



Is Gender Discrimination Still Alive in the 21st Century

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Abstract: *Gender equality is a requirement of human rights. Reducing gender disparities and giving women greater agency have been part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) since their inception in 2000. Millions of women and girls around the world are still subjected to discrimination because of their gender. Women faced social and economic discrimination that prevented them from enjoying the same freedoms as males. In today's world, where women hold positions of power in every industry, it's hard to imagine this happening. Throughout the male-dominated worlds of business and wrestling, influential women have made a difference. Despite this improvement, the majority of Indian families continue to discriminate against women and girls. Creating a sustainable, prosperous, and peaceful world requires a commitment to gender equality and human rights. Equal rights will have a positive impact on society, sustainable economies, mankind, and the world if they are guaranteed. Several initiatives have been launched by the Indian government in support of gender equality. In order to bring women's educational, health, and economic status up to par with men's, a number of programmes, initiatives, and policies have been implemented. The standing of women is elevated by international organisations in order to achieve gender equality. As long as views toward women haven't progressed at the same rate as legislative reform, they will continue to confront discrimination in the workplace, at home, and in politics. Issues of gender are ideological in nature. Stereotypes must be dismantled in order to end gender discrimination. Gender equality can only be achieved through changing men's and women's attitudes and mindsets. The purpose of the study is to investigate whether or not certain aspects of prejudice based on gender are still prevalent in the 21st century.*

Keywords: *Gender, Discrimination, Rights, Cases, Dynamics etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Gender is a socio-cultural construct based on a person's reproductive anatomy and secondary sex characteristics. Gender encompasses physical, mental, and behavioral traits that distinguish masculinity and femininity. Horizontal gender pairings are rare. They're hierarchically vertically stratified. They're assigned superiority and inferiority. So men became superior to women. Gender inequalities reflect societal power differentials. Due to



hierarchical relationships, discriminatory attitudes are adopted against people lower down the hierarchy, who in gender-based stratification are women.

In India, generations of discrimination against women have affected women's lives. Despite India's constitution guaranteeing women equal rights, gender inequities persist. Women have limited access to education, healthcare, and jobs. Female infanticide, a sex-selective abortion, demonstrates Indian women's low status. Rich parents' yearning for boys is met by illegal foetal sex-determination and sex-selective abortion. Indian women are undereducated. Female literacy lags below male despite rising rates. Discrimination against women has contributed to gender wage gaps, with Indian women earning 64% of what men earn for the same job and level of education. Women are disadvantaged at work and sometimes underestimated for their skills. This has hindered Indian women's progress. Women lack autonomy and authority due to discrimination. Women may not acknowledge their equal rights. In rural areas, customary law is used to enforce land and property rights. Women don't possess property and don't inherit parental property. Gender discrimination limits women's autonomy and independence and has societal effects. It slows growth, lowering agricultural and non-agricultural output.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

To define and investigate what exactly is meant by the term "gender discrimination," as well as to investigate whether or not particular forms of discrimination based on gender are still common in the 21st century. Also to investigate whether or not specific types of discrimination based on gender are still common.

2. METHODOLOGY

An in-depth investigation as well as an investigation into the events after they have already taken place is both components of the investigation that is still being carried out. This demonstrates that the research is conducted in a way that can be observed by the audience as well as displayed to them for their benefit. As a direct result of this, the inquiry is dependent on a variety of sources, some of which are needed while others can be chosen by the investigator. An inquiry was carried out utilising a technique that was notable for involving a certain amount of subjectivity on the part of the investigator. One of the things that the investigation looked into was the optional data that was compiled from trustworthy sources like books, websites on the internet, and paper pieces, in addition to a variety of international journals and publications. This was one of the things that were looked into by the investigation. In addition to that, the study is dependent on a large number of perspectives coming from a variety of individuals

3. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

In the 21st century, I feel ashamed and tormented by gender prejudice. Despite social reformers' campaigns against gender discrimination and Indian legislation guaranteeing women equal status and ability to work and vote, gender prejudice remains. Several social and legal efforts have been taken to eliminate gender imbalances. Social reformers oppose Sati Daha, brutality to women, and Purdah. Sati Daha is mostly gone, but Purdah is still around. Cruelty towards women and gender prejudice remain in every community. This is



clear from media coverage of violence and discrimination against women. Gender discrimination includes both men and women, although only women are discriminated against in our society. Women are supposedly the better half of the husband, but in actuality, they're the worst. Gender definition: Gender refers to a society's views about male and female attributes and behaviour or a person's sex. Sexual discrimination is a social disease. Its hundred-years-old. This bias is generational. Gender discrimination is caused by cultural attitudes or stereotypes. Discrimination may increase with animosity. Many impede women from interviewing or finding work. Population growth has made gender discrimination, a long-standing practise in our society, more pronounced.

