

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN REMOVING GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIAN WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This paper based on the analysis of the problem regarding the gender inequality in the Indian context. If we see on global scale we find that men are more likely to be literate, though in some nations there found higher literacy rate for women also. But in our country India, despite of various government efforts and efforts of various organisation the status of women is not found satisfactory. They are always considered as second class by men. Equality is the human rights and education can play an important role for bringing equality in society. Education can make better health and empowers everyone of the society. The present paper explains how education is important for bringing equality in society, education is a powerful tool for gender development and it helps in creating a better society.

Keywords- Women, Gender Inequality, Education, India

1. INTRODUCTION

A united nations research in 1980's said that women(in the world context) do two third^{2/3} works, including all types of works but earn only one tenth (1/10) of the worlds income. When we talk about gender we meant about the roles which is based on sex distinction i.e., male and female. These gender differences appears as a problem when discrimination has to be happen of the basis of gender i.e., man and women and we all know women become the main victims of this. Women suffer discrimination in many ways , even they suffer many problems due to this also i.e., slavery, sexual harassment, violence, bias due to patriarchy system and religion, difference in working opportunities, lead role on organization or institution etc. In India girls, boys, men, women face gender inequality in their homes and communities everyday. If we talk about the result of gender inequality, it resulted in unequal opportunities and impacted in the lives of both but statistically girls and women are most disadvantaged. It is a social phenomenon, due to gender inequality women weakens in many domains like – health, life expectancy, education, personality, interest , business or profession or family life , career and many more. Even the constitution of India guarantees the equal rights for both men and women, but the decades have been passed, these deep rooted gender discrimination in our society takes an brutal toil for women life. A study shows that approx 1000 girls die before reaching at the age of 5 years due to negligency. In our Indian society women are treated as second class people, and despite of many efforts by the law the situation of women not getting much better. As per a report on gender parity in 2018 India ranked 134 out of 145 countries by the world economic forum . No doubt it is a backup call for us. We need to bring awareness among Indian people all both men and women. We need to support women and make them aware about their rights and equality. We need to bring change in the mindset of men and women, especially men who believe women as inferior to them. And I think this will be possible only through proper education. Education about the equal rights and equality from primary to higher education level can be a weapon to change the mindset of people. Through education only we can inject the concept of equality and respect the women and their empowerment into the mind of every people.

2. OBJECTIVES

1. To study and identify the dimensions of gender inequality in Indian context.
2. To study and determine the education level of the Indian women.
3. To study and determine the women role in different perspective areas.
4. To study the significant role of education to change the Indian perception.

3. EXAMPLES OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIAN SOCIETY

- **Less access to Education-** One of the biggest disadvantage is that despite the availability of education in both rural as well as urban areas, it is found that families prefer boys to sending schools rather than girls. This discrimination increases level wise i.e., primary education to higher education.
- **Less access to employment and financial decision-** On the basis of survey in august 2022 it is found that 45% of women belong to the age group of 15 to 29 years are not engaged in any employment or training due to lack of opportunity in India and the reason is gender discrimination. Furthermore they also suffer the crisis of regular employment.

- **Gender Pay gap-** For women it is tougher to find job rather than man and they are likely helping hand in their inhouse business. It is estimated that men earn 82% of the labour income while earning of women is just 18% of it by the world inequality report 2022 in India. Due to difference in types of job women appear to be paid less than men i.e., jobs that requires less experience, sophisticated and less time commitment.
- **Under Representation in employment-** If we do research we will find an expensive discrimination in role of women in leadership position. These differences are consistent from junior to senior position in various sectors of economy and politics. Though the scenario are changing now and it is found that women and men are being treated equally in various workplaces, yet the fact is that men occupy the majority of senior positions.
- **Poorer health and nutrition's-** Many Indian women suffer violence , poor treatment and exploitation on daily basis. As per a survey Indian women face a multitude health problems. Due to discrimination women face various health issues, which can be cured by treatment in time but ignored. The high level of gender inequality negatively impacts the health of Indian women. The studies also indicates that boys receive better health care and treatment and facilities compared to girls.
- **Violence against women-** Violence against women means any act of violence based on gender i.e., against women which result in mental harm or physical harm or sexual harm to women including threats or coercion, whether occur in private life and public life. These psychological, physical and sexual violence cause various serious short and long term mental, physical, sexual and reproductive health problems for women and these lead to high social and economical cost for women and so their families and finally to society and country.

