

## FACEBOOK: GENDER DICHOTOMY AND REPRESENTATION OF THE SECOND SEX

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### ABSTRACT

Technologies, including communication technologies, have a long history of shaping and being shaped by the gender of their users. Today it has become so easy to communicate with each other. Communication crossed boundaries, hierarchies and many other uncountable obstacles. Both men and women are taking part actively to share them with whole world. This study focuses in different parts and options of Facebook to find out a remarkable gender dichotomy. I divide my investigation in two major parts. In the first one I choose six female and six male who have their own Facebook IDs. They permit me to frame out their experiences in this networking system for a clear dichotomy. I focus on several facts and analyze those to compare between two sexes. On the contrary, in the second one I focus on various 'Groups' of Facebook. These groups are joint by thousands of people all around the world. All these groups have motto of its formation. These groups have huge fan following who can comment and like its wall posts. According to my interest I sort out some of these groups to find out how women are harassed and insulted globally, how men conceptualize and treat women. It is a real wonder that in a very public site like Facebook men are using slang words, impolite symbols, and rude mentality against women.

**KEYWORDS:** Gender, Dichotomy, Masculine, Feminine, Assault, Harassment

### INTRODUCTION

Facebook is the most popular way of social networking system today. Huge number of people all over the world use Facebook to be in touch with others. Like other different areas Facebook is one of the most reliable medium to research gender differences and discriminations.

Socialization and behavior easily reflects from every single movement of a person moves. Clothes that a person wears, or food she/he eats even the way she/he says hello introduces her/his society and culture. Facebook is very interesting way to find out all these facts. When the matter rises about gender dichotomy, easily investigated the differences and representations of sexes. The motto of facebook is to connect people with each other, sharing their thoughts, knowing other's culture and even organize movements. Now more or less every institution has their own page in facebook, every rising movement create their groups. It is very easy for mass people to know current issues, joint every movement, protest against violence; actually change the society.

But the real picture is not so pretty. There is always a dark side of the moon. Facebook itself become a very strong medium of violence. People easily harass and ill treat and here it is too hard to find out the culprit. And more or less the victim is woman. They are often assaulted and harassed in this virtual world.

### Gender Dichotomy

Facebook offers different options that are very interesting and reliable to find out user's behavior, mentality, liking, disliking, sense of gender and way of their socialization or environment. A remarkable dichotomy I find out investigating several Facebook users' activities by focusing all those options.

I mainly take interest on the options given below

- Profile pictures
- Activities
- Biography and favourite quotes
- Music taste
- Updating statuses
- Privacy concern

I choose six female users named (ID name)

- Torunima Kristy
- Taposy Psychology
- Anina Anwar Asha
- Aklima Haque
- Tamanna Ferdous
- Nusrat Toton

I also choose six male users named (ID name)

- Otonu Ghosh
- Arif Hasan
- Rezvy Shuvo
- Sajal Islam
- Tanvir Hamid
- Nafi nawar

All of them are young people aged 19 to 21 years. They are studying different universities. I know them personally and willingly helped by them finding out my actual interest.

### **Appearance on Profile Pictures**

#### **Torunima Kristy**



If we keep our eyes on it we can find out that

- The picture is so attractive and pretty
- Her hair is wet
- Glossy and shiny attractive lips
- Spontaneous smile
- Friendly and positive look
- Very feminine look having dark kajal and a nose ring

### Taposy Psychology



Taposy choose to avoid her own face as profile picture. Now if we focus this one we can find out:

- A white based picture shows a soothing and peaceful identity
- Beautiful white flowers that is a part of nature and beauty
- Two hands together that shows love caring and dependency
- Both the hand wearing engagement rings that symbolizes agreement, faith and commitment in relationship

### Tamanna Ferdous



It is another picture where the user avoids publishing her own face. If we focus on the picture we can notice:

- It is a gloomy dark picture of heavy rain that symbolizes a part of nature
- Attractive and mysterious female body running under the rain on the center point

**Anina Anwar Asha**

Now it is another profile picture which will help to find out that desirable dichotomy. If we watch it out we can find out:

- The picture is so colorful
- She posed so attractively
- Her lips are pinkish and Glossy
- She looks so feminine in tight fitting attractive western wear, matching floral jewelry and dark kajal
- c. Having flower in hand, hair and jewelry symbolizes love and intensity with nature