Men and women are two sides of a coin who contribute to the family and society, sleep in the same bed, and live together, but women face bias and discrimination even in their own family. Women contribute equally to the world's population. In the 20th and 21st centuries, women have achieved success in politics, professions, space research, medical science, home management, administration, education, computer science, business, and research. Many women have occupied important national and international posts, which could have reduced gender imbalance and preconceptions. Observing society's and families' reactions to women demonstrates that in most cases, even now, women are regarded inferior to men, despite research showing that women are not equal to men in abilities, gifted qualities, intelligence, aptitude, and general traits.

Male chauvinist writers, poets, and essayists have always portrayed women as weak, financially insecure, mentally inferior, and utterly dependent on others. During childhood, women rely on their father, husband, and son. A woman is a climber (money plant) who needs male support throughout her life. Overprotected women become male dependents. Men sought submissive ladies. Men's goal was to depower women. In family, marital, and commercial matters, women rarely make decisions. Most married ladies in our community observe Kadaba Chauth and Savitri Brata for their husband's longevity. How many guys perform Pujas for their wives and sisters

3.1 Is it not gender discrimination?

Women weren't allowed to think, act, or decide autonomously because of gender discrimination. The male-dominated society has socially disadvantaged women. Even if a woman is smarter, earns more, and has a higher employment rank than her husband, she is regarded subordinate and inferior. Chinese proverb: Do the opposite of what women say. This shows women's sexism. From birth, girls face discrimination. While the boy goes to school, the girl stays home to help with chores or care for her siblings. In some rural communities, the mistaken concept of not sending daughters to school is so ingrained that a mother warned me God will punish them if they do. Girls are so brainwashed from the beginning that they believe without question that they are inferior to men and never protest, but embrace this attitude of males who disseminate the concept that women are always inferior to men and should obey their orders happily and un-hesitantly.

Discriminatory child rearing practises make women dependent, insecure, and inferior. Thus, she underestimates herself, her talents, and thinks she can't achieve anything without men's support, despite evidence showing that a girl child can act, decide, and proceed independently. Gender prejudice begins before conception, as many examples show. Infanticide testing in hospitals and clinics to abort girls are examples of gender discrimination. Abortions are so common in several regions that India's female-male ratio



is falling, especially in metropolitan areas. 1991 census shows that Haryana has less females than the national average. This horrible truth is related to abortions and female foetal infanticide. It shows that educated, cultured metropolitan fathers and mothers do not want a girl child. Consider some facts. In rural regions of Kendrapada district (Orissa), the female-to-male ratio (FMR) is 1014 to 1000, whereas in urban areas it is 948. Private clinics make aborting unborn females simple. 972 females to 1000 males in Orissa. According to the recent census, the number of 0-6-year-old females in Kendrapada is plummeting. 84783 girls out of 1, 74,956 children this age. This shows girls are ignored in health, nutrition, and disease.

Despite a nationwide restriction on identifying a child's sex before birth, it's still done. Doctors perform sex-selective abortions after determining the unborn child's sex using ultrasound. Even highly educated people face gender prejudice. Social stigma against girls, the dowry system, and harassment of minor and major females all contribute. Even when a well-off family's first kid is a girl, the family is usually in shock. A high-ranking official told me he must start saving for his daughter's marriage and dowry from the date of her birth. Consider attitude. The fixed deposit isn't for the girl child's higher education, but for the dowry.

Many people (even women) ask, "What will a female do with a college degree?" She cooks and cares for her family at home. She should stay home 24/7. Why get a degree if she won't work? She can handle ninth grade. When I tried to illustrate the benefits of college for ladies, they said, "Stop, this is nonsense." If this is the mentality of educated, wealthy individuals, what is the attitude of the middle and lower classes? Gender bias is rooted in prejudice against women's roles, abilities, potentials, and achievements. Every family is thrilled, joyful, and feels lucky when a son is born. When people hear I have only two sons, they exclaim, "You're so blessed," and I feel terrible about the status and fate of women in this largest democratic country, which recently celebrated 50 years of independence. In the case of Dilsara Gharti, the Nepali government's slogan "two children, a blessing from God" failed. She's expecting her 15th after 14 daughters. Shaman has guaranteed her she'll have a son this time. If this 14-year-old had the capacity and desire for infanticide, she would have killed them all. She has enhanced the female population in a male-dominated society by keeping all females alive. She increased her country's population because she wanted a son. In Hinduism, a male child delivers "Mukhagni" (putting fire on mouth while burning father or mother's body) to the father and mother, gives Sradha to their "Pretatma" every year, and helps increase the family's generation.

