## The Crisis Construction of "Leftover Women" under the Patriarchal Culture

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**Abstract:** This paper mainly uses the constructivism paradigm to demonstrate how the "leftover woman" crisis is constructed and reshaped to the women under the influence of the patriarchal culture, so as to fundamentally resolve the "leftover woman" crisis.

#### 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Research Background

### 1.1.1. Production background

After the Industrial Revolution, social production developed in the direction of industrialization and science and technology, and the physical differences between men and women in labor were shrinking day by day. Women were gradually liberated from family housework and engaged in all walks of life of the society. Women's self-construction was influenced by their state in production, and they pursued freedom, independence and anti-tradition.

## 1.1.2. Cultural ideology

As far as cultural tradition, China has been influenced by traditional patriarchal culture. Men are dominant, women are dominated, and women are attached to men. With the change of social structure and production mode, the modern society advocates the equality and harmony between men and women, but the traditional ideology still has great influence.

## 1.2. Study significance

#### 1.2.1. Theoretical significance

At present, there are few studies on the crisis of "leftover women" in sociology in China, and more media reports are reported than academic literature. This paper adopts the unstructured interview, based on the actual situation of the "leftover women" group, and digs into some possibility crises faced by the "leftover women" group, which plays a rich and perfect role in this research.

#### 1.2.2. Practical significance

Social construction and its construction of fracture makes "leftover women" this group faces risks from different aspects, social and media opinion on the construction of "leftover women" group presents the characteristics of distortion, stigmatization, and the construction of women still lags behind the social reality, causing the construction of "leftover women" group of crisis, through the analysis of the crisis, trying to call for "leftover women" reconstruction, so as to fundamentally remove the crisis.

### 2. Concept definition

#### 2.1. Leftovers

Older unmarried women / refers to a group of highly educated, high income, tall women who do not get an ideal destination in marriage<sup>[1]</sup>."3S", "three high", "white bone essence" have

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increasingly become their pronoun <sup>[2]</sup>. The definition of "leftover women" group in the academic circles has not formed a completely unified cognition. This paper draws on the definition of Baidu Library, referring to "women with high education, high income and over 27 years old still without an ideal destination in marriage."<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 2.2. Crisis of leftover women

From the perspective of reflection on modernity, Baker reflects the crisis operation of "leftover women" based on the awareness of risk, which limits the situation category of "leftover women", especially refers to the impact of the complexity and variation of technology and system on the combination of women due to social transformation and sudden change of environment. For "leftover women" crisis, the crisis refers to in the reality to female self-reflection ideology to reveal the female subject under the condition of human uncertain female risk state, more as a kind of constructive crisis show for the impact of women, deconstruction and subvert the traditional marriage values, which is the gender fact is the gender value statement and reflection<sup>[4].</sup>

## 3. Research paradigm -- Constructivist paradigm

#### 3.1. Social construction

Traditional society, male dominant, women in the affiliated position, men mainly engaged in social activities, women are mainly engaged in family activities, the construction of traditional women mainly for "wife and mother" "housework, fertility is the first duty of women". When Marx talked about the relationship between family labor and capitalism in Das Kapital, he believed that productive labor included necessary labor and surplus labor. Among them, family labor belongs to private labor, and women guarantee the redistribution of labor force through family labor, making special contributions in the production process of creating surplus value. However, family labor has not get the recognition of capital<sup>[5]</sup>.

#### 3.2. Female self-construction

The rise of women in the economic field and the promotion of their social status make them construct themselves with the law of economic competition and pursue freedom, equality and anti-tradition. And bring this consciousness into the family, that the advantages obtained in the society are conducive to a certain right to speak in the family.

The social construction of women and the female self-construction are broken, and the female behavior mode is in a dilemma, which provides a logical premise for the crisis of "leftover women".

#### 4. Analysis

# 4.1. Study method

#### 4.1.1. Content analysis method

In this paper, 20 posts with high quality, representative and high interaction degree among the "Leftover women bar" on Baidu Tieba were selected, and the posts with high fit degree to the theme were selected as samples for comparative analysis after screening.

#### 4.1.2. Unstructured interviews

Due to time constraints, this paper selects the interviewees through purposive random sampling

- (1) Invited in the leftover women group, and the research object was selected after screening.
- (2) Selected a more suitable research object through the introduction of a snowball friend. (Table 1)

Table 1: "Leftover women" crisis analysis sample.

