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## GENDER BASED DISCRIMINATION: PROBLEMS OF WOMEN

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*The Indian constitution has proclaimed equality and offered each individual an equal opportunity of development; do women get the proper opportunity in social development in reality? – Or do they have to experience the social excommunication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? That is the real question. It is really essential to review critically the policies made in favour of women with the view that they do not experience as mentioned earlier and how fruitful the policies were.*

*Women play a curial role in the socio-economic development of a country. But both in the industrially developed and less developed countries, women are burdened with cumulative inequalities as a result of discriminatory socio-economic practices.*

***Keywords: Need to finish the discrimination, Missing Women, Economic Role of Women in the Indian Economy, Women and Hygiene, Discrimination in education, Employment, Women and politics, Present status of Women, Violence against women, Problems of Working Women, Effects of society etc.***

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The women population in India alluringly to 2011 census in about 500 million, which is nearly 50 per cent of India's total population. Despite such a huge margin, the status of Indian women in society is not very pleasant. Sometimes, it is debated that Indian women do enjoy a high status, quoting distinguished women in publish offices and citing constitutional and legal provisions. At the same time, it is maintained that the present lot of Indian women is very strenuous and therefore, arguments in favour if reservation for women are advocated. In terms of gender justice, Indian women are to be treated as a heterogeneous, as they are divided on the basis of their caste, class region, ethnic, groups and rural-urban backgrounds. This division makes them face inn equal power relation in their life. However discriminatory behavior at different levels, binds them with common thread.

Though the Indian constitution has proclaimed equality and offered each individual an equal opportunity of development, do women get the proper opportunity in social development in reality? – Or do they have to experience the social excommunication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? That is the real question. It is really essential to review critically the policies made in favour of women with the view that they do not experience as mentioned earlier and how fruitful the policies were.

Women play a curial role in the socioeconomic development of a country. But both in the industrially developed and less developed countries, women are burdened with cumulative inequalities as a result of discriminatory socio-economic practices.

### **NEED TO FINISH THE DISCRIMINATION:**

The fact that the female 'feticide' is considered as serious matter in the country and the government has to undertake the campaign of 'save female child' is a sufficient evidence of the continuance of the discrimination related to women for the Indian society. It is quite clear that the women who face the discrimination since her birth will get a limited type of opportunity in her contribution towards the social development and it is because of the discrimination the proportion of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and hygienic problems is greater among women compared to men.

### **MISSING WOMEN:**

It is essential to note the male-female proportion and the difference occurring in it. As per the 1991 census, Indian male-female ration was 1000:927. And As per the 2011 census, Indian male-female ration was 1000:940. The researcher says that if equal treatment is offered India will have the male-female ratio like 100:105. While drawing attention to it, the Nobel-Laureate Prof. Dr. Amartya sen says "If the population is 1000 million, there should be 512 million women in it" If there is seen the female population upto 48g million number, its meaning is that the 23 million women fall in the category of "missing women". These women were either killed before their birth or though born but did not receive any opportunity to last their existence here. If we take into consideration the parts of our country as north-west and south-east, the analysts observe that the south-east region is female-friendly in offering women the opportunity of existence and development. The regions such as Haryana, Gujarat, Delhi and those areas of various states considered developed, indicate that the ratio of women per thousand male is continually decreasing. In brief, there is an increase in the male-female discrimination along with the so-called development and globalization.

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**ECONOMIC ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE INDIAN ECONOMY:**

A review of the economic roles played by women in India reveals certain clearly distinct trends. The traditional village community in India consisted of the cultivators, the artiness and those performing menial services. In each of these, the women played a distinctive and accepted role in the process of earning a livelihood for the family, putting in something more, sometimes less and often an equal amount of labour in both production and marketing of products of agriculture and handier. Markets were mostly local or within accessible distance. By and large this pattern still found prevalent in the traditional forms of the economy. The marketing of vegetables, processed and semi processed foodstuffs of the traditional type (dried and pickled fish and vegetables preparations of rice and pulses, etc. and handicraft mainly produced by women baskets, hand woven fabrics, etc.) are still marketed by women in most parts of India.

