

Women Empowerment and Gender Justice in India

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Abstract

Many people in our nation have fought for many years to ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights. To put it simply, that's what we're looking for. The gender gap is an issue that has to be addressed for moral and cultural reasons, but it is also a social and economic barrier that must be broken down right now. The world and its nations would benefit from achieving gender parity. India has made great strides toward gender equality, yet these achievements are sometimes forgotten in light of the country's numerous other achievements. Despite India's progress, this is the situation. Persistent sexism and misogyny have had lasting effects on the lives of all Indians for decades. Despite the fact that the constitution of India protects the rights of both men and women equally, discrimination based on gender continues to exist. Women in Indian culture have been the target of prejudice from the beginning of time. Although women are generally held in high esteem, they are nonetheless the target of violence and prejudice in certain parts of the world. Unfortunately, it is just how the world works. Recent research have demonstrated that discrimination based on gender exists in a variety of settings, including the workplace. To name just two examples, prejudice may have a negative impact on women's mental health and their ability to develop in their careers. This is especially true in the professional realm. Legal safeguards for women in India include bans on rape, dowry, and adultery, yet damaging discrimination persists all the same. Without achieving gender parity, India would not be able to make any forward toward its other development goals.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, India, Gender Parity, Economic, Social, and Cultural

Introduction

The economic, social, and cultural opportunities of a person vary depending on whether they are a man or female. What we mean when we talk about "gender" is exactly this. Because of fundamental biological differences, men and women have various opportunities and display distinct personalities. To be considered male or female in the great majority of civilizations

does not just include having one or the other sex's innate biological or physical characteristics. Instead, there are different societal expectations for how men and women should present themselves and function in the job. It's possible to see a wide range of standards here. These anticipations may vary greatly from one another. (Reecha 2020) Interactions between men and women reflect cultural beliefs about the attributes and behaviours appropriate for men and women in the home, the workplace, and society at large. It is possible to classify these insights into the following three groups: Gender differs from sex because it is influenced more by social and cultural variables than by biological ones. Gender is not determined by biology. Because of this, we can no longer use the words sex and gender interchangeably. In India, the term "gender equality" means something much different than it does in the West. It's a description of a utopia in which individuals of both sexes have unrestricted access to an abundance of resources and opportunities. This involves having equal economic and decision-making opportunities, as well as having a diverse range of behaviours, goals, and demands respected without regard to gender. The term "gender equality" in India describes a social setting in which males and females are treated equally. Affirmation of equal rights for women is a recent development in India. Gender equality in India is not only the ethical thing to do, but also the foundation for international stability, national development, and environmental protection. That is to say, achieving all three of these aims in India would be impossible without sex equality. (Kabeer 2005)

Objective of The Paper

1. **To discuss about** Women's empowerment, equal rights for women, and promotion of gender parity
2. **To discuss about** Women empowerment initiatives
3. **To discuss about** Women Empowerment In India: More Needs To Be Done
4. **To discuss about** Paternalistic and Protectionist Approach

Review Of Literature

Kumuda (2014) studied the barriers that prevent women from achieving economic empowerment and the pressing need of empowering women. The research used secondary sources. As a consequence of this, the situation of women in our nation still has a long way to go, despite the many different regulations and development programmes that have been put into place. It's possible that this is because of the cultural norms and attitudes held by males that operate as invisible barriers and restrict women from advancing beyond a certain level. Therefore, we should put the education of women at the top of our list of priorities. Women certainly make contributions to economic growth, whether those contributions are visible or not, but some tasks cannot be fulfilled without empowering women.

Sharma et al., (2012) analysed the development of rural women's economic independence via the establishment of small businesses in underdeveloped nations. The findings of the research demonstrated that the economic position of rural women is deplorable due to the fact that they have less options for earning money. In addition to the obligations of the family, their major task is the production of agricultural goods. Despite the fact that rural women had the necessary indigenous knowledge, skills, ability, and resources to launch and run businesses, they did not do so. It is necessary to provide them with information on the availability of loans, the process of certification, awareness on government assistance programmes, motivation, technical competence, and support from family, the government, and other organisations. Therefore, via the formation of micro companies in rural regions, SHGs have made it easier for women in rural areas to become financially independent. As a result, there is a pressing need for their advancement in order for women to attain parity with men or, at the very least, to make significant progress toward closing the gender gap.

