GENDER BIAS AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN CURRENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

Discrimination is the intentionally or distinguishing treatment of an individual based on their actual or perceived membership in a certain group or category, such as their race, gender, sex or cast. Gender discrimination and sexism refers to beliefs and thoughts in relation to the gender of a person, such beliefs and attitudes are of a social nature and do not, normally, carry any legal consequences. Sex discrimination, on the other hand, may have legal consequences. A sex difference is a distinction of biological and physiological characteristics associated with either males or females of a species.

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. There are natural differences between the sexes based on biological and anatomic factors, most notably differing reproductive roles. While doing the study of evolution of man, it is noticed that from starting to till in each and every step of life there is gender discrimination. Social, economical, cultural religious and political discrimination are the various examples of gender bias and discrimination.

KEY WORDS - Problems, suggestions, efforts, government, strategy

INTRODUCTION

In society we can observe that girls should be in home for every time. This is a one type of well-known example of gender discrimination. Subcritical atmosphere the existence of men easily is acceptable but women are always on secondary place.

The tendency of sex bias start from early stage means childhood. This situation effects and creates very serious problems in society. Unequal sex ratio is a symbol of this product. Women are important for reproduction. Sex is very important between a male and a female so as to continue the species on earth. The cultural construct of Indian society which reinforces gender bias against women, has led to the continuation of India’s strong preference for male children.

A decline in the sex ratio was observed with India’s 2011 census reporting that it stands at 914 females against 1,000 males, a drop from 927 in 2001 - the lowest since India’s independence.

POSITION OF WOMEN IN CURRENT SCENARIO

In this contemporary world, women need to gain the same amount of power that men have. Now, it is time to forget that men are the only holders of power. In India, women are still facing different obstacles in male-dominated cultures. Now a day's women are coming the main stream of development.

The government of India established a special commission for the women development i.e. women commission in India.

Today, women are having the position in every place. Recently feminism concept added in the women empowerment which stress on the fundamental and human rights of women.

In India, women are facing various problems, heinous practice of female feticide and infanticide wherein nearly 10 million baby girls have been killed in the last twenty years alone. In fact, safety is an obsolete word in today's India. Even law enforcement is unable to control the situation in India.
Every person should think about women development. This is the need of the hour. Everyone must think of changing society. If we all abide by the rules, women in our cities will surely be safer. This situation has caused immense loss to their self-dignity as human beings and also their independent entities, associated with men, apart from other matter, in context with intellectual and professional capability.

In spite of all these, the patience of greatness of Indian women to serve the family and the society is incomparable. That's why she deserves the designation of -Devatha- of -Goddess- worth to be worshipped for all her patience, services and sacrifices.

**GENDER BIAS IN CURRENT SCENARIO**

Literacy for females stands at 65.46%, compared to 82.14% for males. Behind 1000 men there are 933 women. Means in comparison both factors are unequal. Job profile is shown the effect of gender bias. Women do not own property under their own names and usually do not have any inheritance rights to obtain a share of parental property. Carry forward of race is the name of sons only.

Gender socialization teaches girls to please others, and working hard at school is part of educational activities. Sometimes teachers appreciate boy students and try to ignore the girls. The number of girl’s students is also less in the classes. This situation we can see in each and every state in India. There is a tendency in society like "girls is to get married and have children." only. Even in daily curriculum activities in every sphere preference is giving to boys in spite of girls. In family, parents give more importance and attention to boys about their studies.

**PROBLEMS OF WOMEN**

1. **Women Violence:**
   The life of Indian women is full of sorrow and anxiety. There are various types of crime like rape, molestation, dowry harassment, wife-battering, kidnapping, female children to be sold into brothel homes, forcible embracement etc. problems faced by Indian women.

2. **Gender Bias:**
   Gender discrimination refers to "the practice whereby one sex is given preferential treatment over the others. After overpopulation second number greatest problem in India is the female foeticide and discrimination. The practice of giving social importance to the biological differences between men and women is everywhere. In some societies, these differences are very much pronounced while in others, they are given less importance.

3. **Declined Health:**
   Indian women are the most exploited in the world. Socially, psychologically, politically and economically she is always on secondary place. Improper haemoglobin, different medical problems, malnutrition and high death rate are the feathers of Indian women.

4. **Improper Sex Ratio:**
   Normally, in the population of any country, male-female ratio remains more or less the same. That is 50:50. in India as the census reports reveal female population has been steadily declining ever since 1901. This is serious indicator in society. Efforts should be takes place for identification and sort these problems.

5. **Female Illiteracy:**
   Female are backward in educational sector. Also there is division of labour in working place.

6. **Dowry:**
   At the time of marriage ceremony, the gift or amount given by the parents of girl is general trend in India. In later stage it became problem called dowry. Every year so many cases of dowry exposed in India. It is a very serious problem faced by Indian women and their parents.

7. **Sexual Harassment:**
   Now days so many cases are exposing related to sexual harassment of women. Delhi gang rape and so many incidents taking place in India. Child abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, child labour etc are the various problems are present in Indian society.

8. **Familiar and Social Problems:**
   Family and society have to take the cognizance about women issues. The intensity and proportion of works is always more than men. In religious and cultural activities women generally ignore and put secondary place. Whatever the situation is there, the women assume a responsible for that act. Also there is a tendency that women are the factories of child creation.

**CAUSES OF GENDER BIAS**
While doing the overall study and finding the root causes of this problem, there are various causes responsible for gender bias like:

1. Tradinalist mentality
2. Economical factors
3. Religious factors
4. Family Laws
5. Workplace Discrimination
6. Education
7. Physical causes
8. Migration

When direct policy solutions are not possible, there are many other tactics that can be used to fight gender against discrimination. These can include direct mass actions such as public awareness, arranging the conferences, spreading the information, efforts from NGOs sociologists, social workers etc can sort out this problem.

**Following points must be implemented for eradication of gender bias and maintain the proper equal sex ratio:**

1. Overall development and progress of women for enhance the status of women
2. Strict implementation, creation of rules and regulations
3. Support from legislative side
4. Special provision of reservation policy and cognizance of related issues
5. Proper role government and administration
7. Eradication and removal of attitude about gender inequality and unequal sex ratio from all social, cultural, economical and political levels.
8. Emphasis on self respect, esteem and prestige of women.
9. Modification and evaluation of various factors which are related to gender bias
10. Suitable and convenient role of media and newspapers

**CONCLUSION**

For maintain the suitable sex ratio, we have to arrange the program like education, employment, independence, women empowerment and social awareness. There is no place to caste, educational backwardness, religious beliefs, family background, unemployment, races, family specific partial condition, mind set, attitude and male dominated society.

With the study of gender discrimination and unequal sex ratio, also stress should given on various issues and problems like female infanticide, denial education and health facilities, child and early marriages, rape and sexual harassment, dowry, divorce, destitution, eve teasing, denial of employment, no equal pay for equal work as well as no freedom of selection.

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