Advances in medical technology made Indians find ingenious ways in using it to their advantage. People aspiring for a male child are using ultrasound scanning to determine the sex. India still remains a very traditional country. Statistics show that there is still a very preference for a male child in states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab etc. The male to female ratio in these states, shows that the percentage of males to females is higher.

**WOMEN AND HYGIENE:**

India has a considerably great proportion of female infanticide. It is said in the book 'Chronic Hunger and the status of women in India (1998)', out of every six infants, one infant dies due to the gender discrimination. If the mortality rate of under five children is observed, the mortality rate of girls is from 18% higher compared to the one of male children. From one of the available reports of the IBDBI, it is conveyed that each year there is born 15 million girls in India and out of them 25% girls cannot celebrate.

If the overall state of the female hygiene is taken into consideration, there are 40% women that suffer from intensive chronic weakness. Even in the cities like Kolkata, Hyderabad and New Delhi the proportion of anemia affected women is 95%, 67% and 73% respectively which is an immense one. The number of women not getting proper medical facilities available in the period of pregnancy and child birth is still higher.

As per one of the studies conducted in some regions of Punjab, the expenditure incurred on the health of male child by the concerned family is two to three times larger and more than the one incurred on the female child.

**DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION:**

It is not so that the condition of female education is good. It is from the study of the work Bank observed that the female literacy percentage is 68% while the female literally percentage is found 45% There are 130 million boys and girls of 6 to 11 age group that have never seen the gates of school and it contains 60% of girl. As per Report of UNICEF, the boys and girls that get opportunity to attend primary school out of them there are only 59% boys and girls that reach 5<sup>th</sup> standard. If the literacy proportion of the boys and girls above 7 years is observed, there are found only 39% female literate.

**EMPLOYMENT:**

The proportion of unemployment and less than essential employment is less among women compared to men. The special thing about it is that the fact is equally true in case of the literate women too. The women that are not literate or nominally literate are naturally kept away from those employments or services where higher academic qualification and vocational training are required. Naturally and vocational of women as labour force has remained around 32% in India, which has been observed by the World Bank. The male that have a full time job available are 18% while the female are only 9.2%

**WOMEN AND POLITICS:**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment took place in 1992. It can be called one important step taken for strengthening women politically. Because of it, the women are made available one third representations at the local self institution.

The Panchayat Rajya Sanstha is becoming an important medium in strengthening women politically. There is taking women leadership a shape from all this and women are getting a place in decision making process at the local level. There are women making the leadership at 175 Zilla parishad, 2000 group Panchayat and 85,000 grampanchayat in the country. There are more than 33% places made available, which is obligatory for women, in the state like Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and such states. Women are getting more inspiration for leadership in south India compared to North India. In contrast to this, the high level institutions such as Vidhan sabha Vidhan parishad, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were high level decision processes are implemented do not have the proper presentation for women even today. India was at 93 in number in the list of 185 countries in giving representation to women in the national level public-representation institutions in the world.

Today, there is only 8.3% representation given to women in the 543 member parliament while the 242 member Rajya Sabha has about 11.6% representative to women.

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**PRESENT STATUS OF WOMEN:**

The scope of women's career is expanding and her status is being improved during the recent year. The women's career is no longer limited only to the household activities. She has come out of household chores. They are now employed in almost every sphere of human activities like teaching, medicine, law firms, industry, public services, fine arts, literature, sports factories, mine and plantation etc. She has proved that she can do hardships and hard work for the development of the society.

The rural women are working in the fields and farms that constitute to about 80% of working women in the country. They are involved in various allied activities like cattle feeding, poultry, sericulture, mushrooms production, horticulture etc. in changing scenario. But the most spectacular increase was evidenced in the field of employment for women from middle class who work in secretarial and administrative capacities, telephone operators, sales women ship and receptionists etc.

