

GENDER EQUALITY

**A Step Towards
Women Empowerment**



**Ms. Meghavee Meshram
Dr. Muthmainnah**

Gender Equality

A Step towards Women Empowerment

Ms. Meghavee Meshram, India

Dr. Muthmainnah, Indonesia



EURO WORLD PUBLICATION

GENDER EQUALITY : **A Step towards Women Empowerment**



Ms. Meghavee Meshram
Dr. Muthmainnah

.....

- **Publisher**
Mr. Sujit Murmade
Euro World Publication
20/21, Quarter Road, Khar West
Mumbai-55, Mob. : 8788964826
- **No. of Pages :** 412
- **Date of Publication :** 15 March 2022
- **First Edition:** 2022
- **Composing & Printing**
Sivali Graphics, Nagpur
Mob : 7721809250
- **Price:** Rs. 1050/-
- **ISBN :** 978-93-94460-05-8

All rights reserved. No part of this publication should be reproduced, store in retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means: electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the editor in chief and the publisher.

This book has been published in good faith that the material provided by authors is original. As chapters are written by the authors independently, the editors and publisher will not be responsible for any plagiarism or any other related chapter issue. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of material, but the publisher and the printer will not be held responsible for any inadvertent error(s). In case of any dispute, all legal matters are to be settled under Nagpur jurisdiction only.

Human Rights: A Step Towards Gender Equality

■ Dr. Priyanka Suryavanshi

Introduction:

Human rights refer to freedom to life and liberty, freedom of expression, freedom of decision making for one's life, right to education and occupation, right to religion and marriage and many more. If we analyse women situation from the perspective of human rights we will see that the condition is critical. Many girls die before birth female feticide is violation of fundamental right to live. The patriarchal society curbs so many young girls from the right of good nutrition and education. A society evil as child marriage snatches the right to enjoy their childhood. Patriarchal society often bars women from their right to choose their life partners and further these partners bar the reproductive rights of women. The harsh reality is number of women do not have any say in reproduction decisions that actually mean they don't have right over their bodies. Further women find discrimination property rights, work and occupation. We find gender discrimination and disparity because the basic fundamental rights are being compromised as per women are considered. The condition of women needs to be analysed and proper steps needs to be taken to ensure basic fundamental rights.

Concepts of gender and society:

Gender role is a set of behavioral norms associated particularly with males or females in a given social group or system. It can be a form of division of labor by gender. Most societies have a gender/sex system, although the components and working of this system vary widely from society to society. Some see "gender role" as oppressive stereotypical expectations imposed by society. Liberal feminism argues women's unequal access to legal, social, political and economic institutions causes women's oppression. Their remedy advocates women's equal legal rights and participation in the public spheres of education, politics, and employment. Gender can be viewed as an attribute of individuals but as a system of meanings shaped by culture. Many people including providers of health & mental health care still use the term "Sex" when referring to gender. This use of the term can itself be a reflection of

Assistant professor; Department of Home Science, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language State Government University, Lucknow, India.

gender insensitivity because many stereotypes & biases have historically been associated with being of the male (or) female sex.

Gender roles have changed from being primarily determined by men in power to being more self determined. Networking & Collaboration with in & between genders and equal authority and reward at home and in the work environment are progressively more valued. Over the last 20 years monitoring and role modeling by women in leadership roles have become more highly valued as has companionship between throughout the life cycle.

Gender has both a practical & academic importance in many fields. Gender has social, cultural & psychological rather than biological connotations. One's gender can be determined in many ways ex: behavior. In most societies, for example humility, submissiveness etc are considered feminine behavior & women are expected to behave that way. Men on the other hand, are expected to be dominant, aggressive etc.

Gender Stereotypical Traits

Feminine	Masculine
Submissive	Dominant
Gentle	Aggressive
Homely	Outside Work
Emotional	Not Emotional

Other determinants of gender may include dress, gestures, occupation, social network & especially the roles played by the sexes in society.

A complicated set of socio-cultural practices where by human bodies are transformed in to "Men" and "Women". It refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female and the relationships between women, men, girls & boys. These attributes, opportunities & relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. Gender determines what is expected, allowed & valued in a women (or) a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources as well as decision-making opportunities.