Ambigadevi (2003) studied the connection between the salary of women and the amount of money they provide to their families. According to the findings, there was a substantial relationship between women's income and the contribution they made to their families. If they have a higher salary, they will be able to contribute more to supporting their family. Women who did housework for which they were not compensated also had jobs outside the home in order to bolster the financial support they provided for their families. Earnings income and total family income were the most critical factors that differentiated women who contribute to

their families' financial stability from one another. According to the findings of the research, socio-economic characteristics are the most important in determining how to differentiate between the two categories of women.

Hashemi et al., (1993) examined the progress towards gender equality in Bangladeshi society. They singled out six areas where women were formerly in a submissive position but now believe they are gaining power. The ability to move freely and be seen, to have financial stability and family decision-making power, to have a sense of identity and direction for one's life, and to express oneself persuasively in public are all essential. They examined the progress towards gender equality in Bangladeshi society. They singled out six areas where women were formerly in a submissive position but now believe they are gaining power. The ability to move freely and be seen, to have financial stability and family decision-making power, to have a sense of identity and direction for one's life, and to express oneself persuasively in public are all essential. The arrangement of the domain points to a sequential path toward empowerment, which leads to increased decision-making authority in the home and, finally, increased involvement in community activities.

Jaiswal (2014) compared Women's labour force participation rose from 2000 to 2012, in step with the government's push to encourage business ownership. Secondary data from the district office for statistics and economic survey report and the Uttarakhand gender statistical report formed the basis for the study's conclusions. Separate groups of men and women met to have a talk as well. Results from the study, which used the percentage method, showed that rural women's participation was much higher than that of urban women owing to the fact that they are the primary breadwinners in their households. Women's participation rates were also continuously lower than men's. Lack of motivational factors among rural and urban women was the reason for less workforce participation, and the conclusion was that women entering entrepreneurship lack in accelerating and nourishing the facilities of the entrepreneurial environment. This was true in both suburban and urban areas

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Gender equity refers to actualizing the idea that sexes should be treated equally. The elimination of the historical and ongoing structural and societal hurdles that have kept women and men from competing on an equal playing field necessitates the availability of solutions

and processes to remedy this unfair situation. Equality can only be achieved through the application of equity. Gender parity can be achieved when women and men have the same chances at achieving their goals and the same access to the same resources and incentives that our society values. Gender inequality manifests itself in many ways, but one of the most pervasive is the unequal distribution of power and resources between the sexes. Therefore, supporting women's empowerment is essential to achieving gender equality. This may be possible if we can determine the causes of existing power disparities and implement solutions that give women more say over their own lives. In a society where men and women are treated equally, differences between the sexes are celebrated rather than erased. Women's empowerment is essential for achieving gender equality because it levels the playing field in terms of both private and public decision-making and access to resources, both of which have historically favoured men. This ensures that women and men have equal access to economic and reproductive systems around the globe, which is crucial. Examining the state of gender equality in India is an important first step towards comprehending the status of women there. "gender inequality in India" refers to discrepancies between men and women in India, particularly in regards to health, education, economic status, and political participation. (Dijkstra and Hanmer 2010) According to research by Tisdell, Roy, and Ghose (2001), India is placed in different positions by worldwide indices of gender disparity based on each of these characteristics and on a composite basis. However, these indices are contentious. Women's health, education, and economic outcomes are all impacted by the gender gap and the social conditions that contribute to it in India, which in turn affects the sex ratio. The gender gap in India is a systemic problem with far-reaching effects on both sexes. Policies that promote gender equality are seen as unfair by some, particularly men. However, it becomes glaringly obvious when considering India as a whole that women are at a significant disadvantage in a number of crucial areas. (Tisdell and Ghose 2010)

Women's Empowerment, Equal Rights For Women, And Promotion Of Gender Parity

If India wants to achieve sustainable economic development and full human rights realisation, it is imperative that women's rights be expanded. That's because women make up about half of the country's population. The ultimate goal of these initiatives to promote gender equality is a society in which women and men have equal access to rights, earnings, and responsibilities across the board, at every stage of life. All of this is being done in an attempt

to create a social order. This is precisely how things will play out in a fully developed society. This should be the culmination of our efforts to advance gender parity and the driving force behind all we do. **(Bayeh 2016)** A community may be considered to have attained equality when men and women have an equal amount of say in and impact on the decisions that shape their lives and the lives of others. People are on an even playing field if they have the same opportunities and resources to develop their unique skillsets and follow their own passions. To rephrase, they are on equal footing if they are free to develop themselves in accordance with their own preferences and talents. Gender equality is critical to the effectiveness of national and international programmes because it empowers women to make choices that influence the health of themselves and their families. A woman's decision-making power has implications for the health of her family as a whole. Women's empowerment increases when they are given agency over decisions that affect their own and their families' health. The achievement of gender parity in all facets of Indian society is a critical need for any progress to be achieved in the development of India. **(Baden and Goet 2007)**