According to the (HDR) Human Development Report, the status of women is closely linked to their participation in decision making. The extent of this participation is called Gender empowerment Measure (GEM). India is pegged at very low on the GEM. It is matter of great disappointment that, women contribute just 19% of the National Income. That speaks of the status of women in India, despite all claims by women libbers, working mostly through Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's), Women are way behind men in literacy rate – 39% as compared to 64% among males.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:**

Women can be subdivided into two broad groups:

- a) They may fall victim to general crime (theft murder, cheating etc) or to crimes specific in relation to women (molestation, assault, rape, etc.)
- b) They may be subjected to violence in the family which may or may not attract official notice.

**DOWRY:**

As far violence in the family, this too has reportedly been on the increase. No efforts have been made to emancipate women in reality several changes have been introduced in the personal law and usage to ensure equality. In 1961, the Dowry Prohibition Act was included in the statute book. Originally, giving and taking of dowry was a non-cognizable offence but through a subsequent amendment, the offence has been made cognizable. The cruelty against a woman by her husband or relative of husband has also not escaped the attention of criminal justice administration.

'Dowry', observes the committee on the status of women in India, is what is given to the son-in-law or to his parents on demand either in cash or in kind. Stated differently, implicit in dowry is the element of compulsion. 'Dowry' is exacted and rapacious, demands for more gifts do not cease with the solemnization of the marriage they continue for quite some time.

**RAPE:**

Rape has become a widespread evil, especially in the context of a general deterioration of law and order. Sociologists have clearly pointed out that in most cases, especially in the dacoit raids, which we hear so frequently about, the action is directed towards humiliating the men whose wives and daughters and sisters those women are. This reflects the conception of women being a man's property. It reflects the secondary status of women in society she is there to be had and she can have no opinion of her own.

**PROBLEMS OF WORKING WOMEN:**

Working women, married and unmarried have emerged as a distinct class after Independence. They compete with men for jobs of different categories. They are working as civil servants, police officers, clerks and even labourers. The society could not adjust itself to this new phenomenon and so it has become a social problem.

**EFFECTS OF SOCIETY:**

1. Marriage as the matrimonial advertisements show, it put on the same footing as jobs. This is partly because our urban society is just an agglomeration of human beings in search of employment and partly because a working wife becomes an extra earning hand.
2. The majority of the persons working in offices are men, so women feel out of place. As an officer, if she shows favors to any of the subordinates, it may become a scandal and if she is indifferent, the subordinates do not obey her.
3. For doing the domestic duties the working women, in the joint families, depend upon their mother-in-law. This again results in differences and resentment. The mother-in-law expects the daughter-in-law to serve such families generally break up.
4. As the majority of the women members of the family do not work, so the working women member of the family considers her distinct and craves for recognition. This results in a conflict with the husband or other members of the family.

**REMEDIES:**

1. Government agencies including radio and television should play a key role. Equally important is the role of voluntary organizations like the All-India Women's Conference, the Nari Raksha Samiti, and the Legal Aid cell for women and so on and so forth. We need to have a two-pronged strategy, the modification of socio-cultural norms and values (attacking the cause) and the strengthening of the law enforcement bodies (combating the effect)
2. The violence of dowry deaths is further prompted by the situation of confrontation when an educated woman resents and opposes such dowry demands.
3. The income of one member of the family should be adequate to maintain the whole family at as civilized standard. For this purpose, the state and the employers should be forced to pay wages which can help to maintain a standard.

**CONCLUSION:**

The future of Indian women is closely linked to the future of the third world. The Indian women like others have a period of struggle ahead and they are prepared for it. Let us hope that the third world women, despite their numerous difference, ideologies and problems will be able to forge a common unity. Let us also hope that women from the advanced countries, despite their own interests, will see the perspectives of the third world women.

Today, the problems of women are still permanent and excommunication is yet going on because the women do not have proper place in the high-level decision making.

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