Number	Time	Title	Age
Sample 1	On January 16,2015	The cost of leftover women, parents will which pain to which poke	unknown
Sample 2	On February 3,2015	I don't want to be a leftover woman, but I don't want to. Be forced to marry to urge marriage, protracted war.	29 Years old
Sample 3	On November 1,2018	Are leftover women a social problem	unknown
Sample 4	On March 14,2019	With all due respect, it seems that the word leftover women is used only in China	unknown
Sample5	On March 17,2019	No one wants a leftover woman is wrong	unknown
Sample 6	On May 1,2019	What are the rumors about leftover women unknown	unknown
Sample 7	On September 8,2019	I feel like I have schizophrenia	28 Years old
Sample 8	On December 2,2019	Can I save saved	29 Years old
Sample 9	On February 17,2020	After 30 still unmarried single older women with to die no difference!	31 Years old
Sample 10	On November 28,2020	Over 30, or a 5% depreciation a year	unknown

## 4.2. Crisis Present

# 4.2.1. Self-construction -- the "leftover woman" self-cognition crisis

Sociologist Cooley has a famous saying: people are a mirror, reflecting each other<sup>[6]</sup>. On the one hand, the "leftover women" group constructs the self-behavior mode according to their own development status, and on the other hand, it influences the construction of the self with the evaluation and attitude of the "reference group" and others. When the "leftover women" want to be recognized by others, and the more consistent their self-behavior pattern is with their social expectations, the more serious the self-cognition crisis is. There will even be inferiority, anxiety, urgent marriage, hate to marry and other psychological problems, serious will also suffer from depression. Like sample 7, "Feel like I have schizophrenia," and sample 8, " Can I save it?" Sample 9" after 30 still unmarried single older women with die no difference "... many women think" women are like wine, storage time longer, the more the mellow ", as the years, female quality, ability, to achieve appreciation, but ignore the time cost, appear" I am no longer young, zhuyan " dilemma. As mentioned in sample 10, "over 30, with 5% depreciation per year". Some "leftover women" will take married women of their own age as a reference group, leading to their own psychological pressure. For example, Ms. Huang mentioned in the second case interview, " I will still have psychological pressure when I am so old. All my classmates around me have got married and have children. I have not graduated yet, so I will feel that the rhythm is a little confused."I think the fundamental part of helping" leftover women " overcome the self-cognition crisis lies in creating a real sense of freedom and breaking the traditional behavior pattern constructed by women.

# 4.2.2. Social construction -- family, social, and public opinion crisis

#### (1) Family

The growing environment and experience of parents make them deeply influenced by traditional culture, and their expectations for their children are except for their career development, which also has a strong desire to intervene in mate choice. The intergenerational conflict between the concept

of mate choice and the expectation of the role intensifies the family conflict. It brings risks to the "leftover women" group. As sample 1 " Do parents bother?" I don't want to be a leftover woman, but I don't want to. Was forced marriage to urge marriage, protracted war ", sample 10" 80 after a female, Chinese New Year home is constantly urged marriage "and case interview one wang mentioned" a home will be said "," my parents will say almost 30, also want to find what kind of ah, which which date is very good, said how much I miss, feel blind date not into a fault is my "" most of my anxiety comes from my age and my parents urge marriage ".

(2) Social crisis and public opinion crisis

Risk society Baker pointed out: "risk can be regarded as the control and out of control".<sup>[7]</sup> In the traditional era of constructing women's talk, women's real problems are suppressed by the powerful male dominant system, forming a strict control mechanism beyond the impact caused by any gender emergency. It is precisely because of the process of industrialization and modernity that women are out of control as they never appeared in the previous gender control, so female risks come one after another<sup>[8]</sup>. As Baker puts it, "Risk is possible only where nature and tradition lose their infinite power and depend on human decisions." Just as sample 3 "Are leftover women a social problem?", sample 4 "With all due respect, it seems that only the word leftover women is frequently used in China", sample 5 "leftover women if no one is wrong", sample 6 "what are the rumors about leftover women" and other issues.

#### 5. Conclusion

At present, there are few sociological studies on the crisis of constructive "leftover women" in China, but these problems have affected the life and choice of the "leftover women" group. The rupture of self-construction from the outside and social construction from the outside to the inside provide a logical rehearsal for the occurrence and existence of "leftover women" crisis. Providing the environment of free choice for women to gain freedom in a real sense, and the reconstruction of women is the fundamental to resolve the crisis of "leftover women".

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