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Research Paper

Gender Based Selective Family Responsibility Discrimination in A Urban Society

Sociology

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ABSTRACT

Gender discrimination has skyrocket in the recent decades in every area. Though LPG has brought missile changes yet the stark reality is that gender discrimination still persists at work and family premises. Family Responsibility Discrimination is a form of gender discrimination against males or females in sharing of the responsibilities related to family matters. This study focuses on gender discrimination in urban families wherein for a urban mother though both the kids are born through her womb yet she makes certain differences in terms of sharing family responsibilities between male and female child. To know the main reasons and areas of gender discrimination the researcher selected 100 educated house managers aged 45 years and above and had older male and female children. Structured Interview Schedule was used for data collection through a convenience sampling method. The study indicates that mothers were choosy while assigning duties and responsibilities between their children

Introduction

Indian women are primarily conceived of as sisters, wives, mothers and homemakers, and their responsibilities within this realm define the notion of 'women's. According to Hindu Mythology the six criteria for a women are Karyeshu Dasi, Karaneshu Manthri;Bhojeshu Mata, Shayaneshu Rambha;Roopeshu lakshmi, Kshamayeshu Dharitri; Satkarma Nari, Kuladharma Patni, which means women should work like a servant, advise like a minister, feed like a mother, makes love like a nymph, is as beautiful as Lakshmi, and forgiving like the earth. Thus from the beginning women are trained from her childhood about being submissive, acquiescent, docile and compliant to everything. She had no right to question about any form of discrimination that which was existing in her family ambiences. Gender discrimination exists in family, marriage, children, education, health and lifestyle, preferences towards life partners, moving out and career development. Education plays a vital role in getting better employment and thereby better standard of life but there are obstacles to women to access higher education as hardly few females are sent for higher education that too Post Degree level. Given that with limited income to a family and they have both male and female child, the male child is allowed to go for professional course like engineering, medical and management courses while females are sent to basis courses only. Males are enjoying higher education, incomes and prestigious jobs and freedom for moving to any place of their choice while women are usually made to be selected for women based works and restrained freedom of movement. Women are discriminated in property rights though law is in favour of it. Woman hardly receives property from her father, mother, brothers and husband unless she asks or fights for it. Many a time parents consider that by marrying off their daughters their responsibility is over and whatever they give in marriage is ultimate and later in terms of gifts for various rituals she is just given peanuts and for which she has to satisfy herself. Property is mainly meant for male child as he is the caretaker during their older days. Thus Family Responsibility Discrimination is a form of gender discrimination against males or females in sharing of the responsibilities related to family matters. The Government has declared January 24 th as the National Girl Child as it coincides with the swearing ceremony of the country's first Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Meaning of Family Responsibility Discrimination

The umbrella term "Family Responsibilities Discrimination" encompasses the wide array of ways of discrimination from family to work place in which mothers discriminate between her male and female child in their participation and development, employers discriminate against women in the workplace. While still framed as "sex discrimination," claims asserted under the umbrella of Family Responsibilities Discrimination argue that such discrimination is based on impermissible gender stereotypes concerning the culturally-assigned role of "mother."

Stereotypes about women's domestic roles are reinforced by parallel stereotypes presuming a lack of domestic responsibilities for men. Many regard the family as the woman's domain, and men are ridiculed when they attend to help their women in household chores. These mutually reinforcing stereotypes created a self-fulfilling cycle of discrimination that forced women to continue to assume the role of primary family caregiver, and fostered employers' stereotypical views about women's commitment to work and their value as employees.

Thus Family Responsibility Discrimination is a form of gender discrimination against males or females in sharing of the responsibilities related to family matters.

Statement of the problem

Over the century there is an affirmative development in the status of women like decreasing of gender gaps in college education, increasing visibility of women in public sphere, private sector employability, Management, Business and participation in international outlook. In addition, women's organizations have been able to raise issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, violence against women, and inequality of power in gender relations, and make these the pivotal issues of debate in national and global arenas. However, these achievements have not eliminated or decreased the male preferentiality in urban family norms. Thus, this paper makes an attempt to understand the house managers mentality towards their children in sharing family responsibility.

Methodology

With the objective of studying family responsibility discrimination the researcher collected data from 100 degree holders house managers aged 45 years and above having both grown up male and female children. The data was collected through structured Interview Schedule and the samples were selected through convenience sampling method. The data collected was later analyses through suitable process and the out come of the results are presented in the study.

Socio-Demographical Data

Age: As according to the age wise distribution it was found that 59 per cent of respondents belonged to 45-50 age group, while 11 per cent were in the age group of 51-55 years, 12 per cent in 56-60 age category and 18 per cent were above 61 years

Education: 83 Per cent of the respondents were literates while the rest had no such formal schooling and it was found among the literates they were educated upto XII standard (68 per cent)

Occupation: 43 Per cent of the respondents agreed that they had no income while the remaining 57 per cent engaged themselves in flower tying, beedi rolling, preparing rotis etc. The amount they earned ranged from Rs. 1000 to 2000 per month though this was a meager income but the respondents agreed that this amount they used to take some personal belongings and also supported their husband during their hardships

Type of Family: 72 per cent of the respondents were from Nu-

clear family and 28 per cent were from Joint family.

Marital Status: 73 per cent were married and remaining 26 per cent were single i.e. either widows or divorcees and separated.

Age at Marriage : 44 per cent of the respondents were married before the age of 20 years while 40 per cent Married at the age of 21-25 years and 16 per cent of the respondents got married after the age of 26 years. None got married after 30 years

Age at birth of first child: Majority of the respondents had their first child at the age of before the age of 25 years (60 per cent) while 40 per cent had when they were between 25 to 30 years

Family Responsibility Discrimination

Thus from the below Table No-1 it is found that females are gender preferential. While the question was asked should male and female child attend to household chores like cooking, moping, cleaning utensils, washing clothes etc majority of the mothers did not agree sons or males doing this work as they thought it was the work of the females and they were totally against daughters coming home late night and the reason they gave for this was security of their daughters. Majority of the females preferred that after marriage females should change their maiden name and keep husband's name or surname. However, mothers were reluctant money from daughters and said that they encouraged them to save and purchase gold or other self usage while they did not any such apprehensions to take from their sons.

Conclusion

Thus from the study we can say that the attitude of Indian Women in terms of male and female preferences do not change fully. But one can say that there is a sweeping change in the outlook of family responsibility. Females should realize their own potentialities and prospectiveness which will strengthen their self image and foster them with confidence to take action in life and this will be a path to future generation.

Table No-1: Opinion about sharing of family responsibilities

Sl.No	Particulars	1	2	3	4	5	Per cent
1	Do you feel that male and female child should share household chores equally like cooking, cleaning etc	12	08	20	35	25	100.00
2	Can female come home late night	0	18	22	32	28	100.00
3	Should the daughters carry her maiden sir name even after marriage	25	12	07	40	20	100.00
4	Do you feel that both the kids can go out for work	35	48	8	6	03	100.00
5	Taking money equally from both the child if working	30	30	5	25	10	100.00

Source: Field Survey

Note: 1- Strongly Agree 2- Agree 3-No Idea 4-Disagree 5-Strongly Disagree

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