

CHAPTER III

EXTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

3.1 History of Latin American Women's Struggle

Latin American women in America have experienced inequality related to race, gender, and immigration status. Latin American women also face struggles in terms of discrimination of ethnicity and gender. In addition, Latin American women encounter more difficulty in the case of status-seeking, and other societal factors such as ethnic group, social class, and patriarchy. Women were seen as impractical beings, they were not allowed to vote, own property after marriage, and have little legal authority over their children and bodies (Beasley, 2005:18).

One of the most significant problems that happen to Latin American women is that exploitation and injustice appear not only in the economic area, but also in cultural, societal, and beliefs that are useful to support conservative thoughts of women in society, which is what people usually call patriarchy (Hurtado&Sinha,2016:10). In society, women and men are organized by the structure of sexual division of labor between men and women. This structure does not only divide jobs between men and women, but also creates a class system that assigns a greater advantage to men's jobs than women's jobs. This results in a separation between women and men, where men are active in the economic or financial sector. Meanwhile, women focus on domestic work, such as doing housework and taking care of the family which is considered unimportant, mostly unpaid. Male ego, or machismo culture, is well-known throughout Latin America.

Machismo is a Spanish word which shows the significance of male dominated and male-privileged culture (Hurtado&Sinha,2016:11), machismo grants men the right to take advantage of their position of authority, allowing them to act superior to women (Hurtado&Sinha, 2016:118).

3.2 Representation of Latin American Women

3.2.1 Unskilled Worker, Skilled Housewife

According to Beasley (2005:60) Women share a common identity that is typically viewed as being beneficial but also linked to a common gendered oppression. In general, women are viewed as more nurturing and relational than men. Girls are also educated from a young age to be able to do domestic work in hygiene, nutrition, taking care of babies, cooking, washing clothes, and so on. Women are excluded from high-paying jobs, and their education prepares them for roles as housewives and mothers (French & James:1997:175).

3.2.2 Women as a Housewife

Latin American culture shows its cultural belief that in a marriage, men are the ones who work for money, and becoming a mother shows that motherhood is the ideal role for a woman, because doing domestic chores requires no formal education. Domestic tyranny resulted from women's lack of rights and reliance on men's compassion for their social and economic survival (Beasley: 2005:40).

3.2.3 Women as Unskilled Workers

According to French & James (1997: 181) There are only a few Latin American families who do not have their family members work in a factory which shows that the majority of working-class Latin American families mainly works in mainly employed in low-wage and minim-skilled local factories. This phenomenon affects Latin American women in their workplace, the gendering process typically involves establishing hierarchies between the divisions it applies. One or more categories of gendered identity are privileged or devalued (Beasley, 2005:11).

3.3 The Struggle against Gender Stereotype

3.3.1 Women Work Equal to Men

It has become a common thing to understand that women are made to do domestic work, be a wife, have children, and look after their families. However, according to Beasley (2005:38), the enlightenment concept is applied to the struggle of women, stating that since both sexes, men and women, possessed the same capacity for reason, women should have the same rights and opportunities as men.

3.3.2 Women Go to School

Women were denied in full social involvement, public life, and education, undermining the supposed universal ideals of humanism, equality, and reason. Women should have access to education, the Liberal concept of knowledge and logic, and the opportunity to serve in public life. She wanted women to have the same chances and access to public events as men in their classes (Beasley, 2005:31).

3.3.3 Women Maintain Positive Self Image in Society

Women are often associated with stereotypes that exist in society, for example, women must have an ideal body, women must do domestic work, women must be a virgin before marriage, and many more. Many women live with expectations and stereotypes from society which cause the lack of self-esteem of a women. As women, it is important to have self-esteem to be able to maintain positive self-image. Society's arrangements about what is and is not valued influence who we are, people are examples of social power (Beasley, 2005:63).

3.4 The Attempts in Overcoming Gender Stereotyping

Gender stereotyping provides new standards for women, this shows a new perspective for women where they are required to behave based on gender expectations and stereotypes in society. Hence, this causes different outcomes for each woman. Class and race oppression create distinctions between women that take control over the common gender experiences they may have (Beasley, 2005:90).

3.4.1 Women Accept Gender Stereotypes

There are different perspectives on the existence of gender stereotypes in society. Some women accept gender stereotyping. This happens because of the factors that exist in society, such as individual's different personalities, different personal experiences, cultural and social environments, and individual awareness

and education of gender stereotypes. In patriarchal ideology, women are expected to provide a wide range of essential domestic, social, emotional, and sexual services in fully integrated, stereotypically patriarchal households that influence on women to accept the “duty” as a woman (Manne, 2019:53). According to Beasley (2005:24) some theories do not want to include women in the existing opportunities of male world or enlarge the male world into an expanded range of possibilities that can include women.

3.4.2 Women Reject Gender Stereotypes

Some women are intentionally rejecting gender stereotypes. These women actively challenge gender stereotypes through actions and words and choose to live according to each individual norm regardless of societal norms. Because the women are actively challenging gender stereotypes, many women find economic and social independence in their occupations and education (Beauvoir,1949:641). The goal is to liberate women from their history of neglect and marginalization, to integrate women into society, and to reform society (Beasley, 2005:19).