

Gender Inequality in South India

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Abstract

Despite a high growth rate and plentiful Government measures to encourage gender equality, the gender gap still levings in South India. Absence of gender equality not only restrictions women's admittance to properties and chances, but also exposes the life scenarios of the future group. Gender inequality has been a historic worldwide marvels a social development and founded on gender expectations. It is linked to kinship rules rooted in cultures and gender norms that categorizes human social life, social relatives, as well as promotes reduction of women in form of social levels. In the present paper an attempt has been made to examine the problem of gender inequality in South India, in this process, the paper not only discusses the extent, causes, fitness and consequences of the problem, but also suggests policy measures to reduce gender inequality in South India.

Keywords: Education; Gender; South India; Difference.

Introduction

We proud Indians of 21st century celebrate when a boy is born and if it is a girl, a muted or no celebrations is the norm. Love for masculine kid is so much that from the times immemorial we are killing our own girl children's 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 civilization of people with double-standards as far as our brashness towards women is concerned, our thoughts [1].

Reasons for Gender Inequality

Gender inequality has been a historic worldwide phenomena a human development and founded on gender expectations [2]. It is linked to kinship

rules rooted in cultures and gender norms that organizes human social life, human relations, as well as promotes subordination of women in form of social strata. Amartyasen highlighted the need to consider the social-cultural impacts that encourage gender variations in India, cultural influences service the preference for sons for reasons related to kinship, lineage, inheritance, identity, status and economic security. This preference cuts across class and caste lines and it categorizes against girls. In extreme cases, the discrimination takes the form of honor assassinations where families kill daughters or daughters-in-law who fail to conform to gender expectations about marriage and sexuality. When a women does not imitate to expected gender norms she is shamed and humiliated because it impacts both her and her family's honor and perhaps her ability to marry. The causes of gender inequalities are complex but a number of cultural factors in India can explain how son preference a key driver of daughter neglect is so prevalent. There are certain additional reasons for gender inequality

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- Dowry
- Marriage laws
- Bad approach
- Education level
- Tradition and culture
- Religion
- Empowerment

Childhood to Maturity and its Education

Education is not similarly attained by Indian women. Literacy for females stands at 65.44%, compared to 83.14% for males [3]. An underlying factor for such low literacy rates are parents' perceptions that education for girls are a excess of resources as their daughters would ultimately live with their husbands' families. Thus, there is a strong belief that due to their traditional duty and character as housewives, daughters would not advantage directly from the education speculation [4].

Economic Inequalities

The labour force contribution rate of women was 80.5 in 2013. Nancy Lockwood of Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest human resources suggestion with members in 140 countries, in a 2009 report wrote that female labour contribution is lower than men, but has been quickly increasing since the 1990s. Out of India's 397 million workers in 2001, 123 million were women, states Lockwood [7].

Over 50% of Indian labour is employed in agriculture. A majority of rural men work as cultivators, while a popular of women work in livestock maintenance, egg and milk production. Rao states that about 77 percent of rural women are engaged in agriculture, compared to 53 percent of men. About 37% of women are cultivators, but they are more active in the irrigation, weeding, winnowing, transplanting, and gathering stages of agriculture. About 70 percent of farm work was performed by women in India in 2004. Women's labour participation rate is about 48% in India's tea plantations, 47% in cotton cultivation, 44% growing oil seeds and 38% in horticulture [6].

There is wage inequality between men and women in India. The largest income gap was in manual ploughing operations in 2009, where men were paid ₹ 102 per day, while women were paid ₹ 56, a wage gap ratio of 1.86. For sowing the wage gap ratio reduced to 1.38 and for weeding 1.15. For other agriculture operations such as threshing and

transplanting, the men to female wage ratio varied from 1.17 to 1.38. For sweeping, the 2009 earnings were statistically same for men and women in all states of India.

Professional Inequalities

Different studies have examined the women in entrepreneurship roles and the attitudes and outcomes surrounding their participation in this informal economic sector. A 2011 study published by Tarakeswara Rao et al. in the Journal of Commerce indicated that almost 50% of the Indian population consists of women, yet fewer than 4% of businesses are owned by women. In fact, in terms of entrepreneurship as a job, 8% of total entrepreneurs in India are women, while the remaining 92% are men [5]. Another 2011 study conducted by Colin Williams and Anjula Gurtoo, published in the International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship describes women entrepreneurs face several barriers in the development of their work due to different features. Some of these barriers include lacking access to institutional credit which presents negative consequences in terms of expanding businesses. In addition, women in this realm may lack a formal designated space for their occupational work and can face gendered violence due to their more open presence in society. The other major challenge for women entrepreneurs is the type of actions performed in their occupational role. Often times, these actions may be quite limited, corresponding to traditional gendered roles, performing business ventures such as selling fruit or flowers at temples in India, which hinders the further development of women entrepreneurs beyond a positive point.

This study by Colin Williams and Anjula Gurtoo also gathered data in the form of personal meetings with various women working in an entrepreneurship realm. In the study, the categories of occupation among women entrepreneurs were defined as the following: home helpers, vendors, office assistants, and shop assistants. The findings from the study indicated that these entrepreneurial women did not consider job security to be an area of concern like some of their counterparts working in other industries. However, a primary concern for these women was the lack of alternate employment which initially prompted them to pursue entrepreneurial work, though economic benefits were slowly acquired after gaining a foothold in the industry.

Gender Inequality in Relation to Fitness

Immunization rates for 2 year olds was 42.7% for girls and 45.4% for boys according to the 2005 National Family Health Survey-3, indicating a slight weakness for girls. Malnutrition rates in India are nearly equal in boys and girls.

The male to female suicide ratio among adults in India has been about 2:1. This higher male to female ratio is similar to those observed around the world. Between 1987 and 2007, the suicide rate increased from 7.8 to 10.4 per 100,000, with higher suicide rates in southern and eastern states of India. In 2012, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal had the highest quantity of female suicides. Among large population states, Tamil Nadu and Kerala had the maximum female suicide rates per 100,000 people in 2012.

Gender Based Violence

Internal violence, rape and dowry- related violence are causes of gender violence. According to the National Crime Records Bureau 2013 annual report, 12,853 rape cases were described across South India in 2012. Out of these, 9,873 were dedicated by relative or neighbor, in other words, the victim knew the alleged rapist in 98 per cent of the cases. Associated to other developing countries, incidence rates of rape per 100,000 people are rather low in south India [8].

Other causes of gender violence comprise those that are dowry-related and decency killings. NCRB report states 5,245 dowry deaths in the south India in 2012. Honor killings is violence where the women's behaviour is linked to the honor of her whole family in extreme cases, family members kill her. Honor killings are problematic to confirm and there is dispute whether social activists are inflating numbers [9]. In most cases, honor killings are linked to the women marrying someone that the family strongly disapproves. Some honor killings are the result of extrajudicial decisions made by traditional community elders such as khap panchayats, unelected village assemblies that have no legal authority.

Conclusion

India has a long way to go earlier it can call itself a 'gender neutral' nation. However, no simple and direct solutions are available to minimize gender inequality as gaps are rooted in norms and in cultural and social practices and are further consolidated by poor infrastructure and service delivery. Possibly, the change will come only with awareness, cultural/fundamental reorganization, attitude shifting and through diffusion access to public provision delivery without discrimination on a gender basis. No rule, be it state or central, can by itself take long-lasting adjustment. Government establishments, the donor community, the private sector and civil society need to come together to act to close the gender gap, and a system of responsibility should be put in place to record the aid they provide.

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