### GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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## **Abstract**

In the total population of every society and country, the population of women is equal to or less than half. From the creation of mankind to their upbringing and development, the role of women is far greater than that of men. Whenever it comes to giving those rights in terms of their proportion in the total population of women in all fields like family, society, politics, administration etc. or their contribution in the upbringing of the family, their position becomes second class. Nature has made a woman more tolerant, creative, and courageous and patient in adverse situations than man, but man has made her incapable of strength only. Women and men are equal in the society, women are the Lakshmi of the house, etc., and things are done only for entertainment.

Men and women are the cornerstone of human society. Society cannot be imagined in the absence of any one, but despite this gender discrimination is a social reality. Gender discrimination refers to discrimination against women on the basis of gender, where women do not get equal opportunities and equal treatment with men. Women are seen as a weaker section and are exploited and humiliated. In this form, discriminatory treatment of women is called gender discrimination. This paper highlights about gender discrimination and role of women in society.

**Keywords:** Gender Discrimination, Family, Society, Politics, Administration, Women.

### Introduction

In our country, women are still exploited and discriminated against at every level in the journey from birth to death. It will not be an exaggeration to say that we are living in the 21st century with the mentality of the 16th century even after being physically. Even today, 90 percent of the family has a desire for a son as the first child and for that every family whether they are educated, elite or illiterate villagers, everyone gets affected by false beliefs. Along with all this, we try to use all those customs, beliefs and methods so that the son can be

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attained. In spite of all these efforts, if a daughter is born in the family, then we accept it to show others, but we keep grieving from inside. Even in the family, there is no such happiness as the arrival of a son and we find many ways to discriminate against him throughout our life.

It starts from the family itself in the sequence of socialization, which gets posted later. Family is one of the greatest achievements of human beings. It is the cornerstone of the society. Among all the small and big organizations in the society, the importance of the family is the most, it is related to the fulfillment of the basic needs of human beings.

The individual is a biological being by birth and from birth establishes and reinforces certain differences between the sexes. From childhood, boys and girls are taught to behave according to gender differences, dress and play style etc. This training goes on continuously, then if necessary, it is forced to cast a gender-appropriate mold and sometimes punishment is also given.

The games and toys of boys and girls are different in such a way that they can develop according to the concept of male and female defined by the society. The cornerstone of the interest towards beauty is also imprinted in the girl's mind from childhood itself, in this process beauty is given priority over intelligence in the context of the girl child. That is to say, where the intellectual abilities of boys are given priority in the society, the intellectual abilities of girls are considered as second class.

### **Factors in perpetuating gender discrimination**

# 1. Educational level

Talking about a developing country, our chest does not swell with pride, 35 percent women of the same country are far away from access to education, and this is a matter of shame in itself. There are many better backward African countries than us whose economy has been devastated by civil war. Illiteracy is one of the major reasons for the low status of women in the society.

Due to illiteracy, women are not able to become aware of their rights, even if they become aware, they have to depend on others to take advantage of it. This is the reason why women never feel self-sufficient and are forced to stay at home even after suffering beatings and

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humiliations. Even if they want to work, they can get jobs like midwife, workman, laborer etc. in their homes. In these works, they have to do a lot of work but the income is very less.

Our society is still clinging to feelings like money alien to girls and not being too worried about women's education. Even now most of the families believe in giving education to girls as much as they can get married comfortably and without spending any money. By not investing much in their education, their dowry money is added. That is why even after getting educated girls are not able to fulfill the minimum qualification which is expected by the present competitive examinations.

#### 2. Health and Nutrition Status

Women's health and nutritional deficiencies also play their part in maintaining social gender discrimination. Women's health and nutrition is the most neglected in the family. When they fall ill, they are mostly advised to adopt home remedies, if they are more unwell, they are either taken to an exorcist guni or a government hospital. They are advised by the family and the people of the society to work more than ages, to fast on the occasion of various festivals and to eat less daily. They are forbidden to talk about the problems, sufferings happening in their body and are encouraged to keep their pain within the mind. She is proud that she is making sacrifices for her family. Only the man has the first right on good and nutritious food in the family, the woman is going to eat only and if anything is left after preparing, serving and feeding those food to everyone. What kind of system has been made by our society, only the creator of the object does not get that thing? Women are often made to not throw away the stale food and feel nourished in them. Due to the consumption of these stale and substandard types of food for years, the health condition of women worsens. The main reason for anemia due to anemia in women and anemia in children is not taking enough food, lack of nutritious food in food, etc.

#### 3. Social Traditions and Traditions

Our society is still full of many evils in the name of tradition, whether it is dowry, witchcraft, purdah system, triple talaq issue or Halala – all these are made only to humiliate and degrade women. Dowry is the reason due to which the sex ratio of women is decreasing as compared to men, trafficking of girls is increasing, prostitution is increasing, and cases of serious crimes like rape and molestation are increasing.

