INTRODUCTION

Nature, and definition of Marginalization

What is Marginalization

In general the term marginalization describes the over actions or tendencies of human societies where people perceive to under reliable or without useful fiction are excluded, i.e. marginalized. The people who are marginalized are outside the existing system of protection and integration. This limits their opportunities and means for survival. The term defined marginalization can be in the following ways-(Page no.48,49,50)

1) Peter Leonard defines -“Marginality as being outside the mainstream of productive activity.”

2) Latin observes - “Marginality is so thoroughly demeaning, for economic well-being, for human dignity as well as for physical security marginal peoples can always be identified by the members of dominant society and will face irrevocable discrimination.”

3) The encyclopedia of public health defines - “Marginalization as to be marginalized is to be placed in the margins as thus excluded from the privilege and power found at the center.”

4) Merriam Webster’s online dictionary defines the term marginalization as “To relegate to a un important or powerless position within a society or group”.

5) Ghana S Gurung and Michael Kallmair mentions, “The concept of marginality is generally, used to analysis socio-economic, political and cultural spheres, where disadvantaged people struggle to gain access to resources and full participation in social life. In other words marginalized people might be socially, economically, politically and legally ignored, excluded or neglected and therefore vulnerable to live hood change.

6) Views and Ideas
Marginalization is a multidimensional, multicausal, historical phenomenon. There are no general laws to understand and comprehend the complex nature of marginalization. The analytical tools that can be used in most cases include class in relation to specific social, cultural, economical and political conditions as well as ideological systems. The nature of marginalization varies in different settings. For example the marginalization of women in Arab is not the same as in India. Though they broadly share some feature. The religious, ideological system patriarchy, political economy of a country and the overall social system has its impact on the marginalization of specific group or an individual.

The idea of marginalization also varies in relation to elderly people living in different countries and cultures. In some societies the elders are given more respect compared to others. But it is opposite in some society because of this situation old people are subject of marginalization.

Marginality deals with the socio cultural and human problems of people belonging to various sections of society such as Dalits, Black slaves, African, Americans, Native Americans, Pariah, other minorities such as Muslims and problems of females due to their peripheral place. Writers raise the voice in the different form of these marginalized groups. Whether they are Indian, Canadian, Caribbean, Indonesian or American. Words like center and periphery have become so common that everyone is familiar with these terms.

Marginalization is not a new phenomenon. In fact it is as old as human race but the question has begun to attract greater attention only in our time especially with the advent of the post colonial literature. The marginality is based on the binary opposition of center and periphery writers who are at periphery try to occupy a marginal or borderline position.

I. Views and Opinions of Writers and Critics

1) Woman must be a bridge and a synthesizer. She should allow herself to be swept off her feet by superficial trends nor yet be chained to the familiar. She ensures the continuity which strengthens roots and simultaneously engineer change and growth to keep society dynamic, abreast of knowledge, sensitive to fast-moving event. The solution lies neither in fighting for equal position nor denying
it, neither in retreat into home nor escape from it. (Page 199) 

Indira Gandhi.

2) In India, a long history of mother goddess worship legitimizes woman’s glorification/deification as the divine mother, the source of energy, power and fertility while the same motherhood is an institutionalized form of oppression and subjugation of women. In a patriarchal kinship structure, a woman’s status in the household is determined by her ability to produce male issue for her husband’s lineage. Her identity revolves around the wife/mother roles beyond which no individuality needs to be established or recognized. (page 18)

Sanjeeta Dutta.

3) Men have certain fixed ideologies concerning the nature of woman that woman is innately week, emotional, enjoys dependence, is limited in capacities for work even that woman is masochistic by nature. (231)

Karen Horney.

4) The concept of marginality is the outcome of difference and the relationship between the academic and revolutionary practices in the interest of social change.

Gayatri Spivak.

These opinions and views depict the position of women in society. As human being she always got secondary and subvert status. Women are center in social structure and also important in production but she is always treated behind in the circle.

Etymological sources of marginalization-

The marginalized groups of people are observed all over the world. The marginalized literature is based on exploitation, agonies, pains and suffering, at the secondary level. The social, political, economical, geographical, special aspects of life which are deeply rooted in their consciousness with their past, present and
future. Which are again present in the perpetually of time. Most of the marginalized groups, if not all constitute minorities, religious, ethnic, linguistics or otherwise in different countries, they have subcultures in this mainstream culture or-religions.

II. Women marginalization in India

The patriarchal ideology and mindset deeply ingrained in Indian society, particularly Indian validates the propriety of the son preference and thus relegates the girl child to subordinate marginal position likewise orthodox religious beliefs and superstitions. These convictions hamper the humanitarian (egalitarian) acceptance of a female child. Moreover, marriages end all of the female existence. The images and representations of feminist in literature and speak volumes for their contradiction.

In the present research study a comprehensive discussion is made of feminine marginality of the layers of female life, their self-feelings of “otherness”.