It is crucial, however, to recognise that women are disproportionately denied leadership roles, economic opportunities, and social spheres in countries where gender inequality is widespread. A lot of people need to know about this. There must be some kind of response to this problem. When there is parity of esteem between the sexes in a community, it's a sign that place has progressed to the next stage of development. That is, when guys and gals both have access to the same facilities and tools. India cannot progress into a developed nation unless it takes measures to close the gender gap that exists there. Because of this, it is crucial that India take steps in that direction immediately. Efforts should be made to increase gender parity in India in order to realise the goal of improving women's position there. **(Cohen 2007)**

Is Men's Interest in Gender Equality in India a Real Issue?

To achieve gender equality in India, both men and women would need to make changes. Men's social identities cannot be fully understood apart from their gender. However, this is ignored due to the normalisation of macho attitudes and behaviour. Yet, gender also has a significant impact on the lives of males. Social norms and ideas of masculinity, as well as men's expectations in their leadership, marriage, and paternal duties, place a great deal of stress on today's boys and men. Men nowadays are not expected to take on the nurturing roles

that have historically been the domain of women but rather to provide financially for their families. Families and later on the job encourage young men to take chances. Therefore, the behaviours traditionally associated with men pose larger risks of illness and death for men than women. **(Churchyard 2009)**

Accidents, illiteracy, hostility, and alcoholism are all factors that might pose a risk. Men should have the same opportunities and resources as women, and both sexes should be encouraged to take on greater caring responsibilities. However, men are primarily responsible for ensuring the safety and happiness of their wives and kids. It is imperative that the specific health concerns, needs, and formative settings of males be taken into consideration in order to ensure that these privileges and rights be fully realised. Men's inequality is rooted in long-standing gender disparities, and overcoming these gaps requires shifting to a gendered perspective. This also demonstrates how gender equality considers the dynamic relationship between traditional gender roles and the changing expectations placed on women and men in the workplace. **(Bendavid 2016)**

Both men and women in India would need to alter their behaviours if they really wanted to see gender equality realised. To truly comprehend men as social beings, one must take their gender into account. Yet this is disregarded as the norm because of macho norms. Men's lives are likewise profoundly affected by gender in many ways. There is a lot of pressure on today's boys and men to conform to social conventions and conceptions of masculinity as well as men's expectations in their leadership, marriage, and parental roles. Modern males are expected to be breadwinners rather than caretakers, a job that was traditionally held by women. Families and subsequently employers often push young men to take risks. Therefore, the risk of disease and mortality from the actions often associated with males is higher for men than it is for women. It's possible that elements like accidents, illiteracy, animosity, and drunkenness pose a threat. Both sexes should be encouraged to take on more caring duties, and males should have access to the same resources as women. However, males should take the lead in making sure their families are provided for and happy. To ensure that these benefits and rights are fully realised, it is critical to account for the unique health issues, requirements, and formative contexts of men. The gender gap is the core cause of men's inequality, and closing it will need a change in viewpoint. This also exemplifies the way in

which gender equality takes into account the complex interplay between historically assigned gender roles and modern employment realities. (McVeigh 2003)

Women Empowerment Initiatives

- The concept of gender equality is defined in detail throughout the Indian Constitution, including in the Preamble, the Fundamental Rights, the Fundamental Duties, and the Directive Principles. The Constitution not only protects women's right to equality, but it also authorises the government to enact laws that are biased in favour of women.
- Our democratic government and its laws, development policies, plans, and programmes actively promote and support women's achievement in a wide range of sectors. Throughout the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-1988) and beyond, there was a change in emphasis from welfare to development for women. A big factor in how we see and treat women in general has been the rise of the women's movement in recent years. The National Commission on Women was created in 1990 by Congress to look out for women's interests. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India introduced women's reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities, laying a firm framework for women's engagement in decision making at the local levels.
- India's government has ratified and signed a number of human rights instruments and other international accords that are designed to protect women's rights. Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was signed and ratified by the country in 1993.
- Support for the implementation of the Mexico Plan of Action (1975), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (1995), and the Outcome Document adopted by the UNGA Session on Gender Equality and Development & Peace for the 21st century, titled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action," has received unwavering support from India.
- Beginning in the 2005–2006 fiscal year, the Union Budget of India has included a part entitled "Gender Budget Statement," which details the government's efforts to promote gender parity. This was done to ensure that the proposed budget would not unfairly affect women and other marginalised groups financially. Prior to this, the Women's Component Plan was in place (in some states as well). The annual spending plans of both women-specific (Part A) and gender-equitable (Part B) programmes are shown (Part B).

