

Factors of Gender Inequality in India : An Emerging Issue

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Nature has made men and women equal if there is any difference that is only biological. Both are equal even though the customs of inequality on the basis of gender is observed in each country of the world in one or the way. The term Gender Inequality means the uneven treatment of individual on the basis of gender. Gender inequality came into existence due to cultural differences of gender and these cultural differences are socially constructed. Nature has differentiated the men and women on sex bases. The difference in gender does not show any discrimination. Gender inequality is a type of social discrimination. Due to this social discrimination ladies are struggling for equality and this is the most threatening issue for women everywhere in the world. In India women faced gender discrimination in every sector like education, health, sports from a long time. They were subjugate and suppressed by society from a long time and contribution of women was ignored for hundreds of years. Gender inequality is curse of India. In present time women are doing well in all aspects and creating remarkable progress

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to capsize the gender gap but still there is a great unequal sharing of opportunities. Gender inequality in India is more as compared to other nations. India ranked 135 in gender parity among 146 countries according to global gender gap report 2022 released by World Economic Forum. This paper is a try to decipher the Economic Elements, Social Elements, Cultural Elements of gender inequality and some measures to get rid of this trouble.

[**Keywords :** Biological, Capsize, Discrimination, Gender inequality, Suppressed, Unequal sharing, W.E.F.]

1. Introduction

Among many fervent issues in the world gender inequality is the most blazing issue. Nature has made men and women equal if there is any difference that is only biological. Both are equal even though the customs of inequality on the basis of gender is observed in each country of the world in one or the way. The term gender inequality or gender discrimination can be defined as discrimination against women based on their sex. It can also be defined as uneven rights between men and women based on their role which leads to uneven treatment in life. In simple words gender inequality means the uneven treatment of individual on the basis of gender.

Gender inequality is like a snag for progress of a country and for the development of human because it creates crimes against women. Violence, femicide, rape, honour killing, misogynistic violence, female genital mutilation, sex-selective abortion, human trafficking, and sexual exploitations. These are above said crimes against humanity and they create demographic imbalances. Gender inequality came into existence due to cultural differences of gender and these cultural differences are socially constructed. Nature has differentiated the men and women on sex bases. The difference in gender does not show any discrimination. Gender inequality is a type of social discrimination. Due to this social discrimination ladies are struggling for equality and this is the most threatening issue for women everywhere in the world.

India is also not lacking behind in this issue according to Global gender index 2011 released by World Economic Forum ranking of India is 113 out of 135 countries. This is a worst ranking as India is the most rapidly developing country in the world the most dangerous things is that this ranking is falling down year by year as India stands at position of 135 in gender disparity in the list of 146 countries in Global gender index 2022 according to the report of World Economic

Forum. Discrimination on the basis of gender is commonly breached civil rights in our society which is violated every day. Though article 15 of the Indian Constitution provides safety to all the citizens of India that nobody can discriminate them on the basis of gender, religion, caste or place of birth but still majority of women are unable to get their rights properly which are assured to them.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this paper are two-fold :

1. To know elements responsible for gender discrimination
2. To know the measures to eradicate gender inequality from the society.

3. Methodology

The present research paper is descriptive analysis based on the secondary data from different research articles, book, general papers, and government publication.

4. Factors responsible for Gender Inequality

Gender inequality has many different faces in the society it is not a homogeneous phenomena it exist everywhere in the world from Japan in East to USA in west and from Russia in North to Australia in South only the difference is nature of discrimination.

4.1 Economic Factors

Main economic factors responsible for gender inequality are as follows :

1. **Equal rights in property** : As per Indian constitution female child has equal rights in the property of his father and a married woman has equal rights in the husband's property under the law of personal belonging but in exercise ladies are deprived from it.
2. **Employment in equality** : Every year International day is celebrated on 8th March and discusses the achievements of women in social, economic, cultural and political fields but many of us are not aware that this women's day began as labour movements in 1908 in New York city. When 15000 women marched for equality in employment and the right to vote. Even after so many year To finding a job is a more difficult task for

women than men. When women are employed, they tend to work in low-quality jobs and there is little improvement forecast in the near future.

- 3. Occupational Inequality :** Women are not allowed to have fight roles in navy offerings. Permanent commission couldn't be granted to female officers because they have got neither been trained for command. Women are not allowed to join commando units.

4.2 Social Factors

Main social factors responsible for gender inequality are as follows :

- 1. Education :** Gender inequality is found in India's childhood literacy rates also. The female literacy rate in India is very low as compared to male literacy according to Census of India 2011 there are 82% of males literate and only 65% of female can read and write. Statistics show that about 10% more girls enrolled in Indian high schools by 2019 compared to 2011.
- 2. Participation of women in decision making :** The participation of women in decision making in house policy is very important because men and women contribute equally in making a happy and progressive house but in India women are still involved in houses hold labour only and all the decisions are just put on them.
- 3. Dowry :** Dowry is a social evil in society that has caused unimaginable tortures and crimes towards women and polluted the Indian marital system. The dowry system also bestow to gender inequalities because dowry is a type of gift of payment that is made in cash or in kind to bride and bride's in-laws by the female part at the time of marriage. This put on burden on family of the female side.

4.3 Cultural Factors

Main cultural factors responsible for gender inequality are as follows :

- 1. Preference of son :** Indian society is a paternal society where every family needs at least one son. New sex-selective abortion technologies allow parents-to-be to implement their preference

for sons more easily than in the past. Femicide and sex-selective abortion in India leads to gender discrimination.

2. **Mentality of old age support from son** : Mentality of people is the major reason of gender inequality because people thinks that a male child is greater useful than a female child. A male child is aid to the safety in of parents in old age.

5. Ways to Eliminate Inequality from society

Since from Independence Indian government made many policies to eliminate the gender inequality but still it is a major concern of Indian society. Well it is very difficult to eradicate any curse from the society but it can be reduced up to some extent by using proper measures.

It may be eradicated by following steps :

- By changing the mentality of people.
- By making people aware about rights of female and their contribution and values of a woman in the society.
- By educating women to push them out from the customs of their guardians so that they can be Independent and Fearless.
- By making aware women about the endless possibilities of employment.

6. Conclusion

India must take concrete steps if the government wishes to reduce the gender inequality. There is need for new types of institutions, incorporating new norms and regulations that assist equality in the family between women and men. Combined man and women makes a carriage and they act as two wheels of a carriage. The lifestyle of one without the opposite is incomplete. The handiest idiot proof technique to prevent gender inequality is to bring about change inside the thoughts sets of people. This hassle can't be solved through few however absolutely everyone ought to join hands to eradicate this inequality.

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