

Courtship



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A close observation of animal behavior provides legitimizing instances of courtship patterns. There is a constant struggle to receive attention, be it through the natural bodily endowments or acquired charm, from either the male or the female of the species. When it comes to the case of human beings, an objective analysis leads to the conclusion that it is the female that keeps seeking attention while the male expresses sexuality through relative aggression. The entire process of human civilization and its cultural aspects can be considered instances of this sexual politics of choices.

Imitating the striking colors and enticing odors nature endows on other living creatures for necessitating mutual attraction which is a prerequisite to sexual consummation, women have adopted sexual statements through their attire and perfumes. Even though men have also taken up this task eventually, the amount to which a female tries to attract someone from the opposite sex through 'make-up' is much higher. The most prominent aspect through which sexual suggestiveness is achieved is the use of lipstick. In psychoanalytical readings, the symbolic significance of lips is related to the genital organ, and the ways in which women try to highlight their lips reveals their subconscious longing to express themselves sexually. In every culture, a young woman with deeply colored lips sends the message of sexual desirability.

The innovations in women's attire through the centuries had been amazing. The restricted innovativeness in men's attire makes clear which gender is more interested in attracting the other through dress. While the inner wear of men serves a functional purpose except in very few exhibitionistic instances, women's inner wear is under a constant flux of fashion statements. Likewise, the general dress patterns of women undergo much

more changes than men's dress could ever aspire to. There is not much scope for men to accentuate their body parts through their dress while women could choose from varying levels of suggestiveness and exposure through clever ways of dressing. The cosmetic products aimed at female customers abound supermarkets while there are only a few number of such products for men. The time an average woman spends on a hairdo or her skin tone is sufficient to explain the presence of so many women-centered cosmetics in the market.

The general grooming of a girl to become a proper lady takes place from the moment she is born, while boys are not generally trained to acquire as many qualities to attract the opposite sex. The concepts of manliness are more or less related to social needs and family structure, while the 'feminine' attributes are cultivated mainly to attract men, through a fragile, sensuous charm. Though this also restricts women to their domestic roles and thereby serves a social purpose, girls are constantly reminded of the need to gain a partner through these attributes. The depiction of women in popular literature and other art forms reveal how deep rooted this culture is.

While the courtship rules and patterns among animals are based mostly on their natural instincts, human courtship is a contrived affair. The role of men and women in courtship is decided by many preconceived notions that have evolved through centuries of human civilization. However, there is not any strong evidence that disputes the fact that women are generally the ones who try more to get attention from the opposite sex in courtship patterns.