



ISSUES OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

Dr. S. Venkatesan Asst. Professor, Department of Economics, Govt Arts College (Autonomous), Salem-7.

ABSTRACT After the World War II, in the post modernization era, one of the issues which had attracted the attention of the policy makers and social scientists was gender issues and concerns. Gender issues mean the discussion on both men and women, though women who suffer from gender inequality. From all gender issues, gender inequality is the most prevalent in India. Consideration of gender inequality is now common in Government, Non-Government organizations, and in the politics in India. The policy makers are strongly believed that a positive commitment to gender equality and equity will strengthen every area of action to reduce poverty because women can bring new energy and new sights. A lot of debates are going on women and their development since last few decades. Thus, several national and international organizations are trying to promote the advancement of women & their full participation in developmental process & trying to eliminate all forms of inequality against women. The importance of feminism has been steadily growing and gaining intellectual legitimacy. Therefore, this paper attempt to the issues of gender inequality in India.

KEYWORDS :**I. Introduction**

India ranks 132 out of 187 countries on the gender inequality index – lower than Pakistan (123), according to the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report 2013. The report said all countries in South Asia, with the exception of Afghanistan, were a better place for women than India, with Sri Lanka (75) topping them all. Nepal ranked 102nd and Bangladesh 111th. Gender inequality is especially tragic not only because it excludes women from basic social opportunities, but also because it gravely imperils the life prospects of future generations. Indian families often prefer boys to girls, and female feticide is tragically common. Only 29% of Indian women above the age of 15 in 2011 were a part of the country's labor force, compared to 80.7% men. In Parliament, only 10.9% of lawmakers are women, while in Pakistan 21.1% are women. In United States which ranks 42nd on the list, 57.5% women and 70.1% men are a part of the labor force. China fared even better, landing 35th.

II. Review of literature

Thomas, R.E. (2013) has highlighted his paper with the state of gender based inequality in the modern India. It has presented gender inequality with the help of some facts & figures and representing the inequality practiced in India & its comparison with other Asian & Western countries.

Jayachandran, S. (2014) has presented the roots of gender inequality in developing countries. This paper also discussed the several mechanisms through which the economic development could improve the relative outcomes of women & gender gaps can be reduced as country grows.

Rustagi, P. (2005) has concluded the weal potential of economic growth & increasing women's economic participation towards eliminating gender inequalities in income & wages, unless supported by concerted efforts at altering attitudes towards women's role & contribution that are harboured by different agents within the labor market.

III. Objectives of the study

- 1) To identify the issues of gender inequality in India.
- 2) To give suggestions to reduce gender inequality.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on the secondary data which have been collected from Books, journals, articles, and internet sources etc.

- **IV. the issues of gender inequality in India**
- **Infant Life Expectancy:** In India and China, the two most populous nations in the world, there is significant data that shows a survival disadvantage for girls under five years of age. In China, girls have a seven percent higher infant mortality rate than boys, and in India, a study conducted in the first decade of the 2000 found that the risk of death between the ages of one and five was 75 percent higher for girls than for boys.

- **Access to Prenatal Care and Maternal Mortality:** As of 2017, there are 1.6 billion women of reproductive age in the developing world. Of the 127 million women who gave birth in 2017, just 63 percent received a minimum of four antenatal care visits and only 72 percent gave birth in a health facility. Among women who experienced medical complications during pregnancy or delivery, only one in three received the care they or their newborns needed. In 2017, an estimated 308,000 women in developing nations died from pregnancy-related causes and 2.7 million babies died in their first month of life. Many of these deaths could have been prevented with full access to healthcare.
- **Education:** Less than [40 percent](#) of countries offer girls and boys equal access to education and only 39 percent of countries have equal proportions of the sexes enrolled in secondary education. By achieving universal primary and secondary education attainability in the adult population, it could be possible to lift more than [420 million people](#) out of poverty. This would have its greatest effect on women and girls who are the most likely to never have stepped foot inside a school. Even once girls are attending school, discrimination follows. One in four girls states that they never feel comfortable using school latrines. Girls are at greater risk of sexual violence, harassment and exploitation in school.
- **Illiteracy:** There are approximately 774 million illiterate adults in the world and two-thirds of them are women. There are approximately 123 million illiterate youths and 61 percent of them are girls. Women's share in the illiterate population has not budged in 20 years. These facts not only affect women but their children as well. A child born to a mother with the ability to read is 50 percent more likely to survive past age five.
- **Economic Independence:** Increases in female labor force participation result in faster economic growth, but women continue to participate in labor markets on an unequal basis with men. In 2013, the male employment-to-population ratio was 72.2 percent compared to [47.1 percent](#) for women, and women continue to earn only 60-75 percent of men's wages globally. Women devote one to three hours more a day to housework than men, two to 10 times the amount of time a day to care (for children, elderly and the sick) and one to four hours less a day to income-based activities. The time given to these unpaid tasks directly and negatively impacts women's participation in the workforce and their ability to foster economic independence.
- **Violence against Women, Sexual Assault and Rape:** The mental health effects of sexual assault and rape can have jarring results on women's stability and livelihoods. Women who have experienced sexual or physical abuse at the hands of their partners are [twice as likely](#) to have an abortion, almost twice as likely to have depression and, in some regions, 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV compared with women who have not experienced partner violence. The prevalence of sexual assault and violence against women is deep and systemic, making it one of the most important examples of gender inequality.
- **Female Genital Mutilation:** At least [200 million](#) women and girls alive today have undergone female genital mutilation. In most of these cases, the majority of girls were cut before age five. In these