4. EDUCATIONAL ROLE

As we talk about the primitive educational status of the Indian women is very poor, they gain only the basic education and restrict to take the higher education. They were not allowed to cross the boundaries of house. As the time passes the narrow minded perception of the individual family changes, in the present scenario the women were allowed to takes the basic school education as well as the higher education. In the present scenario the women not only imparted the higher education simultaneously working in different areas to enhance the career also. Education act as a weapon in the development of human being as well as the whole nation. Educational institutions were the learning platform to foster the development of individual women. When every individual person takes the interest in taking the basic as well as the higher education develop himself/ herself and society also. The outcome or result of the women development is the national development. Education play a vital role in the physical, emotional and intellectual development of a women. Many problems like unemployment, poverty, discrimination, castesism and gender inequality etc can be solve by rising the education level among the youth. As the women gain more and more education and knowledge, they becomes financially independent. Education makes the women aware of the fundamental rights, duties and responsibility. The education play an important role in the overall development of the women, as a result of this development family society and nation development takes place. Imparting the higher education in the women makes their intellectual ability develop and work for their livelihood and becomes financially independent. The following advantage of the increasing status of the women education are :-

1. **Increasing in the Intellectual Ability-** As the girls gain more and more knowledge through the higher studies the thinking ability of the women development. They take active participation in the decision making process of the business organization and home.
2. **Work in Different Organization-** The education level of the women increases and the interest of the women shifted from the household work to the education. This makes the women work in different organization in different areas. The significant contribution made by the women in their workplace.
3. **Decrease in the Financial Dependence-** For the fulfillment of the basic need the women as becoming the earning member of the family do not depend on the male person, as they are able to fulfillment their needs by own. So the financial dependence of the women decreases.
4. **Increase in the Earning Member of Family-** When we talk about the ancient period , the women were not allowed to study and do the work in the organization. There were only one earning member in the family present and the size of the family were bigger so the number of dependent member were more. This is the reason that the living standard of the family was poor.
5. **Increase Motivation and Self Confidence-** The higher education in the women increases, the motivation and confidence level also increases in the women. This ability in the women makes them mark improvement in their career.

6. **Increase Overall Status-** Above all the remarkable development which takes places in the women improves their overall status in the family, society and nation. The emotional, intellectual, behavioural, financial and non-financial development takes place. As a result of this development the women makes the significant contribution towards the family, society and nation.

5. ROLE OF EDUCATION TO OVERCOME GENDER INEQUALITY

The increase in the educational level among the girls and women changes the perception of the society as well as country, helpful in removing the gender inequality. The women as gain the higher education more involves in the productive work in the organization, the age of the marriage increases and the size of the family decreases. Women taking education and working in different organization makes them aware of their fundamental rights and duties. It also provides the women financial independence and bear their cost of living expenses by their own makes them a strong citizen. There were many benefits are as follow to remove the gender inequality by the education:-

- **Increasing girls marriage age-** As the school as well as higher education increases in the girls and women, they give more priority to the education rather than the marriage. After taking the higher education level, their interest shifted toward the marriage, so that automatically the age of marriage increases.
- **Financial Independence-** As the gross enrolment ratio of women in higher education level increases, it means more and more women take the higher education and dropout ratio decreases. So the women becomes eligible to work in any organization and work for their livelihood. The women when becomes a working professionals, it makes them financially independent. It makes them feel more confident and involves in the decision making process in the domestic and workplace field.
- **Women in the main streamline-** After attaining a degree and becomes a qualified individual the women were less likely to sit idly. They were more interested to work in any field to gain experience and becomes an effective skillful individual.
- **Change the perception of Family and Society-** In the ancient time, when women were treated as the slaves in the family and society. As the level of education increases the perception of the society and family changes they shifted from narrow minded to broad minded. The importance of the women in the family as well as society increases.
- **Decrease domestic Violence-** The women gain the education and aware of their fundamental rights and able to protect their own interest. They are very much less discriminated by the family and fight for their own interest. As a result of this the domestic violence decreases.
- **Decrease in Male dominance at workplace:** The increase in the educational level in the women make them aware of their fundamental rights and duties. So the male dominance decreases in the workplace

6. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The gender inequality reduces from the ancient time, but still it is not removed from the India totally. The government taken various measures to remove problems, but these problems does not wiped out totally. The education plays the vital role and act as a weapon in removing gender inequality. The women education changes the perception of the family, society and the nation. So to gain the higher education among the girls also strengthen the overall status of the women. There were various scheme of the central as well as the state government in the promotion of the girls education and there empowerment. These are Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Balika Samridhi Yojana, CBSE Udaan Scheme, National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education and Ladli Scheme and the Kanya Kosh Scheme etc. All the above scheme help in the promotion of the girls education in our country India. But still the imbalance exist in regards to the gender.

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