



SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF GENDER INEQUALITY

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ABSTRACT

A primary goal of Gender and Development is to bring about gender parity. In no way does it imply that women and men (girls and boys) are treated equally when it comes to participation in development initiatives. Only equal possibilities and life chances for all sexes should be a goal. Men and women must work together to build the society they want, and that's what gender equality means. Equal status for men and women in a society is called gender equality. While this does not imply that men and women are interchangeable, it does call attention to the fact that there are certain similarities as well as differences. The researchers in this study are particularly interested in the effects of gender imbalance on society, as well as the legal actions that can be taken to combat it.

KEYWORDS: Gender, India, Inequality, Women, Men.

INTRODUCTION:

Males and females make up the two axes of our civilization. In other words, individuals are treated unfairly because of their differences in social status. Gender inequalities and inequities, whether rooted in biology or society, set the two apart. Disparities between men and women in society are not just the result of biological or physiological inequalities; they are also culturally engendered. There is a lack of basic rights and resources in both the private and public domains for women; they are also restricted and disadvantaged. Women are under represented in society compared to men, and as a result, their voices and perspectives are rarely heard (Rath, 2014, p.31). Since the beginning, women have been marginalised, impoverished, and less fortunate than men. They are the weakest link in the family and society since they are so reliant on their male counterparts. About 70% of the world's women live in poverty because of gender inequality (Manjoo & Manders, 2009, p.2). Despite the fact that India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies, women remain particularly vulnerable and are often dominated by their male counterparts in a variety of spheres of life. In this patriarchal society, women suffer from conception until death (Mishra and Nag, 2017, p.38). The practise of gender discrimination begins at home. When it comes to health and education, girls are often given less advantages than boys. They miss out on their adolescent and are quickly transitioning into parenting because there is no legal authority for them to speak about her life (Saini, 2018, p.68).

First and foremost, according to feminist thinkers, gender inequality exists in both the home and the public spheres. Patriarchy is to blame for the current state of gender inequality in society. There are several components of patriarchy that are crucial, such as the division of labour between men and women, patrilineage, and patrilocal; the public-private dichotomy, control over women's sexuality, fertility, and labour; and the interfaces between production and reproduction. An investigation into gender disparity and how it impacts society is the purpose of this study. Consequently, in today's society, it is critical to explain the gender imbalance among indigenous women. Gender inequality persists even among tribal women, who are considered more important in their tradition than mainstream women. Many of these women are illiterate and their health and nutritional status is similarly poor to that of the overall population of women.

Other than taking care of children and the elderly, women are also responsible for cooking, cleaning, and bringing in water. Sexes and ages rather than occupations and hierarchies are used to determine the division of labour in early cultures (Xaxa, 2004, p. 350). In their society, household duties were tightly divided based on gender, and a man who did a woman's job would be severely punished. Tribal women have different health problems than their male counterparts. In addition, indigenous women are typically excluded from any financial decision-making in the home. When it comes to important family decisions like marriage, child rearing, property acquisition and disposal, and so on, women are encouraged to seek the advice of men (Zehol, 2006, p. 101).

Discrimination against women is widespread in Indian society today, and it occurs at every stage of life compared to the discrimination faced by men (Cheema, 2011, p.3). A number of laws and ordinances were approved by the parliament when the country gained its independence, as well as a number of initiatives, strategies, and programmes to reduce the gender gap. Strategies and programmes are aimed at eradicating poverty, illiteracy, and health-related concerns, as well as all forms of gender discrimination and inequality. However, despite the fact that governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) offer opportunities to reduce the gender disparity in society, women in tribal soci-

eties are poorer and marginalised, as well as backward in terms of education, economy, right to property, and decision-making, among other things. In every manner, women in indigenous communities are disadvantaged. It is impossible for them to know about government programmes because of their lack of education, ignorance, and incapacity to accept government support (Pawer, 2016, p.3).

No one should be denied justice or discriminated against because of their gender. Gender Justice (sex). Gender inequity also refers to disparities in performance between men and women, whether they are obvious or not. Gender Bias, or gender stratification, refers to the practise of separating a girl from a boy, i.e., a male and a female. For centuries, women in India have been treated as a social outcast and ignored. As a result, India ranks 10th out of 128 countries in the world for gender bias.

