

**National  
Seminar**

The New Miraj Education Society's  
Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Miraj (Maharashtra)

**Special Issue**  
1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020



The New Miraj Education Society's  
**Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Miraj**

One Day National Multidisciplinary National Seminar  
On

# Emerging Trends and Issues in Social Sciences

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020

**Organized by**

Department of Economics, Geography, History, Political Science,  
Psychology, Sociology and Physical Education & Sports

**Editor**

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**VIDYAWARTA** Peer Reviewed International Refereed Research Journal  
ISSN 2319 9318

Impact Factor: 7.041(IJIF)



Date of Publication  
01 Feb. 2020

# vidyawarta<sup>TM</sup>

International Multilingual Research Journal



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विद्यावार्ता: Interdisciplinary Multilingual Refereed Journal Impact Factor 7.041(IJIIF)



207

<b>National Seminar</b>	<b>The New Miraj Education Society's Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Miraj (Maharashtra)</b>	<b>Special Issue 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020</b>
-------------------------	---	--

57	Dr. Bhausaheb B. Adamane Dr. Aaparao Gaikwad	Tratak Yojana Physical fitness of malnourished childrens and Nutritional problems in rural community of Latur district	203
58	Prof. H. G. Patil	How Media publicizing Sports and Anaysis on Performance	207
59	Prof. Abinav Auradkar	A Study of the nature of the Indian constitution : Unitary or Federal ?	211
60	Dr. Raju Kalmesh Sawant	Emerging Trends in Indian Federalism	214
61	Dr. Shabana G. Halangali	21 <sup>st</sup> Century and Gandhi's view on Technology : Contemporary Relevance	217
62	Mr. Ramesh S. Kattimani	A Compative Study of Family Planning and Birth control Attitude amang Married People	221
63	Mr. Mihir Umesh Inamdar	A Critical Analysis of Recidivism in India : Criminological Perspective	225
64	Dr. Hatekar T. K	A Study of Man and Women inequality in Indian Society	229
65	Smt. Mukta R. Patil	Brain Based Learning Approach in Education	234
66	Mr. Nishat Eqbal	Diffrence in Aggression of working and non-working woen during early and late middle age phases	237
67	Smt. Sapna Gholap	Role of non government organization of women psychological empowerment.	241
68	Mr. Swapnil Kamble	Smart Phones, internet and gender : A study of smart phone use and convergence of communication	244
69	Miss. Mane Nutan Namdev	The effect of Mobile phone addication on emotional intelligence among college students	247
70	Dr. Ashwini P. Patil	Emotional Intelligence and well-being among college student in Urban area	250

## A STUDY OF MAN AND WOMEN INEQUALITY IN INDIAN SOCIETY

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For centuries women were discriminated and ill-treated by men. Women were considered as inferior to men and viewed as a sub-ordinate to men, ignored, neglected, forced to house hold activities and to be as a good mother. No biological, psychological, or economic fate indicates the figure that the human female presents in society: it is civilization as a whole that produces this creature, intermediate between, male and eunuch, which is described as feminine. Gender inequality may be defined as discrimination against women based on their sex. Women are exploited, degraded, violated and discriminated at various place. Discrimination against women is everywhere across the world and more so in Indian society. Gender discrimination is varying from one community to another

### **GENDER INEQUALITY:-**

Gender Inequality is difference between men and women in different types of social, Psychological, mental & political, cultural and legal aspects.

This problem is simply known as gender biasness, which in simple term means the gender stratification or making difference a male or a female. According to the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report (2013), India ranks 132 out of 187 countries on the gender inequality index- lower than Pakistan (123). The report states that all countries in South Asia, with the exception of Afghanistan, were a better place for women than India, with Sri Lanka (75) topping them all.

### **Types of Gender Inequality: -**

According to Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen (2001), seven types of gender inequalities at present in India. Here is a brief explanation of all the types of gender inequality.

1. **Employment Inequality:** - In terms of employment as well as promotion at work women often face greater handicap than men. This is explained as men getting priorities in getting better work opportunities and pay scale than their female counterparts.
2. **Mortality Inequality:-** In this, gender inequality directly involves matters of life and death, and takes the harsh form of unusually high mortality rates for women and a consequent preponderance of men in the total population, as opposed to the preponderance of women found in societies with little or no gender bias in health care and nutrition.
3. **Natality Inequality:** - In this kind of inequality a preference is given to boys over girls. It is passionate for the male dominated societies and these manifests in the form of parents wanting their newborn to be a boy rather than a girl. With the availability of modern techniques to determine the gender of foetus, sex selective abortions has become common in India.
4. **Ownership Inequality:** - In many societies ownership of property can also be very unequal. Since ages the traditional property rights have favoured men in the most parts of India. The absence of claims to property can not only reduce the voice of



women, but also make it harder for women to enter and flourish in commercial, economic and even some social activities.

5. **Basic-Facility Inequality:** - Even when demographic characteristics do not show much or any anti-female bias, there are other ways in which women can have less than a square deal.
6. **Special Opportunity Inequality:** - Even when there is little difference in basic facilities including schooling, the opportunities of higher education may be far fewer for young women than young men. gender biasness in higher education and professional training can be observed in India.
7. **Household inequality:** - There are often enough, basic inequalities in gender relations within the family or the household, which can take many different forms. Even in cases in which there are no overt signs of anti-female bias in, say, survival or son-preference or education, or even in promotion to higher executive positions, the family arrangements can be quite unequal in terms of sharing the burden of housework and child care.