- The women's movement and the plethora of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with a local presence and a thorough grasp of women's problems have been essential in the advancement of women's rights.

Gender Disparity

- However, there is a large gap between the ideal position of women in India and the actual condition in the nation, despite the fact that the Indian Constitution, laws, programmes, plans, initiatives, and related activities all strive to enhance the lives of women in India. The situation is dissected in great depth by the High Level Committee on the Status of Women in India in its 2015 report.
- The steady reduction of the female population ratio over the past many decades is the clearest indicator of gender inequity. There are many more problems that need to be addressed, such as public and private violence, the commercialization of people at all levels, huge salary gaps, discrimination, stereotyping, etc. This is particularly true when taking into account the ways in which migration, misogyny, and environmental degradation have all led to the demotion of women.
- Persistent gender inequality is supported by long-standing cultural practises, both formal and informal, that have their roots in discrimination against women throughout the course of history.
- Many women, particularly those from marginalised communities like the rural poor and those working in the unorganised, informal sector, thereby lack access to essentials like education, healthcare, and economic possibilities. Because of this, they continue to experience prejudice, poverty, and social exclusion.
- The government is aware of the problems and has attempted to address them via a variety of policies, pieces of legislation, and government-sponsored projects. Inconsistency in the effectiveness of development programmes aiming to advance gender parity has been a major challenge, however. Cultural norms, religious beliefs, and social attitudes all act as roadblocks to the effective application of new laws.

Causes of Gender Inequality

Achieving gender parity in India would need significant effort. The societal stigma that a female child would be a drain on her family's resources and her community's mental and

emotional health has long been there. Sadly, discrimination against pregnant women is nothing new. Feticide and infanticide are two forms of violence against women that are particularly heinous. Although the Indian constitution guarantees women the same rights and freedoms as males and contains additional measures aimed to raise their place in society, many women in India still encounter impediments to enjoying these rights and freedoms. The conventional system, low literacy rates, the disproportionate share of unpaid caregiving tasks, insufficient educational opportunities, poor self-esteem, and the perpetuation of negative preconceptions about women all play a role in maintaining the gender gap. (Sutton 2000)

Poverty

Women make up the largest majority of India's impoverished population, which stands at around 30%. Since they have fewer options for earning a living, women in India are more likely to be poor. Women are underrepresented in the political and economic arenas, and as a result, women are denied equal access to excellent education and social support. Men continue to have greater financial success than women, and the economic situation of women has not improved. Consequently, women's dependence on men for financial assistance underlies the gender gap in our patriarchal culture. It is, in a nutshell, the main roadblock to gender parity in India.

Women's Illiteracy

The literacy rate is a strong measure of a country's human capital. Recent statistics put India's adult literacy rate at 73.2%. We've come a long way, but there are still over 313 million people in the United States who can't read or write; of them, 59% are women. Rising female illiteracy and the resulting education gap in modern India may be traced back to a variety of societal and cultural factors. That's why less resources are devoted to advancing women in higher education. This gap widens because societal constraints on women's freedom of movement prevent even the most qualified from entering the workforce and providing for their families. Symbolic of the structural prejudices that prevent women and other marginalised groups from reaching their full potential is the gender education gap. (Steve 2007)

Unemployment Issue

Women in India's rural regions spend a considerable portion of their waking hours doing unpaid household labour. This is especially true in rural areas. It is often more difficult for women than it is for men to take advantage of new opportunities or transfer occupations because of the manner in which responsibilities are divided up inside the home. This makes it more common for women to have less mobility than men. Within a home, there is no clear system for allocating rights and obligations to each member of the household. The fact that men have assets and continue to adhere to practises that have been shown to be effective reduces the amount of incentive that women have to try out novel strategies. The time that is spent on childbirth and childrearing leads to a drop in skill level as well as the termination of long-term professional ties. As a result of this, women would never be able to obtain economic autonomy because of the high rate of unemployment. One of the elements that leads to gender inequality and is the most significant impediment to attaining gender equality in India is the dependency of female spouses on their male partners for financial assistance. (Charmes and Saskia 2003)