**Aklima Haque**

Here again user uses fake profile picture, analyzing which we can find out

- An attractive female body with mysterious pose showing back
- A white soothing background
- A fairy tale based picture
- An open field, green tree, burning sun symbolizes closure to nature

**Nusrat Toton**

Now If we keep our eyes on that profile picture we will find

- She is in a very feminine look wearing saree, red dot on forehead, dark kajal, heavy jewelry
- Bright and fair White contrast based picture
- Flower on her hair which is a part of nature
- Her lips are open and glossy which is so attractive

### Otonu Ghosh



At a glance we can make sure that the user having this profile picture is a male. The reason behind it is

- The boy on the picture is so masculine having strong muscle and a clear six pack
- He is carrying a cigarette on his lips
- Also carrying so many guns
- His look is so angry and in a demolishing mood

### Rezvy Shuvo



Analyzing that picture we can state that

- A dark contrast based picture
- His look is so masculine wearing dark sunglasses, showing off his arms, putting a leg on chair wearing ked
- He is carrying cell phone in one hand which is an example of technology and a cigarette in other that is showing a masculine behavior

**Sajal Islam**

This is another profile picture that can be explained by following point of view

- It is a picture of a lion that is the king of animals
- The picture is so masculine having an animal face, aggressive, sharp teeth coming out, angry burning eye
- Dark and scary background

**Arif Hasan**

Analyzing that profile picture we can find out that

- The picture has a quote that represents the user, 'I AM WHAT I AM... AND I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT ME' that symbolizes a careless, rude, independent and masculine attitude.
- It has a dark and scary background

**Tanvir Hamid**

Analyzing this one we can focus certain fact that is

- In the picture he is on the outer side of a boat on the sea which is so dangerous and challenging that represents masculine attitude
- He is showing off his strong muscle and body structure which is fit and attractive

### Nafi Nawar



Here again user uses fake profile picture, analyzing which we can find out

- It has a scary and dark background
- There is a quote said 'Game over' symbolizes power and control over life

### Analyzing Dichotomy

All the findings show some facts that differentiate female and male which define the male more masculine and the female more feminine.

Female like to keep their profile photos much attractive, happy, fun-loving, appealing. On the other hand male love to have moody, aggressive, energetic, sporty photos in their profile.

Female photos are more colorful, bright and clear whereas male use dark, mysterious and smoky contrasted photos.

Female have common interest to be close to nature. They like to have more flowers, green trees, open sky in their profile photos and male like to show their likings in technology and robotic view in their profile pictures.

Male like to show their physical strength, challenging, outgoing attitude and female like to show their physical beauty, attractive figure, jewelry, dark make up, dependency, caring in their profile picture.

### Activities

In the information wall users publish their activities that they like to do or they used to do usually. Framing out their activities I find out huge differences between men and women according to their activities.

Female users include the activities given below

- Singing
- Hanging out with friends
- Shopping
- Travelling at green beautiful places
- Watching television

On the other hand male users are active in following mentioned activities:

- Event management

- Networking
- Graphics and technologies
- Motor cycling
- Exercise
- Driving

### **Analyzing Dichotomy**

Here we can easily realize gender difference according to their activities.

Female are more comfortable at indoor environment but male are more active at outdoor. Male like to use technologies than female. Male activities are more productive and female like to have entertaining and soothing works.

### **Biography and Quotes**

By using that option Facebook users share about their own selves, the way they think and behave.

Here female users say that

- I am very much emotional and I can not stop my tears to fall
- I like to gossip and gardening
- I am a sweet and romantic girl
- I love my parents and my family they are my real friends
- I do not want to talk about me, everybody just love me
- I am a very cool person and natural sweet girl

And the male users include the following informations:

- I am a creative man
- I hv two girl frnds: 1.guitar  
2.gold leaf
- I hate love because I don't trust girls
- I am very bad I give pain when I get pain
- I hate emotions, rough and tough is the way to survive
- I never stop anything that I started

### **In the Option of Sharing 'Quotes' Users Can Share Their Philosophy of Life**

Male are very active here but among female only few of them share their thought.

