

SIGNIFICANCE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN REMOVING GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

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The discriminative treatment towards women showing that they are not as equal as men; this is known as gender inequality. Gender inequality has been present in our system for a long period of time and it is still affecting our society. Although now-a-days there are so many rights given to women by our constitution and also there are many schemes/programmes which are working for the women empowerment, but due to lack of information of these rights and power given to women, they feel helpless and are treated as a second class citizen in our country. So it is very important for women to learn about these things which is only possible if they are educated.

Since Education is universally acknowledged to benefit individuals in many ways, where promoting self-confidence is also one of the aspects. Education helps women living a good life with their self-esteem and makes them capable of bringing socio-economic changes in the society. Women Education refers to any form of education that improves the knowledge and skills of any woman and girl.

When women read and learn about their rights they become more powerful and capable of seeking justice for themselves. Same as technical education also help them to get an employment which will provide them self confidence for living a good life. So for removing this curse of inequality between men and women, education plays a very significant role.

In this paper I would like to highlight the role of technical education in removing gender inequality.

KEY WORDS: Technical Education, Gender Inequality, Injustice, Empowerment, Socioeconomic Changes.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient times, the status of females was very important and high. They were worshipped as goddess and at some places they were even had greater importance than males. As time passed the status and importance of women in society started demolishing and at present the status of women in society is not even as equal as men. At present, our society is called patriarchal society where there is so much discrimination in the ways of living of men and women.

We proud Indians of 21st century rejoice in celebrations when a boy is born, and if it is a girl, a muted or no celebrations is the norm. Love for a male child is so much so that we are killing our daughters at birth or before birth, and if, fortunately, she is not killed we find various ways to discriminate against her throughout her life. Though our religious beliefs make women a goddess but we fail to recognize her as a human being first; we worship goddesses but we exploit girls. We are a society of people with double-standards as far as our attitude towards women is concerned; our thoughts and preaching are different than our actions.

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It arises

from differences in socially constructed gender roles. Gender systems are often dichotomous and hierarchical; gender binary systems may reflect the inequalities that manifest in numerous dimensions of daily life. Gender inequality stems from distinctions, whether empirically grounded or socially constructed.

Gender Inequality is present in our society in many ways or we should say that there are different types of gender inequality.

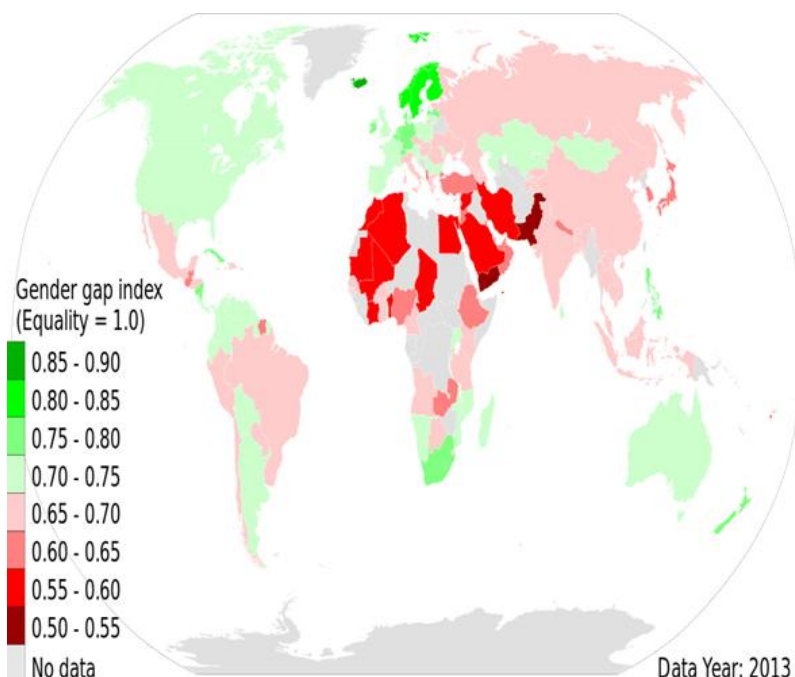
TYPES OF GENDER INEQUALITY

1. **Natality Inequality:** In this type of inequality a preference is given for boys over girls that many male-dominated societies have. It can be understood by- the parents wanting the newborn to be a boy rather than a girl.
2. **Professional or Employment Inequality:** In terms of employment as well as promotion in work and occupation, women often face greater handicap than men. A country like India may be quite backwards in matters of demography or basic facilities, to a great extent, in higher education, and yet progress to elevated levels of employment and occupation

- seems to be much more problematic for women than for men. The example of employment inequality can be explained by saying that men get priority in seeking job than women.
- Ownership Inequality: In many societies the ownership of property can also be very unequal. Even basic assets such as homes and land may be very asymmetrically shared. The absence of claims to property can not only reduce the voice of women, but also make it harder for women to enter and flourish in commercial, economic and even some social activities.

