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GENDER DISCRIMINATION

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Gender discrimination is when there are unfair rights between male and female. It differs because of their gender roles which ultimately leads to unequal treatment in life. Gender discrimination has been around for many centuries. However, as we are evolving, it is time to do away with such notions of gender roles. Gender discrimination is the difference in treatment of a person based on sex that puts the individual at a disadvantage or limits his or her access to opportunities that are available to other members of society. Gender discrimination is a characteristic of most societies, with males on average better positioned in social, economic, and political hierarchies. For more than two decades, gender discrimination continues and still exists in society. With this essay on Gender Discrimination, students will understand how it is impacting our society and limiting women's potential

India is a democratic country that provides its citizens with a variety of rights. Citizens of India can exercise their rights to free expression, information, equality, and religion, among other things. There are penalties for breaking these laws. These rights are intended to protect citizens' human dignity so that they can live fulfilling lives. Furthermore, these rights are necessary for the abolition of social injustices and hierarchy. Despite these efforts, one social injustice known as "gender discrimination" persists in India

CAUSES OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION

There are many causes of gender discrimination. The first one has to be illiteracy. When people do not educate themselves, they continue to live in the old times. Thus, they follow the old-age sexist traditions and norms.

Education can bring about a change in this mindset because educated people will less likely partake in gender discrimination. Further, poverty is also another reason which is interlinked in a way.

It is the root cause in many places because the economic dependence remains on the male counterparts mostly. Thus, women suffer a lot from it because of the same reason. They never get out of this and stay financially dependent on men.

Furthermore, the patriarchal setup in our society plays a big role. In this setup, the male dominates almost every aspect of life. Thus, they consider themselves to be superior to others.



This way, a lot of violence and injustice is meted out against females. Thus, when there is a gender considering themselves to be superior, it becomes difficult for everyone to avail equal opportunities.

The work done by women is not valued and does not get any recognition. It is considered that the main responsibility of women is to do household work and bring up the children. In most families, women do all work related to the home, such as cleaning, cooking, washing clothes, ironing, tailoring, looking after children, etc. Whereas, men go to the office and do outdoor work to earn their livelihood. Although women constitute half of humanity, their role in public life is minimal in most societies.

The primary cause of gender discrimination is illiteracy. People who are not educated continue to follow the old practices in the name of traditions and culture. They are not allowing women to go outside the home and become independent. This mindset of the people can be changed by educating them. Apart from educating the people, there is a need to educate girls and women to become aware of their rights. Girls are not given the opportunity to study. In India, there are few girls who go to schools, and among them, there are fewer who complete their secondary education. Only a few of them get the opportunity for higher education and graduation.

Due to a lack of knowledge and education qualifications, girls and women could not find suitable jobs for themselves. Because of this they have to be financially dependent on the male partner for money. They also don't have power and decision-making capability in their homes. Whatever is decided by the male members of the family, they have to follow that. Women who get the chance to work are underpaid, and they do not get a salary equal to their male counterparts.

IMPACT OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Gender discrimination has a deep impact on society as a whole. It does not just impact a specific section of the society but every part of it. First of all, it impacts children as they fall prey to gender stereotypes from a young age.

Further, it impacts young people because it impacts their behaviour, study choices, ambitions, attitudes and more. Thus, many girls do not participate in many sports and women experience physical violence more than men. Gender discrimination affecting adults because there is a gender pay gap between the



working class. Men earn more for doing the same work as women. In addition, older women have more risk of becoming homeless than men.

It also impacts the aboriginal women because they have it a lot worse. It is more likely to happen that they can die from family violence, 11 times more than men. Even for men, it is not beneficial as it sets difficult standards for men to follow. It draws a line on men being emotional. Thus, they can never showcase their emotions truly without being judged. Similarly, men do not parental leave in many places. Ultimately, all this results in more suicide in men. Thus, it impacts everyone.

GENDER EQUALITY BUILDS A NATION

In this century, women and men enjoy the same privileges. The perception is changing slowly but steadily. People are now becoming more aware of their rights and what they can do in a free society. It has been found that when women and men hold the same position and participate equally, society progresses exclusively and creates a landmark. When a community reaches gender equality, everyone enjoys the same privileges and gets similar scopes in education, health, occupation, and political aspect. Even in the family, when both male and female members are treated in the same way, it is the best place to grow, learn, and add great value.

A nation needs to value every gender equally to progress at the right place. A society attains better development in all aspects when both genders are entitled to similar opportunities. Equal rights in decision making, health, politics, infrastructure, profession, etc will surely advance our society to a new level. The social stigma of women staying inside the house has changed. Nowadays, girls are equally competing with boys in school. They are also creating landmark development in their respective profession. Women are now seeking economic independence before they get married. It gives them the confidence to stand against oppression and make better decisions for themselves.

The age-old social structure dictated that women need to stay inside the home taking care of all when men go out to earn bread and butter. This has been practised for ages when the world outside was not safe. Now that the time has changed and we have successfully made our environment quite safer, women can step forward, get educated, pursue their passion, bring economic balance in their



families, and share the weight of a family with men. This, in a cumulative way, will also make a country's economy progress faster and better.

STEPS TO ELIMINATE GENDER DISCRIMINATION

India is a male-dominated, patriarchal society. So, it becomes crucial that we make special laws and rules that favour women, so they get equal treatment in society. The Government of India introduced various programmes, policies and practices to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in family, community, workplace and in governance. The Constitution of India also conveys a powerful mandate for equality and the right of women in its preambles, fundamental rights and duties.

After so much effort by the government, gender discrimination still continues in many places. It is the responsibility of each citizen to stop gender discrimination wherever they notice it. We should save the girl child and celebrate its birth. Then only the practice of female foeticide will be completely banned in India. We must educate her and teach her to become independent. We should make the environment and surroundings safe for girls and women, whether it is a public place or a workplace. Now, women are seen in every field and sector. They are working as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers, college and university teachers, and in various other professions which were earlier not considered suitable for women. So, it's our responsibility to boost their confidence and help them utilise their full potential. We should provide special facilities such as maternity, child care and menstrual leave to make it easier for them to work.

INITIATIVE TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

Any kind of discrimination acts as a roadblock in any nation's growth, and a nation can only prosper when all its citizens have equal rights. Most of the developed countries has comparatively less gender discrimination and provide equal opportunity to both genders. Even the Indian government is taking multiple initiatives to cut down gender discrimination.

They have initiated a social campaign called "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana" to encourage the education of girl children. Besides this, the government runs multiple other schemes, such as the Women Helpline Scheme, UJJAWALA, National Mission for Empowerment of Women, etc., to



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generate awareness among the people. Moreover, as responsible citizens, it is our responsibility to spread knowledge on gender discrimination to create a beautiful world for women.

CONCLUSION

Once all these menaces will be eradicated, every family will understand the value of a woman and our country will achieve gender equality in a real sense. Women are creating examples everywhere and we all should highlight them to change the scenario and give them equal rights. In the end, the performance of India in the Olympics 2021 is the current example where India has won seven medals. Out of those seven medals, six came in individual events and out of those six medals, female athletes won three. It shows that even after facing such hardship, their performance is at par with male athletes. With so much potential, it is only a matter of time when women will overtake men and have all their abilities on display for the world to see.