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# Women and gender discrimination

Despite all the progress, traditionally in our society women are still seen as a weaker section and their participation is underestimated. As a result, women face neglect, exploitation, humiliation and discrimination both at home and in the workplace. This practice of discrimination against women is present in every part of the world – some less or more. India was ranked 105<sup>th</sup> in the list of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report-2012. This platform determines gender inequality on the basis of four main parameters – economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational achievement and health and survival. These are the standards which form the basis for building and maintaining the independent existence of women of any country and make them self-supporting and self-reliant.

In the traditional social structure that India has, only government schemes and laws cannot empower women. To get rid of the scourge of inequality, a change in the thinking of the society is also needed. This need should be fulfilled because the upliftment and empowerment of women will only help in the betterment of the family and society. For the all-round development of the country, it is necessary to increase the participation of women in every field.

The most need of change in our country is about the traditions and customs existing in the society. Due to the mentality of distinction between sons and daughters, even today, in remote villages, the education and health of daughters are not given importance. Even today, violence against women in our families has systemic support. Not only are there innumerable concerns on the front of women's honor and safety, threats like domestic violence, dowry, female feticide and child marriage also remain enemies of daughters' lives. The worst part is that women do not find themselves safe in public places. This situation is like a blot on the civilized society. Everyone should be concerned about how they feel safe everywhere. It is not only the government's job to worry about this.

Fighting with countless contradictions, women are moving ahead in every field. On the empowering front, half the population has proved that they are self-centered. Today, when she is proving herself in every field of life, then it is painful to see that in spite of all her abilities and abilities, the thought of underestimating her is not taking its name to an end. Gender equality is enshrined in the basic elements of the Indian Constitution. All the anti-

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discrimination legal provisions are also there, yet women are forced to face second class treatment.

In today's liberalized system, women constitute a major part of the labor force, but they are also becoming victims of neglect and exploitation. Despite her increasing presence in the workforce in every field, from political participation, she has been left behind on the education, health and economic fronts because of her being a woman.

## Legal effort to remove gender discrimination

Many provisions have been made legally by the government to bring gender equality in the society, but in reality all this is limited to paper only because the people who ensure the compliance of the law are mainly men and on all these subjects. Avoid putting your hands. This is the reason that despite all these government schemes and legal provisions, women in India are still treated as second class citizens. For men, they are seen as mere objects of enjoyment or fulfiller of family responsibilities. The facility of free wifi in railway stations, college campuses, government premises etc. is mostly misused for watching porn content. Along with revolutionizing the Internet sector, as a result of the markets policy of mobile service providers like Airtel, etc., abundant availability of material related to increasing violence against women is also becoming available through social media indiscriminately.

# How can gender discrimination be ended?

To say that boys and girls are two sides of the same coin, but girls are those sides of the coin, which are kept suppressed by the other side (boys). The root of the problem lies in this thinking, where boys are taught from childhood that they are the future heads of the family and girls are told that they will be considered good only if they make the family the first priority in every situation. Will give

The sense of 'dominance' is assumed to be the share of men and the sense of care as that of a woman. Both these expressions shape the personality of man and woman in such a way that they do not even try to come out of this shell. For this the male class will have to go ahead and share its sense of dominance with women and cooperate in those works which are considered to be of women.

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UNICEF says that the pressure of work, both at home and outside, is making women physically and mentally ill, in such a situation it becomes necessary that the male members cooperate in the household work, the father's responsibility is only Rise above the fulfillment of financial obligations and take care of the children. This will increase the sense of equality and the woman will be able to engage herself in other important works.

In Indian society, woman has been presented in a very ideal form. Saraswati, Kali, Lakshmi, Durga etc. are described in different forms of the goddesses. Even India is known as Bharat Mata. But in practice women do not even get proper respect. For this, the male class has to bring a change in their mindset so that they look at women with the same respect and respect that they expect for themselves.

Girls can be empowered by encouraging them in higher education, skill development, sports etc. For this, the society will have to change its perception and thinking towards girls and the government will also have to promote women empowerment by making appropriate laws or through awareness or investment.

Since girls have to face a lot of inequalities from the very beginning so we have to give a platform to girls where they can share their challenges, find a right choice for themselves and recognize their statutory rights, duties and powers.

**Conclusion** 

Due to gender inequality, women still find themselves alone in the struggle for identity and social respect. As a citizen of a democratic country, it is necessary to remove gender discrimination to lead a safe and dignified life. This sense of equality is related not only to the female identity but also to human values, which determines the condition and direction of our social-family system. Overall, today it is more important to understand that society and family should form the foundation of gender equality.

So it is clear that women are not weaker than men, but this gender discrimination is the result of such socio-cultural values, ideologies and institutions, which ensure the ideological and material subordination of women. Even today when women's issues are considered domestic, personal and mild, as a feminist, our agenda is to place these issues in the 'political' realm, which talks about how to change these gender issues. Can and should be changed because they are fabricated by the society.

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