International Journal of Applied Social Science
Volume 6 (5), May (2019) : 1221-1223
Received : 22.03.2019; Revised : 06.04.2019; Accepted : 22.04.2019

RESEARCH ARTICLE
ISSN : 2394-1405 (Print)

Gender Biasedness and Parliamentary Democracy in India

UDAY KRISHNA MITTRA[1] AND TANAY KUMAR PAL*[2]
[1]Associate Professor and [2]Associate Professor & Head
[1]Department of Commerce, Khalisani Mahavidyalaya, Khalisani, Chandannagar, Hooghly (W.B.) India
[2]Department of Commerce, Dr. Gour Mohan Roy College, Monteswar, Purba Barddhaman (W.B.) India

ABSTRACT

Abraham Lincon envisaged democracy as the Government of the people, by the people, for the people .The word 'Democracy' is not gender biased . But in practical field in Indian democratic scenario it is completely different. Under male dominated Indian society many laws in several times has been enacted in Indian Parliament to protect and prevent women from male domination . But in reality neglected women fail to enjoy the fruits of those acts which are enacted in the Parliament. "Children of today are the potentials citizens of tomorrow " but violence against girl child is wide spread day by day and has become a common phenomenon in Indian civil society. All most cent per cent of girls in India experience violence first time at their own home. We are proud Indians of 21st century rejoice in celebrations when a male baby is born , and if it is female baby, muted or no celebrations is an usual practice . It normally occurs because of son preference (due to some superstitions regarding the spiritual rituals in Indian society), illiteracy, poverty, lack of awareness and economic opportunities for the girls . At the beginning of her birth a typical conservative society tries to kill the female at the birth or before birth and if , fortunately, she survived we find various ways to discriminate against her throughout her life. They are manifested in various spheres like to healthcare, access to education, political representation without the support from male member behind her and access to land and labour market. In spite of several schemes for girls and women lounched by the central and state government like "Beti Babchao and Beti Padao" and "Kanyashree" and " Ruposhree" schemes are not properly able to uplift the social status of the Indian second category gender. Unless and until we uplift the Indian society flourish the mental development of the masses where the origin of such inequalities lie we cannot mitigate or at least minimise the gender discrimination in Indian Parliamentary Democratic set up from the social perspective

Key Words : Gender, Biasedness, Envisaged, Violence, Discriminate, Inequalities

INTRODUCTION

Gender discrimination in India recognises that men and women are not equal and that gender affects an individual's lived experience. These differences arise from distinctions in biological, psychology and cultural norms. Various international gender inequality indices rank India differently on each of these factors, as well as on a composite basis, and these indices are controversial. Gender biasedness and it's social causes impact India's sex ratio, women's health, their access to education and economic conditions. It is noticed that discriminatory attitudes towards either sex have existed in India for generations and affect the lives of both sexes. In spite of inclusion of few Articles in this regard in Indian holy Constitution which grant men and women equal rights, gender disparities remain prevailed in Indian civil society. Some argue that various gender equality indices place men at a disadvntage. However, when India's population is examined as a whole, women are at a disadvantage in several important ways.

India's problem :

Under male dominated Indian society number of laws and by-laws have been enacted in Indian Parliament to protect and prevent women from male domination.

How to cite this Article: Mittra, Uday Krishna and Pal, Tanay Kumar (2019). Gender Biasedness and Parliamentary Democracy in India. *Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci.,* **6** (5) : 1221-1223.

But neglected women fail to enjoy the fruits of those acts."Children of today are the potential citizens of tomorrow", but violence against female child is wide spread day by day and become a common phenomenon in Indian civil society. All most cent per cent of girls in India experience violence first time at their own home. Total picture will be clear by citing United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2013. Out of 187 countries on the gender inequality index, India ranks 132 lower than military captured Democracy Islamic republic Pakistan (123).The report gave utterance all countries in South Asia, with the exception of Afghanistan, were greater place for women than India, with Sri Lanka (75) outstrip than all. In this regard the rank position of Nepal and Bangladesh are 102 and 111, respectively. Gender Biasness is especially tragic not only because it deny access to women from elementary social opportunities, but also because it painfully jeopardize the life anticipation of future generations.It is estimated that women perform 2/3rds of the world's work, yet they only earn 1/10th of the income, and own less than one per cent of the world's property. Only 17% of world's elected government leaders are women. In India it is reported that only 11% members in Lower House (Lok Sabha) and 10% members in Upper House (Rajya Sabha) are women.

Causes of Gender Biasedness in India:

Patricentric Society :

The genesis of gender biasedness in Indian society rests in its patriarchy system. According to famous sociologists Sylvia Walby, patriarchy is "a system of social structure and practices in which men dominate oppress and exploit women". It is an age old cultural heritage of Indian society. The patriarchy system is a sanctioned all over India irrespective of religious faith and belief and prevailing casteism. For instance as per ancient Hindu Law giver Manu, "women are supposed to be in the custody of their father when they are children, they must be under the custody of their husband when married and under the custody of her son in old age or as widows. In no circumstances she should be allowed to assert herself independently.

