

Masculinity and Femininity among Working Women in Indian Urban Culture

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ABSTRACT How humans view the appropriate roles for either gender has generated a great deal of discussion among social scientists. This study was conducted to examine the validation of gender roles and their status. The Bem Sex Role Inventory Short Form (BSRISF) was administered to cross-section of ninety urban working females. Analysis after categorization in three groups viz., Younger (20-35 years), Middle (36-50 years) and Older group (51-65 years) was done. It was found that masculine characteristics- “Defend my own beliefs”, “Independent”, “Have leadership quality”, “Willing to take risk” and total score of masculine characteristics were significantly higher in younger group. However, all feminine characteristics except one, “Sympathetic”, were found non significant among different groups. Findings strongly support the cross- sectional validity on feminine characteristics of the BSRISF among working urban females in India.