The quotes share by female are

- Life is too short so love every one



- Loving beauty is the creation of another beauty

And here male share the quotes that are given below

- Do not limit ur challenges, challenge ur limits
- The thinks in which you are good, never do those for free
- I am me
- No pain no gain
- Live with no excuse
- Live for nothing or die for something

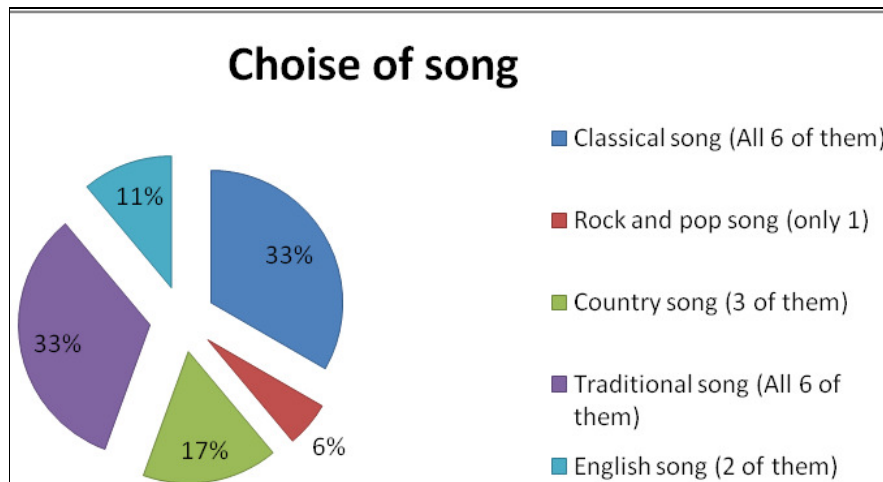
**Analizing Dichotomy**

Girls are more revealed and they like to admit and show their emotions to people but male are not so open, try to show themselves very reseved, strong and tough. Most of the boys has complex of superiority and they openly declared that women are weaker and not trustable. But female express their love for family admit themeselves romantic and trustworthy. Male like to admit themeselves more gutsy and independent but female love to show them polite, feminine, depending, soft and close to nature.

**Taste of Music**

I divide the type of songs into some parts which will help us to understand the taste and knowledge of the users. These are:

- Classical song
- Rock and pop song (mainly hard metal song)
- Country song
- Traditional song
- English song



**Figure 1: Music Choice of Female Users**

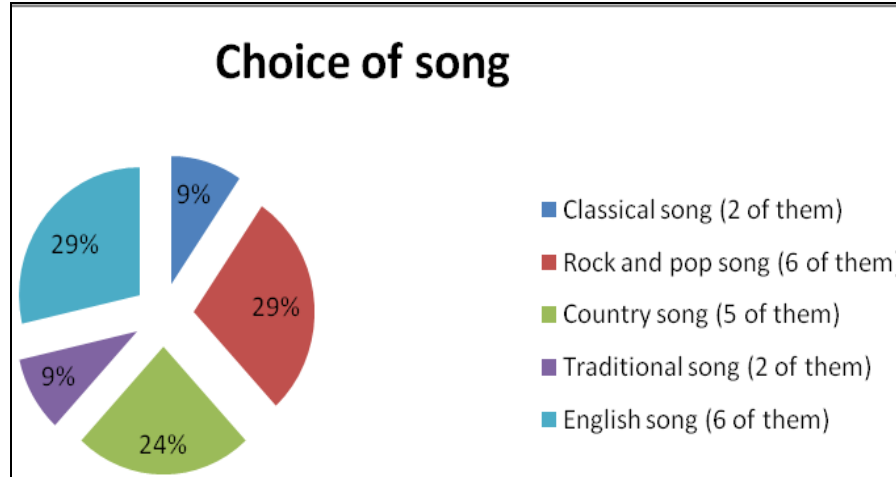


Figure 2: Music Choice of Male Users

**Analyzing Dichotomy**

According to the charts we can find out that Female like classical songs most, that are so melodious and soft with romantic lyrics. But male like rock and pop songs much. Here the instruments are so noisy and lyrics are modern, realistic and less imaginative. Female prefer traditional songs but male love to hear foreign songs comparatively.