- Household Inequality: There are often enough, basic inequalities in gender relations within the family or the household, which can take many different forms. It is, for example, quite common in many societies to take it for granted that while men will naturally work outside the home, women could do it if and only if they could combine it with various inescapable and unequally shared household duties. This is sometimes called “division of labour”.
- Special Opportunity Inequality: Even when there is relatively little difference in basic facilities including schooling, the opportunities of higher education may be far fewer for young women than for young men. Indeed, gender bias in higher education and professional training can be observed even in some of the richest countries in the world, in India too.

HDI rank	Gender Inequality Index		Maternal mortality ratio	Adolescent birth rate	Share of seats in parliament	Population with at least some secondary education		Labour force participation rate ^a		
	Value	Rank	(deaths per 100,000 live births)	(births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	(% held by women)	(% ages 25 and older)		(% ages 15 and older)		
						Female	Male	Female	Male	
	2014	2014	2013	2010/2019 ^b	2014	2005-2014 ^c	2005-2014 ^c	2013	2013	
VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT										
1	Norway	0.067	9	4	7.8	39.6	97.4	96.7	61.2	68.7
2	Australia	0.110	19	6	12.1	30.5	94.3 ^d	94.6 ^d	58.8	71.8
3	Switzerland	0.028	2	6	1.9	28.5	95.0	96.6	61.8	74.9
4	Denmark	0.048	4	5	5.1	38.0	95.5 ^a	96.6 ^a	58.7	66.4
5	Netherlands	0.062	7	6	6.2	36.9	87.7	90.5	58.5	70.6
6	Germany	0.041	3	7	3.8	36.9	96.3	97.0	53.6	66.4
6	Ireland	0.113	21	9	8.2	19.9	80.5	78.6	53.1	68.1
8	United States	0.280	55	28	31.0	19.4	95.1	94.8	56.3	68.9
9	Canada	0.129	25	11	14.5	28.2	100.0	100.0	61.6	71.0
9	New Zealand	0.157	32	8	25.3	31.4	95.0	95.3	62.0	73.8
11	Singapore	0.088	13	6	6.0	25.3	74.1	81.0	58.8	77.2
12	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	-	-	-	3.3	-	72.2	79.2	51.3	67.8
13	Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	20.0	-	-	-	-
14	Sweden	0.055	6	4	6.5	43.6	86.5	87.3	60.3	67.9
14	United Kingdom	0.177	39	8	25.8	23.5	99.8	99.9	55.7	68.7
16	Iceland	0.087	12	4	11.5	41.3	91.0	91.6	70.5	77.4



Above map shows the gender gap index, as calculated by World Economic Forum in its 2013 report. Gender gap index is a measure of gender inequality.

India ranking remains low in gender equality measures by the World Economic Forum, although the rank has been improving in recent years. When broken down into components that contribute the rank, India performs well on political empowerment, but is scored near the bottom with China on sex selective abortion. India also scores poorly on overall female to male literacy and health rankings. India with a 2013 ranking of 101 out of 136 countries had an overall score of 0.6551, while Iceland, the nation that topped the list, had an overall score of 0.8731 (no gender gap would yield a score of 1.0).

Gender inequalities impact India's sex ratio, women's health over their lifetimes, their educational attainment, and economic conditions. It is a multifaceted issue that concerns men and women alike.

The labor force participation rate of women was 80.7% in 2013. Nancy Lockwood of Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest human resources association with members in 140 countries, in a 2009 report wrote that female labor participation is lower than men, but has been rapidly increasing since the 1990s. Out of India's 397 million workers in 2001, 124 million were women, states Lockwood. India is on target to meet its Millennium Development Goal of gender parity in education before 2016. UNICEF's measures of attendance rate and Gender Equality in Education Index (GEEI) attempt to capture the quality of education. Despite some gains, India needs to triple its rate of improvement to reach GEEI score of 95% by 2015 under the Millennium Development Goals. A 1998 report stated that rural India girls continue to be less educated than the boys.

GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA: IMPORTANT DATA

Global Indices: Gender Inequality is also reflected in India's poor ranking in various global gender indices-

- *UNDP's Gender Inequality Index- 2014*: India's ranking is 127 out of 152 countries in the List. This ranking is only above Afghanistan as far as SAARC countries are concerned.
- *World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index- 2014*: India's ranks at 114 in the list of 142 countries of the world.

These two important Global Indices show the sorry state of affairs in India as far as gender equality is concerned.

Gender Inequality Statistics

Gender inequality manifests in varied ways and as far as India is concerned the major indicators are as follows:

- Female Foeticide
- Female Infanticide-
- Child (0 to 6 age group) Sex Ratio: 919
- Sex Ratio: 943
- Female literacy:46%
- Maternal Mortality Rate: 178 deaths per 100000 live births.

Female literacy is at 65.46% in 2011 as against 82.14% of male literacy. This gap indicates a wide gender disparity in India that Indians do not give enough importance to the education of girls.

Despite the law in place viz Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 sex selective abortion is still on the rise. One estimate done by MacPherson shows that more than 100000 illegal abortions are being performed every year in India mainly for the reason that the fetus is of girl child.

As far as overall sex-ratio is concerned, it's 943 in 2011 report as compared to 933 of 2001 which is 10 points increase. Though it is a good sign that overall sex ratio is increasing but it's still tilted against females.

Objective

1. To identify the factors which are responsible for gender inequality.
2. To give suggestions to reduce gender inequality.

3. Equal access to participation and decision making of women.
4. Equal access to women to health care, quality education and employment etc.
5. Elimination of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child.

Education

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, education in the largest sense in any experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense, education is the process which society deliberately transmits accumulated knowledge, skills and values from one generation to another.

Aims of Education- The aims and objectives of education include individual as well as social aims, with emphasis of social transformation aiming at reconstructing the society to make it modernized, productive, participative, value oriented and nation committed to its constitutional obligations. There are numerous aims of education as mentioned below:

1. Individual Development
2. Acquiring Knowledge
3. Vocational Aim
4. Competitive Living
5. Moral Building
6. Complete Living
7. Harmonious Development
8. Social and National Development

Technical education, as the term suggests, is different from regular education. Its ambit, as per our laws, primarily comprises training and research programmes in sectors like engineering, technology, architecture, town planning, management, pharmacy, applied arts and crafts, hotel management and catering technology etc.

Discipline		Male	Female	Total
Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences		5019979	5687326	10707305
Engineering & Technology	Mechanical Engineering	934504	41803	976307
	Electronics Engineering	454565	340907	795472
	Computer Engineering	402050	341941	743991
	Civil Engineering	481236	109790	591026
	Electrical Engineering	357503	117545	475048
	Other Engineering & Technology	193292	80819	274111
	Information Technology	104697	95530	200227
	Architecture	29504	31826	61330
	Chemical Engineering	35338	11494	46832
	Aeronautical Engineering	12226	3064	15290
	Agriculture Engineering	10110	4967	15077
	Metallurgical Engineering	9047	3049	12096
	Mining Engineering	6824	270	7094
	Food Technology	4293	2672	6965
	Marine Engineering	3554	164	3718
	Dairy Technology	1522	563	2085
	Planning	471	388	859
Engineering & Technology Total		3040736	1186792	4227528
Science		2180348	1912083	4092431
Commerce		2027036	1694106	3721142
Education		332011	533600	865611

Table: Enrollment at UG level in major subjects

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Gender Inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. This is an area of study in sociology. Sociology can be defined as the systematic study of human society (Macionis and Plummer, 2005).

Gender roles refers to expectations regarding the proper behaviour, attitudes and activities of males and females (Schaeter, 2007) for example toughness is thought of as masculine while tenderness as feminine.

According to (Fulcher and Scott 2007) a person's gender is not simply an aspect of what one is but more fundamentally, it is something that one does, and does recurrently in interaction with others.