Social Customs and Beliefs

It is unrealistic to expect women to ever be really liberated from the norms, beliefs, and practises of the culture in which they live. Within the framework of the traditional patrilineal joint family, the majority of women's responsibilities are confined to domestic labour, which places them in a subordinate position in respect to authority and power. It is generally acknowledged that men are the primary breadwinners and protectors of a family, while women are seen to play little more than a supporting role and be responsible for the upkeep of the house. The education of men and females places a focus on different adult duties, positions, and degrees of power than does the education of males. Since the beginning of Indian civilisation, men have maintained a position of control over women as a group, and women's standing in the home and society has generally been low. This domination of men over women dates back to the earliest stages of Indian civilization. The desire for sons over girls is a perplexing phenomenon that persists across a wide variety of geographical areas. However, it is clear that this preference exists. While sons are perceived as economic and political assets, especially in business groups, daughters are seen as liabilities. Sons, on the

other hand, are recognised as assets. Sons have a greater chance of achieving their goals than girls do. Therefore, the major impediment that has to be conquered in order to attain gender equality in India is a social mindset that is antagonistic toward women. **(Fisher and Shragge 2009)**

Challenges Involved

The gender gap makes it challenging for women everywhere to reach their full potential, but this should be the case for every girl in this nation and throughout the globe. Everywhere a girl in India looks, from her own family and society to the media she consumes like books and movies, she sees evidence of gender inequity. Even if they employ a wide variety of different forms of media, this remains true. While the findings reveal that both sexes are affected, they highlight the disproportionate toll it has on economically disadvantaged women's lives. It is detrimental to everyone's standard of living since men and women in India are not afforded the same protections and opportunities. In most regions of the world, baby girls do better than their male counterparts in terms of survival and development. It's still more common for men to have better health at birth, but it doesn't change the fact that this is a problem. When compared to other nations, India stands out since its yearly death toll includes more females than men. When compared to men, more women do not finish their education. When puberty begins, girls and boys in India react differently. When compared to men, women are less likely to have unrestricted access to resources and opportunities, including the freedom to choose their own path in life and make their own decisions about where they live, what they study, who they marry, and who they associate with socially. This is especially true in countries where women's rights are not guaranteed to the same degree as men's rights. The fact that just one in four working women is in a position of responsibility demonstrates how gender inequalities deepen and remain when young people of both sexes approach adulthood. It's common knowledge that numerous female global leaders and other notable personalities in a wide range of fields have come from India. Women like these may be seen all throughout India. Patriarchy and its accompanying beliefs, customs, and institutions are deeply ingrained in Indian society. Most Indian women are unable to fully exercise their rights as a result of this. If India is to achieve sustainable growth and development and if its youth are to realise their full potential, it is essential that they be given equitable access to opportunity and help. Girls are more likely to be victims of violence, sexual assault, and other forms of

mistreatment just because of their gender in our culture. In many cases, young women are placed in dangerous situations due to persistent gender inequity and detrimental cultural practises. Possible effects include susceptibility to sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence; poor educational and health results; early employment in low-wage domestic labour; and child marriage. Few of these problems will be solved until women get more focus. **(Brady and O'Connor 2014)**

Saving Women from Poverty

Prejudices against women may be found in every single region of the globe, each of which is distinct from the others. As a direct result of this, there was a significant gap between individuals in terms of their levels of education, income, and wealth, as well as their levels of health. Women contribute just ten percent of the world's income, yet they hold only a tiny fraction of one percent or less of the world's property. In India, the literacy rate for males is 80.9 percent, while the literacy rate for women is 64.6 percent. Despite this disparity, the percentage of women who participate in the labour force is just 29 percent. In India, just 80.9% of men have attained a basic level of literacy. **(Mehra 2009)**

Women To empower someone is to provide them the opportunity to make their own decisions and select how they want to spend their life and the time that they have been given. Giving another person the autonomy to choose how they would want to spend their time is one definition of empowering someone. freedom to make their own decisions about their education, the person they want to marry, the vocation they want to perform, the way they want to raise their children, and any other aspect of their life that they believe to be significant. When a woman has the feeling of empowerment, she is able to recognise her own knowledge, talents, and skills. This, in turn, gives her the ability to make her own decisions because she is confident in her ability to make those decisions on her own. For her, empowerment is a kind of ongoing personal growth that results in increased levels of self-esteem and the confidence to take part in activities that have a beneficial effect on the progress of her community. This sort of growth is what we mean when we talk about empowerment. (Lamont 2018)