**Updating Statuses**

At first I want to show a Figure 3 here

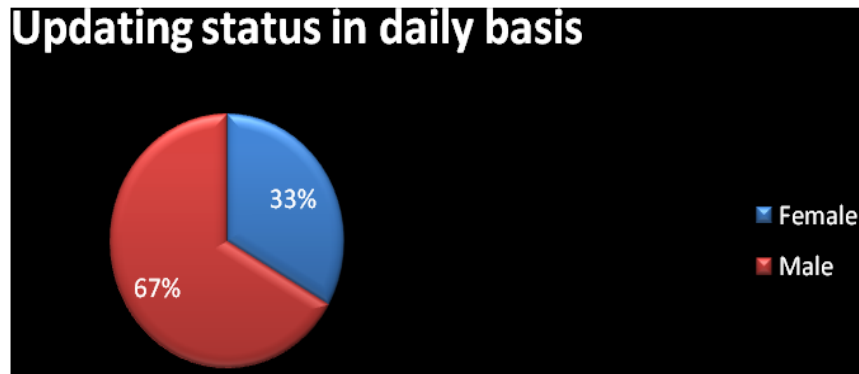


Figure 3: Updating Status in Daily Basis

**Analyzing Dichotomy**

Here we can point out that male update more status than female. Most of the male use internet service through their cell phones with cheap internet packages but female use computers most; that ensure male’s easy accessibility than others.

But according to the experts after 30, female update more status in number. They also state that female share their personal life, write poems and romantic quotes in their status but male are reserved here in that case.

**Privacy Concern**

Facebook served by some privacy facilities to the users. If anyone is to keep their information private then they use that option. I compare that privacy setup of those 12 male and female through the following chart:

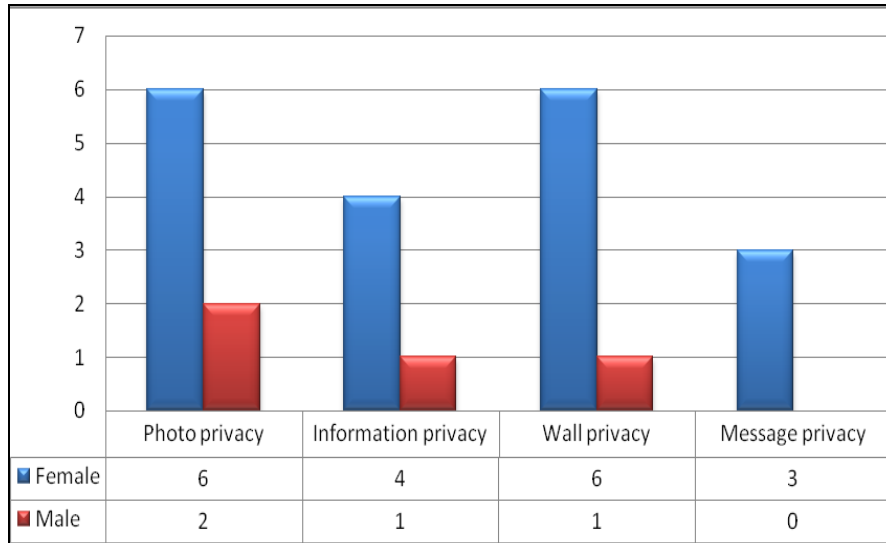


Figure 4: Privacy Facilities

**Analyzing Dichotomy**

Female keep their information private more than male. They set highest privacy on their photos and wall. This matter of fact symbolizes women’s insecurity. They do not reveal their personal data to all. Even some of the females are forced to not to share their photos and personal information by their family and nearer one.

**Groups and its Representation of Women**

Now here I am on my second part of assignment. Here I sort out some groups which are not gender friendly at all. From its naming to motto, wall posts and comments are shockingly discriminatory and dominant against women. And the most important point is that hundreds of people openly joining and promoting that groups continuously.

Here I filed some groups and number of its members and the motto of the formation of the groups:

- ছেলে বনাম মেয়ে { মেয়েদের চাইতে ছেলেরা অনেক ভাল }

Motto and information of the group: *“Boys are the best. Girls are a big mistake of nature. Life will be such easy if girls could not talk. So boys just avoid them and show that you are a real MAN!!!”*

Number of members: 8454 members

- Dark Skinned Girls Are Beautiful Too

Motto and information of the group: *“ALL THESE PAGES SAYIN HOW LIGHT/CAMEL GIRLS ARE THE BEST. DON’T SLEEP ON DARK SKIN GIRLS ONLY, LOVE THEM TOO”*