According to my knowledge, Hinduism bans female children. Due to religious literature's incorrect beliefs, superstitions, and truths, males discriminate against women; women discriminate against themselves from birth. Social learning reduces gender bias. In equal circumstances, when a family, society, or country gives all amenities to one sex and denies them to the other, it's termed gender discrimination. Women's discrimination is a hot topic. Globally, gender inequality exists. In emerging and underdeveloped countries, illiteracy is higher. Culture-based sex stereotypes also influence it. In South Africa and South East Asian countries including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, women face discrimination and prejudice. Gender discrimination prevents nearly half the population (females) from doing meaningful employment, which contributes to social and economic backwardness. Gender discrimination is a chronic and viral social disease. One cannot guarantee that the U.S., Japan, Germany, U.K., and Canada are devoid of gender



discrimination. US and China have greater crime rates against women. Crime against women has many causes, not only gender discrimination. The following New Indian Express report exposes gender discrimination in the U.K.

3.2 Gendered factors

Women's work goes unappreciated. Housework and childrearing are women's principal responsibilities. In most families, women perform all housework, including cleaning, cooking, laundry, ironing, sewing, and child care. Men labour in offices and outdoors. In most societies, women's public roles are small despite being half the population. Illiteracy causes gender prejudice. In the guise of traditions and culture, uneducated people follow outdated habits. They don't let the women be autonomous. Education can transform people's minds. Girls and women must also be educated about their rights. Girls can't study. Few girls in India attend school, and fewer finish secondary school. Few of them finish college. Girls and women lacked knowledge and education to get a career. They must rely on the man for money. They lack home power and decision-making skills. They must follow the men's decisions. Women who work are underpaid compared to men.

3.3 Eliminating gender bias

Male-dominated, patriarchal India. So, we must develop laws and rules that favor women so they obtain equal treatment in society. The Indian government created programmes, policies, and practises to ensure women's equality in family, society, workplace, and governance. The Indian Constitution's preambles, fundamental rights, and obligations demand equality and women's rights. Despite government efforts, gender discrimination persists. Each citizen is responsible for stopping gender prejudice. Save and celebrate the girl child. Then India will abolish female foeticide. We must teach her independence. We should make girls and women's public and workplace environments safe. Women are now everywhere. They're scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers, college and university teachers, and more. We must assist them gain confidence and reach their full potential. We should offer maternity, child care, and menstrual leave to help women work.

4. CONCLUSION

From the beginning of time, women have faced discrimination in every sphere of life, including health and education, at the hands of men. One can approach the problem of discrimination in society on the basis of gender from a number of different angles. In a culture like ours, which is predominately ruled by men, women are the ones who bear the brunt of all of society's ills. In India, gender discrimination can be demonstrated by looking at factors such as the sex ratio, the newborn mortality rate, the level of education work participation of women, and the level of wage. The government of India has implemented a number of reforms in recent years in an effort to improve the status of women in Indian society and to ensure that men and women are treated on an equal footing. There have been a multitude of programmes, initiatives, and policies that have placed an emphasis on boosting the educational level, economic standing, health status, level of women's empowerment, and level of political involvement of women to match that of males. In addition, international organisations are taking many steps to improve the situation of women in order to realize their goal of achieving gender equality. The efforts of national



and international organisations resulted in the passage of a number of laws as well as the amendment of a large number of existing laws. However, despite advances in legal rights, women continue to face a number of social, economic, and political obstacles. This is due to the fact that attitudes or perspectives have not evolved at the same rate as legal rights. Concerns relating to gender have their origins in the past and are driven by ideology. The only way to achieve gender equality is for both men and women, across all dimensions, to undergo a mental and behavioral shift in the same direction. The issue of power, which has been zealously guarded by men for millennia, lies at the heart of the debate about gender equality. It is a matter of an abuse of power that is causing harm to our communities, economies, environments, relationships, and health. If we want to ensure that our future and the planet's survival, we have an immediate need to reform and redistribute power. Because of this, every man should stand up for the rights of women and for equality between the sexes. In practically every area of endeavour, women have caught up to and even surpassed their male counterparts. It is time to stop attempting to reform women and instead start altering the structures that impede them from reaching their full potential. Our hierarchical power systems have been developing slowly over the course of thousands of years. The time has come for yet another evolutionary step. The equality of women is something that should be a priority in the twenty-first century. Let each of us do everything we can to help make it happen.

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