Paternalistic and Protectionist Approach

When there is equality between the sexes, nobody is discriminated against because of their gender. After hearing what has been mentioned, it is easy to conclude that the laws take a protectionist posture towards women. The defender acts to protect the populace and further their collective interests. By these means, liberty is constrained. Most governments use a paternalistic approach to lawmaking. In particular, legislation intended to safeguard women reflect the underlying assumption that this group is more susceptible to harm. Women are considered their fathers', husbands', or sons' duty and are only afforded special protection in the most dire of circumstances. Stereotypes based on gender and other forms of social conditioning simply make matters worse. (N. Kabeer 2011)The law's paternalistic and protectionist character is the root of the issue since it limits people's autonomy by dictating to them what they should do rather than letting them come to their own decisions. Feminist legal theorists, then, wonder whether or not women are unfairly treated by the law and other institutions. How may we make modifications if that's the case? They claim that male-dominated views are to blame for the law's patriarchal values. Women's experiences are discounted in favour of men's, and the male experience is supposed to be the only one emphasised. Some provisions of the law may be not only sexist in the broad sense, but also 'male' in the limited meaning, as a result further contributing to women's subordination. Finley argues that our whole worldview is skewed because the language of the law is male legal jargon. To a large extent, the laws reflect men's perspectives on "the other" since men have historically held the majority of decision-making positions on lawmaking. When individuals pass laws intended to safeguard the rights of "the other," they do so through the filter of their own values and ideas about what it means to be fair. This has led to sexism in the field of law and the way that it is spoken and seen. The court is still alltoo'male," Indira Jaising, a notable legal expert, has said. There is a general lack of female representation, but this is especially true on the bench and in positions of authority. (Gupta and Yesudian 2006)

Women Empowerment In India: More Needs To Be Done

An increasing number of Indians are demanding that the government prioritise the advancement of women and other aspects of social and human progress in tandem with the country's expanding economy. Fighting for women's and girls' human rights, addressing discriminatory behaviours, and changing gendered roles that perpetuate inequity and exclusion are all examples of what we mean by "women's empowerment" in this article.

Reaching gender equality means that men and women have the same access to resources and chances for growth in areas like learning, health care, political engagement, and financial security. In spite of progress made in places such as Iceland, Sweden, Finland, and Norway to reduce gender inequality, nations in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa continue to have enormous economic and social differences. The fight for women's rights in India has been fraught with challenges. The government is committed to eradicating gender inequality and has established many laws and signed several international conventions to that purpose. The federal government has extended an invitation to non-governmental organisations, private businesses, and other levels of government to collaborate on a wide range of initiatives aimed at improving the lives of women across the board. However, despite these efforts, India has not moved up much in international polls measuring gender equality. **(Lopez 2013)**

Conclusion

After India attained its independence in 1947, a new era of women's rights and empowerment got underway in the country. There has been substantial progress made toward the empowerment of women in New Delhi as a consequence of legislative changes, human development, and initiatives at the grassroots level; yet, there is still a long way to go in many different sectors. More work has to be done to ensure that women living in rural areas have the same opportunities as their female counterparts living in urban areas, including access to high-quality education, employment, health care, and political participation. The most difficult obstacle would be altering people's mindsets, given that the patriarchal and patrilineal traditions that are prevalent in many South Asian nations may be at the root of the issues that prohibit women from gaining equal rights.

If India is ever going to make progress toward true gender equality, it is imperative that men and women in the nation cease treating women as if they are lower-class citizens. The one and only certain method to set the country on the path to economic growth and success. If India is ultimately able to achieve gender parity, it would be a major step forward for the development of the nation. Statistics and statistics linked to nations where a large portion of the population comprises of empowered women demonstrate that these nations are fast expanding on all fronts around the world. This is the case with nations such as China, India, and the Philippines. To many Indians, the concept of gender equality refers to more than just the lack

of racial or sexual discrimination in legal systems. As a consequence of this, it often necessitates innovative approaches to public policy and maintains close ties to the fight for the equality of women. It is essential to India's long-term prosperity that women and men in the nation have access to the same legal protections and opportunities. Accomplishing gender parity in India would be a watershed moment in the nation's history of advancement.

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