

FEMALE FOETICIDE: MAIN RESPONSIBLE CAUSE FOR GENDER INEQUALITY

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INTRODUCTION

The gender gap refers to the unequal treatment, opportunities and representation between men and women in various aspects of society, including but not limited to education, employment, politics etc. women and men are treated unequally.

The gender gap refers to the disparity or unequal treatment between women and men in various aspects of life including different ways like employment, jobs, works, education, cultures, economic ways etc. Gender gap responsible for towards inequality in society.

One of the primary drivers of the gender gap is gender norms and stereo types that shape societal expectations and perceptions of men and women. These stereotypes can lead to biased assumptions about gender roles and capabilities, limiting opportunities and choices for both men and women. Addressing the gender gap requires collective effects from governments, organizations, communities, groups etc. Moreover, Bridging the gender gap is not just a matter of justice and human rights, it is also crucial for sustainable development and economic growth.

GENDER GAP

There are many effects of gender gap on society. With the prevalence of gender discrimination and social norms and practices, girls become exposed to the possibility of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child domestic work, poor education and health, sexual abuse, domestic and physical violence.

Ways to prevent gender inequality-

1. Creation of an environment that fosters the overall development of women and enables them to achieve their full potential. This shall be done by adopting positive and social and economic policies.
2. De-jure and de-facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women on equal basis with men in all spheres.
3. Ensuring equal access for women to participation and decision making in the social, political and economic life of the country.
4. Equality of access to women in healthcare, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.
5. Strengthening the legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of violence against women and discrimination against women.
6. changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement in both men and women.
7. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.
8. Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girl child.
9. Strengthening and building partnerships with civil society particularly women organizations.
10. Ensuring equality at domestic level by implementing nearer like people treatment, care, support, education etc. on the women our family and friends.

Schemes Implemented by the Government to reduce gender gap

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

This initiative was launched in Haryana on 22nd January 2015 by the Prime Minister of India for the survival, safety and education of girls. This initiative tackles the issue of the unequal sex ratio in recent years, raise social awareness and improve the effectiveness of welfare benefits of girls.

Objectives

- Prevention of female infanticide and other methods of sex-selective elimination.
- Safeguarding the survival and protection of girl child.
- Promoting education and active involvement of the girl child.

2. Working Women Hostel Scheme**Objectives**

- Promote safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women with childcare facilities.
- Support construction and expansion of new and existing hostel buildings.

3. STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women)

From 1986 – 1987, The Ministry of Women and Child Development operated to step scheme as a “Central Sector Scheme”. In December 2014, it underwent revision. This program aims on developing the skills of women and provide work security.

4. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

This scheme was started in India in 2017, It intends to offer women convergent support services at one location so they can grow their talents, find work and improve this digital literacy. The government hopes to reach the 115 districts with the highest poverty levels, including the federal state and local levels. This program aims to give women access to resources, including quality healthcare, education, work opportunities and counselling.

5. Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme

The Indian govt. has established the National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers to provide several amenities.

6. The Women Vocational Training Program

This program was launched under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship which was launched in 1997 to mainstream women into economic activities by giving vocational training.

7. Equal remuneration Act

This act was launched in 1976 for equal wages to men and women doing equal work in all government offices of physical labour.

8. The Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)

This scheme was devised in the year 2010. The scheme adolescent girls aged between 11 to 18 years old and aims to provide them with life skills education, nutrition and health education and awareness of socio-legal issues among other things.

9. Ujjwala Schem

This program was introduced in December 2007. It is an extensive scheme established by the government to supers trafficking and retrieve, treat and reintegrate sexually exploited survivors for human trafficking. The scheme is mostly through non-governmental organization (NGO's) in order to give direct relief and benefit of victims of human trafficking.

10. SWADHAR GRUH

It is one of the Indian schemes for women's empowerment introduced in 2018. This project primary goals are ensuring social, economic and housing health security as well as to offer food and clothes. This program gives women legal support and empowers then to take the initiative to rein regrade into society.

Some of the ways in which we on can personal level may help**1.Challenging the Stereotypes**

(i)As the youth of the country is our responsibility to stand up and speak against the gender produces and discourage anybody that possesses a biased attitude or discrimination against any gender.