Gender is a concept, which is used to refer to women and men. This term is used to convey the fact that in most cases; the social distinctions between men & women. For Ex: The positions they occupy, the roles they play and the social status they have are socially constructed and allocated.

Women and education:

Government is focusing on Education for all as women contribute 50% to the Country Development. India has made a considerable progress in this sector and with all the efforts the literacy rate grew to 74.04% in 2011 from

meager 12% in 1947. More focus and schemes are rolled out to increase it further. Female Literacy rate in India is different region wise. Urban has more female literacy rate than rural.

Kerala has the highest female literacy rate (92% as per 2011 census) whereas Rajasthan (52.7% as per 2011 census) has the lowest female literacy rate in India. States such as Uttar Pradesh (59.3% as per 2011 census) and Bihar (53.3% as per 2011 census). Literacy rate has direct correlation with the mortality rate and other key economic and socio indicators.

Research shows reason for low female literacy rate are failure of family planning programs, entire family and her has to bear hardships in life, high mortality rate, malnutrition and health problems, awareness issues of rights, government welfare schemes, negative attitude of parents towards the girl child and her education, poverty, poor facility at schools, lack of female teachers, number, distance and quality of schools in rural as well as urban India.

Women and work:

Fewer Women are Working in Rural most of them are handling household works, agriculture and daily labor. India's female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)—the share of working-age women who report either being employed, or being available for work—has fallen to a historic low of 23.3% in 2017-18, that's mean they are running the house and taking care of children. The most common jobs for urban women are of garment workers, domestic cleaners and self entrepreneur (Directors). Self-help groups and co-operatives as partners and had thus been recorded as directors or working proprietors, even as their activities, for the most part, remained confined to food processing and garment manufacturing, outsourced manufacturing work, typically characterized by low earnings, long hours of work and lack of any form of social protection." Typically female agricultural laborer or cultivator is limited to less skilled jobs, such as sowing, transplanting, weeding and harvesting,

According to United Nations Human Development Report only 32.8% of Indian women formally participate in the labor force, a rate that has remained steady since 2009 statistics. By comparison men constitute 81.1%. Estimated 52-75% Women in India involved agriculture labors are illiterate hence they cannot take more skilled jobs. Many Women are unpaid and lack of employment mobility and education make them vulnerable, dependents on the growth and stability of the agricultural market. As per The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5) only 25% women had worked in the last 12 months and were paid in cash. This reveals that one of the factor that is

economic independence which is required for equality is still behind and needs to be strengthened.

Women and health:

The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5), the fifth in the NFHS series, provides information on women health related different parameters. As we know that Anemia is one of the health issue that impacts majority women in India, the NFHS 2019-20 data shows that 44% of mothers consumed iron folic acid for 100 days or more when they were pregnant. In spite of various programmes and efforts from government for fighting anaemia the result is that not 50 % of the population had consumed iron and folic acid which is necessary. 57% women aged 15-49 years are anemic and 58% of girls aged 15-19 are anemic as per 2019-21 (NFHS-5).

Family planning method as female sterilization is 38.7% whereas male sterilization is 0.3% that shows the hard reality of reproductive rights variation among the genders. Still women suffer severely in reproductive health. Decision of bearing children, gap between children, method of family planning are the decisions which are related to her body and life in which she doesn't has an equal say.

Conclusion:

For a sustainable society and provision of human rights steps had to be taken to ensure gender equality and gender sensitization. When half of the population (women) are suffering from health issues as anemia and malnourishment and social evils as child marriage, female feticide, eve teasing, rape, domestic violence, no equal rights for property and inheritance, dowry and abuse then the society needs to think that dream of a sustainable society and human rights for all is a mirage. Ensuring human rights to women as to all humans is duty and necessity of present society. We have to realize as individuals, family, society and nation and as world. The issues pertaining to women are not limited to India but are present all over world in different forms of gender discrimination. Thus in this time of globalization there is urgent need to understand that ensuring human rights can only save the world and earth from destruction. Thus gender issues and issues of women who are the creators and an equal asset to sustain humanity. Unless and until we realize the importance of everyone in this eco system irrespective of power relationships it is tough to ensure human rights.

