how gender roles are affected by societal, cultural, and personal variables. Gender stereotypes that restrict individual expression and promote injustice are reinforced by traditional masculinity, which generally includes qualities like strength, dominance, and emotional reserve. Promoting gender equality requires actively working to dismantle these prejudices.

Masculinities with the Rise of Militarism: Efforts to address sexual assault and initiate reforms, such as military recruitment operations, involve intricate and contradictory interpretations of masculinity. In her examination of a US military training program in the Congo, Rachel Massey highlights the promotion of neo-colonial ideals by the program, which contributes to the perpetuation of militarized violence (Frank A. Stengel). Similarly, David Shim argues in his analysis of German military recruitment videos that they "militarize antimilitarism" by leveraging Germany's antimilitarist culture to normalize military service. Before institutions can truly undergo transformation through a gender-sensitive and feminist perspective, it is crucial to critically assess whether militarism and colonialism can be effectively challenged. In order to have nuanced discussions about the role of militarism in shaping gender identities, power structures, and the perpetuation of violence, it is necessary to critically examine the dynamics between militarization and the construction of masculinities, as discussed in this paper titled "Unveiling the Complex Relationship." Militarization is a major force in the formation of masculinities, reinforcing stereotypical ideas about men's roles as powerful aggressors whose actions are justified by the justification of violence. Realizing the necessity of acknowledging varied masculinities and their unique problems requires adopting an intersectional perspective on masculinity. Men's experiences are affected by elements such as color, class, sexual orientation, and ability.

Inequality in Development and the Spread of Militarism: When studying masculinities, militarism, securitization, and development, it is essential to consider the impact of space on acts of violence. Drawing from historical examples, it is possible to learn that structural factors, rather than cultural ones, play a greater role in increasing the likelihood of violence among economically and socially disadvantaged groups. In the case of segregated Black communities in US cities, the limited spatial dynamics have made Black women historically more susceptible to physical and sexual abuse due to the effects of "Jim Crow geographies" (Norwood, 2018). Similarly, the rise in gang violence in marginalized areas of Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, necessitates research into the geographical aspects. Adam Baird, Matthew Louis Bishop, and Dylan Kerrigan assert that solely attributing this violence to transnational drug and arms trafficking networks or cultural characteristics of male gang members would be insufficient. Instead, they demonstrate how these networks interact with local, historically marginalized, and vulnerable "social terrains," thereby influencing male hegemonies, the subordination of women, and the presence of non-gang "beta" masculinities. There are many ways in which militarization and unequal development interact to perpetuate inequalities and impede the advancement of sustainable, inclusive development. By examining the effects of militarization on resource allocation, social welfare, and environmental degradation, it is clear that demilitarization efforts are necessary for achieving equitable societies. Spending more on the military instead of on education, healthcare, or infrastructure may keep people at a disadvantage and slow economic growth.

War and the promotion of hyper masculinity: By recognizing and critically examining the destructive nature of hypermasculinity, societies can pave the way for transformative approaches that promote peaceful resolutions, healing, and reconciliation in post-conflict scenarios. This paper highlights the importance of promoting non-violent masculinities, addressing the root causes of gender-based violence, and engaging men in peacebuilding efforts. Violence against

women and other oppressed groups is exacerbated by the hypermasculinity demonstrated in war and conflict zones, which glorifies aggressiveness and domination.

Traditional Masculinity and Its Critics: By recognizing the limitations and harmful consequences of traditional masculinity, we can work towards cultivating positive and healthier expressions of gender identity. This paper emphasizes the importance of promoting emotional intelligence, fostering gender-equitable relationships, and challenging media and cultural influences to create a more equitable and inclusive society. Progress toward gender equality might be hampered by traditional masculinities that reinforce negative preconceptions and restrict people from realizing their full potential.

Male mental health repercussions: Destigmatizing men's mental health concerns and making a welcoming environment that encourages help-seeking and emotional well-being are emphasized throughout this paper by stressing the significance of recognizing the social factors that contribute to mental health disparities among men and challenging traditional masculinity norms. Stress, emotional suppression, and a reluctance to seek treatment may all take a toll on a man's mental health if he feels he must comply to stereotypical male expectations.

Alliances with Rival Power Structures: The intersection of traditional masculinities with other power hierarchies, such as those based on race and class, may amplify the disadvantages experienced by disadvantaged groups and contribute to the maintenance of oppressive structures. The influence of Militarized Masculinities on the Maintenance of Economic and Social Disparities in Industrialized Nations. By recognizing and challenging the effects of militarism on wealth distribution, gendered labor markets, social services, and marginalized communities, developed countries can work toward more equitable and just systems. The focus of this paper is on the importance of demilitarization, the promotion of gender equality, and the adoption of transformative approaches to address the structural inequalities that persist in today's societies. Studies of developed-world cases show how military masculinities contribute to structural inequality by, among other things, shaping public policy and allocating scarce resources in ways that favor men and reinforcing existing gender gaps.

Militarization, Masculinity, and Inequality in Postcolonial Developing Countries: Urgent attention and transformative approaches are needed to address the link between militarization, masculinity, and unequal development in post-colonial contexts. Developing countries can work toward more equitable and sustainable development by acknowledging the influence of colonial legacies, challenging traditional masculinity norms, and addressing issues of governance, resource allocation, conflict, and gender inequalities. Understanding the intricacies of these connections is vital for successfully tackling disparities in developing nations, where post-colonial settings and militaristic masculinities can exacerbate inequality and inhibit development.

Strengthening Women and Questioning Traditional Gender Roles: By acknowledging and removing the obstacles that limit women's potential, promoting equal opportunities, and challenging societal norms and stereotypes, we can pave the way for a future where women have agency, autonomy, and equal rights. There should be an effort to increase the number of women in positions of power and to eliminate patriarchal mechanisms that keep women from achieving their full potential.

Policy making and peace-making that include all stakeholders: The effects of militarization on different disadvantaged groups should be taken into account, and disarmament, de-escalation, and conflict resolution should be prioritized in policy-making processes and peacebuilding initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The article "Rethinking Masculinities: An Evolving Perspective" will provide a comprehensive analysis of masculinities, examining various strategies for reassessing societal norms and encouraging a broader understanding of masculinities in order to facilitate healthier relationships, support mental health and well-being, and aid in the achievement of greater social and economic success. In order to promote gender equality and develop a more inclusive society, this research stresses the significance of confronting established masculinities by highlighting the interconnections between masculinity and militarism and analyzing the implications and criticisms related with these ideas.

Suggestions for Moving Forward: Promoting a new narrative of masculinity and cultivating gender equality may help countries aim for more fair development and peace, which is why future action should focus education, awareness, empowering women, and inclusive policy-making efforts to address the challenges raised.

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