Number of members: 28,859 members

- A drunken girls words are a sober girls thoughts

Motto and information of the group: *“Girls tell lie. And nobody can deny it. If you are thinking HOW PERFECT MY GIRLFRIEND IS!!!! HOW GOOD SOUL SHE IS!!! Believe me you are a dumb and deaf. Just make her drunk and watch the devil horn on her head.”*

Number of members:120532 members

- **Good girls are just bad girls who don't get caught**

Motto and information of the group: *“She is a bad one. Don't mistake. No women are good, she just pretend to be.... Just notice a little and catch her red hand.”*

Number of members: 34090 members

- **Girls Are Confusing**

Motto and information of the group: *“Ever just sit and think "wow girls are confusing"? Than this is the group for you, to vent your feelings about the people you just can't understand”*

Number of members: 8388 members

- **Girls are superheroes. Who can bleed for a week and not die!**

Motto and information of the group: *“YYYYUUUUKKKK!!!! Blood Blood Blood!!!! A whole week bloody girls bleed. But do they die??? NO. Cause they drink ours.”*

Number of members: 10,899 members

- **Ekhon Theke Shob Bill Debe Meyera! (Girls will pay for boys)**

Motto and information of the group: *“My pocket is empty now. You people wanna get rid of your greedy girl friends!!! Join now. No more wasting of money for them.....”*

Number of members: 2984 members

### Wall Posts and Comments

Not only the naming and motto but also the shared wall posts are remarkably gender biased and insulting for women. Some of those posts and comments are given below:

#### Group: Eve Teasing

**Post by: Ùñçömmón Bøv Låbíb**

**Post: I luv eve teasing..... after all am also a great eve teaser.....**

88 people liked that post.

**Post by: TanNim Islam**

**Post: love the page...eve teASiNg is 1 kinda s0cial w0rk..lol**

**23 people liked it**

**Group: Rong Tamasha (রঙ্গ তামাশা)**

**Shared Post: Women at shopping**



46 people liked this

### Comments

[Bisso Nati](#): hahahaha

[Shunali Jhinuk](#): Nooo...

[Hridoy Spondon](#): Yesss...

[Tz Chowdhury](#) :100% right

### Group: Let's Smile

Shared photo: 100% pure



52 people like this.

### Comments

[Tonmoy Barua Munna](#): GrEaT....

[Rohan Khan Masum](#): 100% Haram to drink

[Frutika girl](#): Dnt crz the limit. @admin.

[Voice-Of Silence](#): after marry.....

[Ajmol Hossain](#): 100% halal, But where's expiry date.....

[Promise Chowdhury](#): I want 1 litre for 30 taka !!

[Shamim Hasan](#): Is their melamine in it.....

[Sam Ahmed](#): WooOw wat a pic.....lmaoó

[Kamal Uddin](#): 100% pure, direct from god

### Group: Awesome Quotes

Posted by: [Mustafa Ali](#)

**Post:** When a lady is pregnant, all her friends touch the stomach and say "congrats". But, none of them come and touch the man's penis and say "Good job". Moral of the story: "Hard work is never appreciated"

97 people liked this post.

Posted by: [Ahmad Muhammad](#)

**Post:** Sign on the door of a famous beauty parlor:

"Don't whistle at any girl going out from here....

...she my be your grandmother...;)

56 people liked this post

Posted by: [Ahmad Muhammad](#)

**Post: Define a woman.....Someone who talks for hours while standing at the door but won't sit becoz she is getting late..! ;)**

123 people liked this post.

## CONCLUSIONS

No matter how much we are educated now or how effectively the society is concerned about women's status, we are still far behind. Still women are neglected everywhere. It is the lacking of socialization. A public site like Facebook, in which way women are treated, is much clear investigating above posts and comments.

Men make fun and insult women's biology, mentality, behavior and her surroundings. It is a matter of real wonder that we admit ourselves modern, mature and socialized but our deeds do not reflect that. On the above post only some female commented against those posts and most women avoid it. But this is not the right way. We have to raise our voice ensuring our self respect.

It is high time to change our way to behave and system of socialization. Facebook is for communicating and networking with the people around the world. Its aim is to share culture and thought with each other. But like other areas this site is also used to dominate and oppress women. Patriarchy is grabbing women everywhere, now it is too late to unearth their voices. Shutting one's mouth and closing one's eyes are not the way to eradicate this kind of crime. We all should come forward and in need legal action is to be taken to stop cyber violence against women.

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