Son Inclination :

From early age of human civilization it was put in place that parents preferred birth of a male child than a girl child. For more than 100 years the Indian census has shown a marked gap between the number of boys and girls, men and women. This gap, which has nationwide implications, is the result of decisions made at the most local level family. Common perception is that the preference of sons is motivated by economic, religious, social and emotional desires and norms that favour males and make female less desirable. Parents look for sons but not daughters to provide financial and emotional case, especially in their old age; sons add to family wealth and property while daughters drain it through dowries. Additionally, sons are often the only person entitled to perform funeral rights for rites for their parents. Thus a combination of factors has shaped the imbalanced view of sexes in India.

Dowry:

Dowry is nothing but a property transferred by the bride or on her behalf anyone else, to the groom or groom's father and their marriage. Initially it was started out of desire to get the bride's family to contribute a share of the costs involved in setting up a new household. Now, in India, dowry is the payment in cash or some kind of gifts given to bridegroom family along with the bride compulsory. The practice is common Irrespective of geographic area, class and religion. This offensive a system contributes to gender inequality in India by influencing the perception that girls are a burden of families.

Illiteracy :

Illiteracy is the origin of all kind superstitions prevailing in the present society all over the world. Illiterate masses think male is superior than female and they are more powerful and intelligent with the grace of almighty God. Therefore, at the very childhood as per advice of her parents or great grandparents a girl started to vow for their dream groom. Naturally, the groom will predominate over the girl who becomes his official wife.

Poverty :

Poverty is the main curse of modern society. Being poor a father desires to wed his daughter at early age due to his inability to maintain her properly and for the fear of wide spread violence against girls and women in present society. At that age the girl doesn't assess herself and totally ignorance about the complexity of her conjugal life. At her infatuation stage she either willfully or forced to marry a strange person selected by her parents. After

the passage of few months she will face acute gender inequality in her in-law's family at every step of life.

Legal and Constitutional Safeguards against Gender Biasedness :

Article 15 of the Indian Constitution provides for prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sex also apart from other grounds like religion, race, caste or place of birth. Article 15 (3) empowers the state to make any special provision for women and children. Directive Principles of State Policy of our Constitution bestows diverse facilities which are for the benefit of women and provides preventive measures against discrimination. In this regard numerous Legislation have also been passed by the Parliament to get rid of the exploitation of women and to grant them equal status in society. Some of the enactment are outfitted below :

- Special Marriage Act (1954)
- Divorce Ac (1955)
- Right to Inheritance Act (1956)
- Dowry Abolishment Act (1961)
- Equal Remuneration Act (1976)
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act (1986).
- Pre-Natal Diagnostics Technique's Bill (1994)
- Harassment of women Act (1998)
- Insertion of section in I P C (1998)
- Domestic Violence Act (2005)
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention Prohibition and Redressal Act (2013).

Remedies :

(i) Decades after decades numerous legislation have been made in Indian Parliament to reduce the discrimination of gender biasedness but no positive response has yet been secured from the Indian civil society. It will only be achieved when the male species of human beings has changed their traditional mentality and would start treating women as equal and not sub-ordinate or weaker to them.

(ii) To fight against their own fears and go out in the world's fearless women empowerment process has to be developed and make it more advance that can become themselves economically independent and self reliant.

(iii)Strategies for advancement of women should be higher literacy, more formal education and greater employment opportunities. In education it needs to be reducing primary and secondary dropout of female child.

(iv)In governance all rights and all legal measures should be available for women's protection and support.

(v) Individually, no political party or leader, no NGO, and even no enactment of Constitutional Provision could abolish the hindrance of gender inequality from the Indian static civil society unless and until the value of mother in family and status of women in the society uplifted and to establish a real Democratic society in India.

Conclusion :

To resolve the evil effect of gender biasness our esteem focus should be to show and tell an unceremonious modern society in both thought and action. Both men and women coming a strong feet to eradicate social problem of gender inequality in India. Collaborators such as NGO, INGOs, SHGs, CBOs, policy makers, local leaders, information disseminators, healthcare providers, teachers and family members should help in the social advancement of women. To enjoy equality of status and opportunity our Indian women should be responsible as well as accountable to their assigned duties and tasks in their own family as well as the society as a whole.

REFERENCES

Larsen, Mattis, Neelambar Hatti, and Pernile Gooch (2006). Intergenerational Interests, Uncertainty and Discrimination.

Muthulakshmi, R. (1997). *Female infanticide, its causes and solutions*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.

Report on the State of Women: India", Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics. Retrieved 31 March 2014.

Sharma, Sheetal (2015). Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. *Kurukshrtra : A J. Rural Development*, **63** (5).

Srinivasan, Padma and Gary, R. Lee (2004). The dowry system in Northern India: Women's attitudes and social change. *J. Marriage & Family.*

The Dowry Prohibition Act,1961". Retrieved 24 December 2006.

Yogendra, N., Sahu, S.N. and Lakshmi (2015). Political Empowerment of Women. *Indian J. Public Administration,* **LI** (1).

****