References:

1. Cloude Meillassoux, *Maidens, Meal and Money* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981)
2. [en.wikipedia.org > wiki > Women's_political_participation_in_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_political_participation_in_India)

3. http://rchiips.org/nfhs/NFHS-5_FCTS/India.pdf
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_agriculture_in_India
5. <https://www.livemint.com/>
6. <https://www.mapsofindia.com/my-india/society/low-female-literacy-rate-and-its-impact-on-our-society>
7. India's workforce is masculinizing rapidly 3 min read . Updated: 10 Jun 2019, 12:49 PM ISTRukmini S
8. J. M. Everett, Women and Social Change in India (New Delhi: Heritage Publishers, 1978) p.191
9. K. M. Kapadia, Marriage and Family in India (Bombay: Oxford University Press, 1958) p.252
10. Lorber, Judith. 2005. Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics, Third Edition. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company.
11. Michele Barrett, Women's Oppression Today (London: Verso, 1980) p.13
12. Neera Desai and Maithreyi Krishmaraj, Women and Society in India (Delhi: Ajanta Publications, 1987)
13. Ruchi Banthiya, From Historicity to Postmodernity (Jaipur: Rawal, 1994) pp.139- 143
14. Schulasmith Firestone, The Dialectic of Sex (New York: Bantam Books, 1970) p.38
15. Source: E&U Surveys of Labour Bureau
16. Supriya Akerkar, "Theory and Practice of Women's Movement in India," Economic and Political Weekly, Vol.XXX, No.17, pp.2-3
17. Table 1 information was given by Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment in written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.
18. Tong, Rosemarie. 1998. Feminist Thought. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
19. Vijay Agnew, Elite Women in Indian Politics (New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1979) p.61
20. Women Book-23-12-02.p65, Charles Bukowski (Author)
21. Women's political participation in India - Wikipedia



GENDER EQUALITY : A Step Towards Women Empowerment

“Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression” - Nelson Mandela

Gender equality is one of the most serious issues confronting the world today. Why there is sexual discrimination in the world, when biologically the genders are equal? Even though we live in a modern world of science and technology, we even now face global issues concerning the status of women and the use of technology that demonstrates equality by all means. The role of gender in the Indian judicial system, which has furnished this same world with just an ideal country that adheres to democracy and protects human rights. As just a result, this book is ideal for the overall sustainable development of the world for the social, economic, as well as overall growth of the community in particular and the world at large.



Prof. Meghatee Meshram is presently Doctoral Research Fellow and Assistant Professor of Social Work in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Social Work ,Morane, Dhule Which are affiliated to KBC North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India She has been involved in teaching for 12 years and attended several National and International Conferences or Webinars. She has contributed over a dozen articles in journals of National and International reputed journals. She is associated with many National as well as international Organizations,



Dr. Muthmainnah, is an Assistant professor at Universitas Al Asyariah Mandar in West Sulawesi, Indonesia.. She is now the Deputy Director of the Language and Character Development Institute at her university. In the current year, she is active as an international member, international coordinator conference, and international trainer. She is also on the International Board for Professors and Experts of the Scientific Innovation Research Group, Egypt (www.sirg.club), and the International Board of TEFL Kuwait (Member at Large) representing Asia. She is also a country head, an ambassador, an international reviewer, an editor board, and an

international advisory board of international journals, and she is also a country director for many international organizations representing Indonesia.

She is the winner of many awards, more than 90 awards in the world, such as: Outstanding Professor, Outstanding Leadership, Best International Influencer, Best Emerging Professor of the Year, International Award for Working Women, Best Speaker, SDGS Warrior, Best Global Outstanding Educational Innovation, etc. Her international achievements are as Doctor Honouris Causa from Lay he University and Candidate Doctor HC from the Philippines. She is also a member of the United Nations Volunteer Roster. She is on the advisory board of Indonesian Education Share to Care Volunteers. Her interests and her doctorate areas are developing instructional materials, ASSURE, TEFL, ICT in Education, and Cybergogy. She is ready for international collaboration and teamwork.



युरो वर्ल्ड पब्लिकेशन, मुंबई
EURO WORLD PUBLICATION, MUMBAI

ISBN 978-93-94460-05-8

