

Gender Discrimination and The Question of Women's Empowerment

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Abstract: Since the ancient period woman is considered less important and treated as a second citizen. According to Vedas she is the Ardhangani, mata, and goddess but in reality she not respected in this male dominated society. Not only in India but also all over the world woman is not treated as an equal partner rather she is ill treated, dominated, exploited, and tortured. The present paper aims to study the condition of women in India and how women are discriminated in this male dominated society. In the honor of women 8th march is celebrated as an international Women's Day all over the world. Now gender equality is proclaimed as fundamental right by UN charter in 1945. Indian history has given the place of pride to women. But with the change of time their rights have confined within the four walls of house by way of custom usages. They don't have their own identity, position and place in families; they remain always in search of their identity. Their feelings, emotions and untold sufferings remain unnoticed and uncared. Due to biological superiority of men over women. Male are dominating over women. She is treated as less important, man uses women for the sexual gratification this is nothing but gender injustice. In this male dominated society women are still facing the problem like violence, inequality, sexuality and exploitation. There are many provisions and laws to prevent such crimes against women but the law breakers committing the crime against women. It is need to change mentality of men to prove that we are civilized and cultured. Without the development of women and unless we treat women are equal to men the development of society is not possible.

Keywords: Gender, sex, discrimination etc.

The term sex and gender are often use interchangeably but these are two different terms. Sex difference is the creation of nature while gender difference is the creation of society by putting gender bias. Giving sub ordinate position to female role through customary practice is nothing but gender injustice. In India there is a long list of women who have surpassed men by their glorious duties and performances like Ahilayabai Holkar, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Jijamata, Savatribaiphule, Indira Gandhi, Razia Sultan and such many even in the modern period then why does woman is discriminated. To be woman is curse in Indian society. woman has become a consistent sufferer since Ahilya to Aishwarya and Aishwarya to Aradhya. Man need woman to serve, to support, and to help, to fulfill desires and lust and in response of that she faces hardship, ill treatment, exploitation, domination, harassment, rape and killing. I

don't know what is wrong with our society men are showing their beastly nature and we have seen many examples during last two years especially, My question is that if it goes continue how the nation may grow, and peace will be prevailed in the society.

Gender injustice is not only the issue of India it represents the ugly face of every society. This is the global issue with varying degree the question of gender injustice is very old and burning problem of the world. To find out its solution three decades ago in Mexico the first world conference on women equality was held in which honorable Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi was also participated. Several conferences thereafter held to solve this problem. But yet it is in existence in every society of the world.

A recent example of this is Malala: A Pakistani girl who shot by talibanies on 9 October 2012 only because she stud up for education.

According to Vedas women and men are equal but their equal status is only in this religious book in reality it is alleged in India from ancient time women are treated as inferior to men. The problem of gender injustice was much serious before independence; it is declined to some level after independence but not abolished. Some of the gender injustice against women in India may be described as follows.

According to Hindu custom only son can do Pind –Dan after the death of his father and mother. So every parent want son not daughter. A daughter is considered as economic burden in her family due to the custom of dowry. This is one reason because of which rich parents prefer son for daughter. Amino synthesis is the technique by which couple can check about the sex of child in the womb of mother in few weeks of pregnancy. If the child in womb is female then they abort it. It is the first gender injustice against the woman even before her birth. In the senses of 1901 there were nine hundred seventy two females for thousand males. But according to senses of 2001 this ratio decrease to nine hundred thirty two. This is the evidence of abortion.

Sex is the physical act of every living creature in case of human being this act got sanction of society through the concept of marriage. But even though woman faces lots of offences some of which are – indecent assault or outrage of modesty sect-354 of IPC 1860 says that whoever assaults or use criminal force to any woman. Intending outrage her modesty shall be punished up to two years of imprisonment or fine or both. Rape – the term rape is defined under 375 of IPC and it is punished under section 376. Unnatural sexual offences: Sex against order of nature is called unnatural sex. It is defined under section 377 of IPC. Harassment mostly happens on work places. At the work place the employer by taking advantage of his position try obtain sexual gratification from the female employs. It is another example of gender injustice. In the case of Vishaka Vs state of Rajasthan Supreme Court issue guidelines for sexual harrasemnt against woman at work places.

Thus, by and large women are inferior to men because less powers in their hands as compare to men. We always say that Behind every successful

man there is... the real fact is that women are under the hands of
man. Their life is under direction of men i.e. Father, Brother, Husband to give
equal status to women with men empowerment of women is essential
Empowerment of women means to give power or attribute some authority in
the hands of women or to make her free to take decisions in her life while
meeting all aspects of life.

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