

Gender Equality

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Abstract:

“Gender equality means fair treatment to both FEMALE AND MALE.”

Gender equality, means equality between Male and Female, it tells us that all human beings, both Male and female, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices of their own without any limitations. Gender equality means that the different behaviour, ambitions and needs of Male and Female are, valued and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. This may include equal treatment to both Male and Female in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities..

Introduction:

The word **gender** says the socially-constructed roles and responsibilities that societies consider appropriate for Male and Female. Gender equality means that men and women have equal power and equal opportunities for financial independence, personal development, education, status etc.. **Women's empowerment** is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. It is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world..

Objectives:

1. To Make aware the Society about their inhumane attitude towards physique and body based decisions and behavior. Masculinism and Feminism both harms the society as they claim their dominancy and hence to be eradicated from every section of life .
2. To eradicate harmful practices targeted at women ..
3. To plant the idea of respecting human rights deeply into societies right from the grass root level.

Resistance against Inequality:

- 1) **Health and safety:** Priority of Sexual Hygiene of males and females is different. Females are enforced to tolerate unhygienic sex which results into deterioration in their health. Also

so-called Masculine Habits like smoking, drinking and burden of social responsibility leads to Chronic diseases like lung cancer.

- 2) Violence against women: Domestic violence, Intimate partner violence, Dowry price, Pride price, Honour killing or torture, payback rape i.e. rape of female by group of people as an act of revenge.

Violence against transwomen because of social inacceptance

- 3) Sexual rights: Forced marriage, Child marriage, forced sterilization, are some practices which leads to physical and mental instability. Maternal mortality because of unreadiness of carriage and complications because of high frequency of deliveries.

Family planning, Abortions, forced abortions, Genocide which are crimes against humanity affect complete life.

Investigation and prosecution of crimes against any women or girl, especially in case of molestation or rapes, often ignored by authorities or get exploited financially, physically or mentally.

- 4) Harmful traditional Practices: caste system in India which leads to untouchability of dalit womens, marriage by abduction, multigamy, ritualized sexual slavery (Devadasi), breast ironing, tribal traditions for men to prove

warrior, and widow inheritance are some practices

Economic empowerment of women

Promoting gender equality is seen as an encouragement to greater economic prosperity. Female economic activity is a common measure of gender equality in an economy. Gender discrimination often results in women obtaining low-wage jobs and being disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. Gender biases, Gender-based price discrimination, also exist in product and service provision. The term "Women's Tax", also known as "Pink Tax", refers to gendered pricing in which products or services marketed to women are more expensive than similar products marketed to men.

Gendered arrangement of work and care

A key issue towards insuring gender equality in the workplace is the respecting of maternity rights and reproductive rights of women. Different countries have different rules regarding maternity leave, paternity leave and parental leave. Another important issue is ensuring that employed women are not de jure or de facto prevented from having a child. In some countries, employers ask women to sign formal or informal documents stipulating that they will not get pregnant or face legal punishment. Policies are increasingly targeting men as fathers. The male breadwinner role is always criticized and hence Shared earning/shared parenting marriage, that is, a relationship where the partners collaborate at sharing their responsibilities inside and outside of the home, is often encouraged in Western countries and now also in India.

Freedom of movement

Women's freedom of movement continues to be legally restricted in some parts of the world. This restriction is often due to marriage laws. In some countries, women must legally be accompanied by their male guardians (such as the husband or male relative) when they leave home.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) states at Article 15 (4) that, Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

In addition to laws, women's freedom of movement is also restricted by social and religious

norms. Restrictions on freedom of movement also exist due to traditional practices such as *asbaad*, *swara* or *vani*

Girls access to education

In many parts of the world, girls' access to education is very restricted. In developing parts of the world, women are often denied opportunities for education as girls and women face many obstacles. These include: early and forced marriages; early pregnancy; prejudice based on gender stereotypes at home, at school and in the community; violence on the way to school, or in and around schools; long distances to schools; vulnerability to the HIV epidemic; school fees, which often lead to parents sending only their sons to school; lack of gender sensitive approaches and materials in classrooms. About two thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Lack of an education severely restricts a woman's access to information and opportunities. Conversely, increasing women's and girls' educational attainment benefits both individuals and future generations. Higher levels of women's education are strongly associated with lower infant mortality and lower fertility, as well as better outcomes for their children. Political participation of women

The 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation called for female participation in politics, and expressed concern about the fact that "women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere". Only 22 percent of parliamentarians globally are women and therefore, men continue to occupy most positions of political and legal authority. In some Western countries women have only recently obtained the right to vote.

Marriage, Divorce and property laws and regulations

Laws regulating marriage and divorce continue to discriminate against women in many countries. The criminalization of adultery has been criticized as being a prohibition, which, in law or in practice, is used primarily against women; and incites violence against women. Equal rights for women in marriage, divorce, and property/land ownership and inheritance are essential for gender equality. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has called for the end of discriminatory family

laws. In 2013, UN Women stated that "While at least 115 countries recognize equal land rights for women and men, effective implementation remains a major challenge".

Social and Ideological aspects

Gender mainstreaming is described as the public policy of assessing the different implications for women and men of any planned policy action, including legislation and programmes, in all areas and levels, with the aim of achieving gender equality. According to the Council of Europe definition: "Gender mainstreaming is the (re)organization, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making."

In many countries, the problem lies in the lack of adequate legislation, in others the principal problem is not as much the lack of a legal framework, but the fact is that most women do not know their legal rights. The United Nations Development Programme states that, in order to advance gender justice, "Women must know their rights and be able to access legal systems".

The way women are represented in the media has been criticized as perpetuating negative gender stereotypes. The exploitation of women in mass media refers to the criticisms that are levied against the use or objectification of women in the mass media, when such use or portrayal aims at increasing the appeal of media or a product, to the detriment of, or without regard to, the interests of the women portrayed, or women in general. Concerns include the fact that all forms of media have the power to shape the population's perceptions and portray images of unrealistic stereotypical perceptions by portraying women either as submissive housewives or as sex objects. The media emphasizes traditional domestic or sexual roles that normalize violence against women. The vast array of studies that have been conducted on the issue of the portrayal of women in the media have shown that women are often portrayed as irrational, fragile, not intelligent, submissive and subservient to men. Research has shown that stereotyped images such as these have been shown to negatively impact on the mental

health of many female viewers who feel bound by these roles, causing amongst other problems, self-esteem issues, depression and anxiety.

Conclusion:-



Male-Female equality is not a matter of just laws and policies but also mentality and social responsibility. When both sides feel interdependency and importance of each other, breaking the barriers of so-called socio economic values the equilibrium can be sustained. Male and Female equilibrium just not means a balance between adolescent gender but it is to be seen with no age bars. From birth to death and even after death, society must make sure the treatment given in the name of rites, rituals, traditions, cultures, ethnicity, etc. should be humanitarian. When the decisions are humanitarian it would always be balanced.

References:-

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