(ii) Promote equal opportunities: As students and upcoming professionals, we should mentor females younger than us, encouraging and helping them physically and financially to get education and achieve equal amounts of success as their male colleges.

(iii) Address unconscious bias: The bias we have against a particular gender should be eradicated from the minds of our own as well as our lose ones, so that we may create a safe and secure environment for our females.

(iv) Equal division of household chores

As a man, one should encourage the foot that work in the household is the responsibility of both the husband and wife and not only the women, but the man should also get including in housekeeping.

(v) Donating for the cause: There are associations that are raising funds for the empowerment of poor women as growing professionals, we should donate in such associations and support their cause.

(vi) Educate yourself: As young individuals, we should educate ourselves about the burking problems in our society and also convey it to our close ones and young ones. We should also work for raising campaigns to educate the poor about addressing this problem and thus reducing the problem on the long run.

Reducing gender gap requires collective efforts and long-term commitment.

By taking actions on a personal and community level, individuals can contribute to creating a more equitable and inclusive society for all genders. By this way, we will tackle the major hurdle that is present in the development of our country.

1) Forms of gender-based violence

- Physical violence: Physical violence includes physical assault, punching, kicking, slapping.
- Sexual violence: Sexual violence includes non-consul sexual acts including rape and sexual harassment.
- Psychological violence: It refers to behavior that cause emotional harm such as humiliation, sexual abuse.
- Economic violence: It includes practices that limit a person's economic resources such as financial control, withholding financial support and economic opportunities.
- Harmful and traditional practices: These include practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, honor killings, dowry-related violence (or) any cultural or traditional practices that causes harmful effects on gender.

2) Impact and consequences:

- Physical consequences: It includes injuries, disabilities, chronic pain and sometimes death.
- Psychological consequences; Trauma, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, disorder (PTSP), self-esteem issues and suicidal thoughts.
- Social consequences: Isolation, stigma, loss of social support and disrupted relationships.
- Economic consequences: Financial dependence, reduced opportunities for education or employment and poverty.
- Gender Inequality: Discriminatory norms, stereotype and power imbalances which contribute inequality among the genders. Discrimination is the main reason for gender inequality. Violence against women and marginalized genders.
- Social and cultural factors: Beliefs, customs and attitudes that condone or perpetuate violence, often linked to harmful traditional practices.

4) Addressing Gender-based violence:

- Legal Measures: Establishing and enforcing laws that criminalize gender-based violence, protect victims & promote justice.
- Support services: Providing accessible and survivor, centered services, including hotness, shelters, counseling, healthcare and legal assistance.
- Education and Awareness: Promoting education on gender equality, healthy relationship, consent and challenging harmful gender norms.
- Empowering women and marginalized genders: Enhancing their economic opportunities, political opportunities, political participation and decision-making power.
Encoring them to be allies in ending violence, challenging harmful masculinity norms and promoting gender equality.

CONCLUSION

Gender gap is a problem that has been burning in our society since a very long time. only through collective efforts of the government and its people as a society can we achieve its eradication and equal rights and opportunities to all genders. The Indian government has been making a steady progress in the reduction of gender gap in India,

encouraging women empowerment through various methods and schemes. Awareness about the gender bias and its consequences have been missed by the government through various methods. People are made aware about the importance of sending their girls to school, developing skills for their young females and educating their wives and the elderly about their basic needs and requirements. Awareness are also being missed to eradicate female foeticide and the offense it causes is severely punishable.

Gender gap achieved improved health of mothers and in infants and reducing the mortality rates of young mothers. The government is encouraging female oriented small businesses and women are inspired to upskill and do something on their own to fulfill their potential. The government has succeeded in achieving safe and inclusive environments for working class women. More and more women nowadays are encouraged into political backgrounds by providing reserved female seats in remote and urban areas.

Women entrepreneurship is a budding aspect in the economic development of the country.

Gender gap cannot be reduced merely by the government working for its people. It's the people who will have to join hands and work against the gap collectively which will eventually eradicate it.

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