1. Problems of marginalization due to gender discrimination

Gender discrimination is one of the ground problems in India. Right from the ‘Vedas’ most of the human attributed to only son and not to daughters. From the earlier period of vedic age woman have been the subject of sarcastic comment. As we knew both man and woman is the essential part of creation but somewhere she is marginalized by society, family and by husband. In the twenties century increases the number of female foetal death because of gender discrimination. In reality it is a ritual murder of new born girl infant. In recent Indian condition female birth-rate is very less than male birth-rate. Indian government has given equal rights for women and also fifty percent reservations in all government posts. But the question still remains whether the women get these rights in her own family? Woman is treated as subsidiary or secondary in family and in society. Women’s oppression and suppression is now being thrown gradually to the margins by the marginalized creature herself.
2. Problems of marginalization due to secondary or subvert treatment

Still in modern India women have the secondary status. It is patriarchal culture attacks on women from every corner. Only men decide her place in society. She cannot enjoy her dignity and freedom being as human being. The Koran proclaim, “Men are superior to women on account of the qualities in which good has given them pre-eminence and also because they furnish dowry for women.”(page no.169) The veiled Muslim women still kind of slave to their men and man made ‘burqa’. Young women in India struggle her secondary status in society. Some poverty-stricken areas have do not facility of girl education, health center for their health problems or the facility of proper toilet and their parents also are not interested to invest for them. They neglects their fundamental needs. In other side many families in India husband beats their wife, because of inferior complexity.

3. Problems of marginalization to women’s traditional image

Contemporary Indian patriarchal society not opposes new global changes. They adopt all the new lifestyle, new laws to improve their standard of living. They prepared themselves to face new modern time to changes but the question of women image still is remaining. Since ancient to modern her image is not changed. In traditional culture, rituals, rules woman intermingle herself. Woman is educated as well as earning money for her family. But male dominated society want her traditional image that she must be a loyal wife, must good daughter –in-law and good mother. Due to the industrial revolution and the mechanization of housework increase in white-collar jobs and favourable attitudes towards women. But due to male ego problems and our own tradition cultural symbiosis that women are forced only to sit at home. Hersch and Stratton found in a 2002 study that the daily home chores and other activity related children, guests, old peoples responsibility have been traditionally a wife responsibility as well as in working palaces due to her traditional image, inspite of equal work, she faced discrimination wages. (pageno. 84to90)
4. Marginalization in the form of isolation/alienation

One of the serious problems of women marginalization is that her isolation status. Young women in India frustrated because her inferior status as a girl in her father home in lower status after her married home. She badly treated for dowry; she has no choice for think her career. She is unable to take any decision for her future whether she has ability. In that present situation women go in depression and take the decision of suicide. Some have the mental problem. Some of the Indian women who are barren also suffered by the problem of alienation. In that case if she is childless she faced sorrow and pathetic situation. Even men do not support her in this situation. Many couples take decision of divorce. Women are directly and indirectly influenced by all this. Women view world as a hostile place and often take a negative stance, which generates psychic state of fear, guilt, anger, bitterness, anxiety, helplessness and depression.

5. Marginalization due to loss of self–identity

Indian constitution gives equal rights for women. This concept brings an independent modern woman. Today’s woman is confident, self assured, intelligent and economically developed with having their special skills like artist, Lecturer, writer, filmmaker, but in this present situation can male dominate society change their attitude? In India woman violence is the part of everyday life. Year 1982 in Khandawa town Pushpa, raped by her own factory Boss, when she ran to her husband for protection, he awarded her by pouring kerosene over her and burnt her to death. 23 percent women are burned a year in every state in India. Out of them 7 percent women are dead and remaining women are forced to spending miserable life, 33 percent married women send to their father’s home because they unable to give dowry, 9 percent girls are commit suicide because of harassed by their husband’s home.42 percent girls with having good education ability, genial beauty and having practical knowledge to face situation go into depression. (Daily Sakal 21 Oct 2012) In this situation women are not free from danger she losses her self identity. In other side male created unwed mother and condemned her ‘fallen woman’. Prostitute in red light area spend a meaningless
life they are an objet of male sex satisfaction. Only this is identity of prostitutes. The woman struggle won self for identity in male dominated society in India.

6. Marginalization due to intuition of marriage

The institution of marriage is considered the root cause of all the dilemmas of woman. Without shatter of husband she is criticized in India. But after marriage she is treated like domestic thing in home. She suffers and mentally disturbed in responsible wife, daughter-in-law and mother. She cannot think independently for herself. In this situation marriage is a chain which tides her image. Husband rules on her. Women’s are turned only as sexual companion in many families by men. Her desires are not important for husband. Women are treated as child machine or if she has no child, society raised finger on women and not to men’s. Automatically she is marginalized in her family and husband. For some represents a way that women can be controlled and patriarchy maintained. In this situation present modern Indian mothers are seen double oppressed by society and her own family.