instances, proper anesthesia is rarely used or is ineffective, causing severe pain. Excessive bleeding is also possible, resulting from the accidental cutting of the clitoral artery or other blood vessels during the procedure. Chronic genital infections, reproductive tract infections and urinary tract infections are common. Female genital mutilation is also associated with an increased risk of Caesarean section, postpartum haemorrhage and extended maternal hospital stay.

- **Child Marriage:** Globally, almost 750 million women and girls alive today married before their eighteenth birthday. Those who suffer from child marriage often experience early pregnancy which is a key factor in the premature end of education. As mothers and wives, girls become socially isolated and are at an increased risk for domestic violence. Child marriage is one the most devastating examples of gender inequality, as it limits women's opportunities and their ability to reach their full individual potential.
- **Human Trafficking:** Adult women and girls account for 71 percent of all human trafficking victims detected globally. Girls alone represent nearly three out of every four children trafficked. Women and girls are clearly the disproportionate victims of human trafficking with 75 percent trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- **Representation in Government:** As of June 2016, only [22.8 percent](#) of all national parliamentarians were women. There is growing evidence that women in positions of leadership and political decision-making improve the systems in which they work. These are 10 of the countless ways in which women are oppressed, abused and neglected. These top ten examples of gender inequality cannot begin to do justice to the discrimination and obstacles that women around the world face each day. Women's rights are human rights and affect every person in every community.

V. Suggestions

- There is a solution of every problem. For reducing gender inequality in India, we should offer high level of education to girls and increase women empowerment.
- We should also give them opportunity in active politics & social activities so that social integration in Indian society can be made.
- Government should make policies & strategies regarding stopping the sex identification & abortions. In context of above NGOs can also play an important role to eradicate Gender Inequality.
- The Politicians should frame out policies for increasing social welfare development regarding this issue.

VI. Conclusion

India needs to deactivate the gender Inequality. The needs of the day are trends where girls are able not only to break out of the culturally determined patterns of employment but also to offer advice about career possibilities that look beyond the traditional list of jobs. It is surprising that in spite of so many laws, women still continue to live under stress and strain. To ensure equality of status for our women we still have miles to go.

REFERENCES

1. Seguino, Stephanie. (2006). "Gender Equality and Economic Growth: A Cross-Country Analysis", *World and Development*, Vol. 28, No. 7, pp. 67-71.
2. Singh, Ajit and Ann Zammit. (2007). "International Capital Flows: Identifying the Gender Dimension", *World Development*, Vol. 29, No. 7, pp 1249-1268.
3. Reshma Elizabeth Thomas (2013) Gender Inequality In Modern India –Scenario and Solutions, *Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, Volume 13, Issue 3 - PP 48-50 e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845.
4. Preeti Jha Niti Nagar (2015) A Study of Gender Inequality in India, *The International Journal of Indian Psychology* ISSN 2348-5396 (e) | ISSN: 2349-3429 (p) Volume 2, Issue 3,
5. Sen, Kalyani and Shiva Kumar. (2001) Women in India: How Free; How Equal, Report Commissioned by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, UNDP.
6. Santosh Ranganath N, Kama Raju T. (2009), "Gender Development in India: Dimensions and Strategies", *Management Trends*, Vol. 6, No. 1 & 2, ISSN: 0973-9203, pp. 120-126
7. Singh, Ajit and Ann Zammit. (2007) "International Capital Flows: Identifying the Gender Dimension", *World Development*, Vol. 29, No. 7, pp 1249-1268.