Jayachandran, S. (2014), has presented the roots of gender inequality in developing countries. This paper also discussed the several mechanisms through which the economic development could improve the relative outcomes of women & gender gaps can be reduced as country grows.

Dunn, D. (1998), has focused on the situation of women in scheduled castes and tribes groups which are considered to as „weaker sections of people and granted special safeguards and concessions under the Indian Constituents. This paper represented a descriptive picture of scheduled caste and tribe women's status in Indian society and also suggested that socioeconomic development plays an important role to reduce the disadvantage of scheduled group women.

Thomas, R.E. (2013), has highlighted his paper with the state of gender based inequality in the modern India. It has presented gender inequality with the help of some facts & figures and representing the inequality practiced in India & its comparison with other Asian & Western countries.

Chaudhary, & Sarkar, D. (2012), has tried to find out some factors i.e. educational status, work participation, level of gender inequality, of the Cooch Behar, a district of West-Bengal, India and suggested some relevant strategies implication for reducing this gender inequality to promote the deprived women of this district.

Raju, E. (2014), has examined the gender discrimination in India on the basis of demographic, social, economic and political context. The paper has broadly discussed the issue of gender inequality, women empowerment & reproductive health among women of India. Some measures under taken by the International and national organizations were also discussed in this paper. Rustagi, P. (2005), has concluded the weal potential of economic growth & increasing women's economic participation towards eliminating gender inequalities in income & wages, unless supported by concerted efforts at altering attitudes towards women's role & contribution that are harbored by different agents within the labor market.

In my view, both gender roles can be learned through the process of interactions from birth, which begins in the family. Gender inequality takes many different forms depending on the economy and the society that we find ourselves. Also generally women often receive lower pay for the same or comparable work, and they are frequently blocked in their chances for advancement, especially to positions. There are some books also on the gender inequality, some of them are:

- Framed by Gender: How Gender Inequality Persists in the Modern World
- Angles of Vision: How to Understand Social Problems

- The New Gilded Age: The Critical Inequality Debates of Our Time
- Dividing the Domestic: Men, Women, and Household Work in Cross-National Perspective
- Tackling Gender Inequality, Raising Pupil Achievement
- Women, Culture, and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities

CONCLUSION

India is still a very male-dominated country, even with all of the new developments. There may be laws and rights given to Indian women, but they are not strongly enforced. Over time, there have been many women who have surpassed the standards that are expected from women. A primary example is Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the 12th President of India. To begin a new era of equality in the world, everyone must aid in promoting the cause of women, irrespective of sex, age, or ethnicity.

The efforts of both women and men would be able to found solutions to the problem of gender inequality and would take us all towards our cherished dream of a truly modern society in both thought and action and political inequalities between men and women in India. Various international gender inequality indices rank India differently on each of these factors, as well as on a composite basis, and these indices are controversial. India needs to deactivate the gender inequality. The needs of the day are trends where girls are able not only to break out of the culturally determined patterns of employment but also to offer advice about career possibilities that look beyond the traditional list of jobs. To ensure equality of status for our women we still have miles to go.

The most significant factor in continued use of law to enforce patriarchal privilege is that men still control not only the legal process and the interpretation of laws, but also the subject matter and vantage point of law. The present feminist analysis is such a modest endeavour which not only attempts to understand the reality but also tries to explain how to change it.

SUGGESTIONS

For reducing gender inequality in India, we should offer high level of education to girls and increase women empowerment. We should also give them opportunity in active politics & social activities so that social integration in Indian society can be made. Government should make policies & strategies regarding stopping the sex identification & abortions. In context of above NGOs can also play an important role to eradicate Gender Inequality. Politicians should frame out policies for increasing social welfare development regarding this issue. The Campaign of our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" can be successful, when the mindset of Indian society will be changed towards women. The list of legislations as well as types of discriminations or inequalities may go on but the real change will only come when the mentality of men will change; when the male species of human beings would start treating women as equal and not subordinate or weaker to them. In fact not only men but women also need to change their mindset as through cultural conditioning they have also become part of the same exploitative system of patriarchy and are playing a supportive role in furthering men's agenda of dominating women. Therefore, what is needed is the movement for Women's empowerment where women can become economically independent and self-reliant; where they can fight their own

fears and go out in the world fearless; where women have good education, good career, ownership of property and above all where they have freedom of choice and also the freedom to make their own decisions.

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