Indian family law is based on personal laws, which reflect the country's chronic gender inequality and discrimination against women. Every religion has its own set of regulations, whether it's Hinduism, Islam, Parsi, or Christianity. Except in Hindu law, women have fewer rights than men in similar situations when it comes to marriage, divorce, adoption, guardianship, and succession. The upshot is that minorities' women still have fewer legal protections than their white counterparts. Women's enslavement is also maintained through religious traditions and practises that are propagated through these personal laws⁹¹. The Indian government has chosen to ignore these discriminatory practises under the guise of personal legislation.

An effort to manage gender-biased customary practises in conformity with India's philosophy of not interfering with the private life of any community without their consent has been made by Indian officials, notwithstanding CEDAW's efforts. The Church and the Community are exceedingly patriarchal in respect of Christian women. The Church's Canon Laws perpetuate the enslavement of women with the help of the patriarchal community. Recall that the Church actively promoted anti-Mary Roy Verdict misinformation.

TYPES OF GENDER INEQUALITIES:

To varying degrees, men and women's lives are unequal in many respects. Various forms of gender inequality exist. For decades, this topic has been echoing in the public sphere. The following is how Dr. Amartya Sen categorises gender inequality:

Inequality in Human Birth:

A preference is given to boys over girls in this sort of inequality. Parents' preference for a boy over a girl as their child's gender might be one manifestation of gender inequity. Sex-selective abortion is becoming more widespread in South Asia, India, and China as new methods of determining the foetus' gender become available.

Inequality in the Workplace:

Women face significant barriers to advancement in the workplace, particularly when it comes to promotion to higher positions.

Equality of Ownership:

Because of the patriarchal system in India, property ownership is unequal. When it comes to housing and property ownership, even married women face discrimination, although unmarried daughters are entitled to these rights.

Inequality within a household:

There is a wide range of gender disparities in the family and household. When it comes to dividing up the responsibilities of household chores and child care, the family's arrangements are decidedly unequal. The majority of men have jobs outside the home. Women can work outside the home if they can handle their regular, inescapable responsibilities at home. Because of this, the family's relationships will be skewed, and the outside world will fail to recognise them as such.

For a Limited Time Only Inequality:

Despite the fact that there is no discrimination when it comes to basic necessities like education, young women may have fewer options when it comes to higher education than young men. As a result, even in wealthy nations like India, discrimination against women persists in the fields of higher education and professional training.

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CONCLUSION:

In today's society, gender equality is a hot-button issue for both men and women," the researcher says. Women's empowerment is one of the most pressing issues facing women in the twenty-first century, according to this list of the most essential themes. Men and women's roles in social and political thought are also addressed in this issue. Even though women comprise half of humanity, they are still unable to exercise the power and independence that comes with being able to send and receive letters. Women's abilities to express themselves are supported or even encouraged by men, according to feedback studies. In social economics, men and women are referred to as men and women. It is the wave culture that separates men and women and assigns them different social norms. In spite of the fact that the disparities between men and women are negligible, women are granted far less authority than males. By raising or disseminating knowledge and adopting a healthy lifestyle as a group, the study found that change can only occur. According to the alternative hypothesis, women in India suffer ongoing hurdles as a result of gender equality issues, and the government must make the necessary measures to mitigate these consequences. - There is a way around every problem. We must continue to give high-quality education for women and increase the authority of women in India if we are to minimise gender inequities. For social integration in Indian society, we should also give them opportunity to participate in active politics and other activities. The government should make stopping sex identification and abortions a priority.

As a symbol of the laws that have been passed to empower citizens in modern democratic India, the principle of equality has been incorporated in our constitution. There are laws for everything in India, but it is the Constitution that holds the country together, enshrining ideals like social justice, freedom, and equality for all citizens. They have worked on these issues for a long time in India's legal system, which is committed to upholding these guiding principles to ensure that everyone is treated fairly. Because of our ancestors' vision, we have the social orders around the world that we need to battle and shed blood for those afflicted by today's inequality.

We have the right to vote in India regardless of gender, unlike many dynamic western nations where women had to battle for it. New India will be free of the gloomy shadows cast by the past. Gender equality has affected men and women equally in society. Legislation that discriminates against women by introducing particular laws and measures has been opposed by men's advocacy groups. According to an activist petition, there is no evidence to suggest that domestic violence perpetrated by men is any worse than that perpetrated by women. Women's rights to equality should be expanded to include men's rights as well. Males should be protected from assault by enacting certain laws.

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