### **HISTORY OF GENDER INEQUALITY**

If we take ancient India, an Indian woman was in the position of high admiration and was pronounced as maata (mother) or Devi (goddess) in the Vedas. Same as Manusmriti, woman was considered as a precious being and in the early Vedic age, girls were looked after with care. Then practice of polygamy improved the woman position and in the medieval period, the practices of dowry system, and sati system came into being. But with the passage of time, the status of woman was lowered. After the development of science and technology, female feticides is being practiced by large number of people .This has also led to a drop in the female ratio.

According to 2011, it shows that Kerala represent the highest sex ratio with 1084 females per 1000 males while Haryana represents the lowest sex ratio with just 877 women per 1000 males. Then the dowry became popular and also it was the starting period of female infanticide practices in few areas. Since 1980, a sex-selection phenomenon has been takes place in India . Then the urbanization since the 1990s where people are wealthier but at the same time there's pressure to produce sons as an inheritor, so educated, wealthy families are now more likely to have sex selection. These factors are coming to play and creating this toxic mixture, which has turned violence against women into a bigger issue now a days. The origin of the inequality has been always the male dominance. Their dominating nature has led women to walk with their head down. In the case of a woman's reservation in parliament, the most of the people from opposing parties thinks that women are born to do- household tasks and manage children and family. In many parts of India, women are viewed as an economic and financial liability despite contribution in several was to our society, economy and by their families. The crime against women is increasing day by day. Domestic Violence, Rape, Sexual harassment, molestation, eve-teasing, forced prostitution, sexual-exploitation, at work places is a common affair today. So, it's an alarming issue for our country.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Jayachandran, S. (2014)**, has presented the roots of gender inequality in developing countries. This paper also discussed the several mechanisms through which the economic development could improve the relative outcomes of women & gender gaps can be reduced as country grows. **Thomas, R.E. (2013)**, has highlighted his paper with the state of gender based inequality in the modern India. It has presented gender inequality with the help of some



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facts & figures and representing the inequality practiced in India & its comparison with other Asian & Western countries.

**Chaudhary & Sarkar, D. (2012)**, has tried to find out some factors i.e. educational status, work participation, level of gender inequality, of the Cooch Behar, a district of West-Bengal, India and suggested some relevant strategies implication for reducing this gender inequality to promote the deprived women of this district.

**Raju, E. (2014)**, has examined the gender discrimination in India on the basis of demographic, social, economic and political context. The paper has broadly discussed the issue of gender inequality, women empowerment & reproductive health among women of India. Some measures under taken by the International and national organizations were also discussed in this paper. **Rustagi, P. (2005)**, has concluded the weal potential of economic growth & increasing women's economic participation towards eliminating gender inequalities in income & wages, unless supported by concerted efforts at altering attitudes towards women's role & contribution that are harboured by different agents within the labour market.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- 1) To identify the factors which are responsible for gender inequality.
- 2) To give suggestions to reduce gender inequality.

#### **FACTORS BEHIND GROWING GENDER INEQUALITY**

There are so many factors which are fully responsible for gender inequality in India. These factors are as follows:-

#### **ECONOMIC FACTORS**

1. **Labour participation:** - There is wage inequality between man and woman in India. A substantial number of women enter the labour market after thirties, generally after completion of their reproductive roles of child bearing and rearing.
2. **Access to credit:** - There are large disparities between men and women in terms of access to banking services. Women often lack collateral for bank loans due to low levels of property ownership and micro-credit schemes have come under scrutiny for coercive lending practices.
3. **Occupational inequality:** - Women are not allowed to have combat roles in military services. Permanent commission could not be granted to female officers because they have neither been trained for command nor have been given the responsibility in India.
4. **Property Rights:** - Although women have equal rights under the law to own property and receive equal inheritance rights, yet in practice, women are at a disadvantage. The Hindu Succession Act of 2005 provides equal inheritance rights to ancestral and jointly owned property, the law is weakly enforced.
5. **Women's inequality in proper inheritance:** - Women are insignificantly deprived of their proper inheritance culturally and religiously as well. The religious constitution doesn't give women equal inheritance; there is a segregation of giving the property to women as they will not be given the property as men can have. Though Islamic constitution permits women having at least half of the property as man, society is reluctant to give the desired property to women let alone giving the equal share.
6. **Employment inequality:** - Some common inequalities that take place in the workplace are the gender-based imbalances of individuals in power and command over the management of the organization. Women are not able to move up into higher



paid positions quickly as compared to men. Some organizations have more inequality than others, and the extent to which it occurs can differ greatly. In the workplace the men usually hold the higher positions and the women often hold lower paid positions such as secretaries

### **SOCIAL FACTORS**

1. **Education:** - The female literacy rate in India is lower than the male literacy rate. According to census of India 2011, literacy rate of female is 65.46% compared to males which are 82.14%.
2. **Health:-** On health issue, the gender inequality between women's and men's life expectancy and women live compared to men in good health because of lots of violence, disease, or other relevant factors.
3. **Patriarchal Society:** - Most of India has strong patriarchal custom, where men hold authority over female family members and inherit property & title. It is the custom where inheritance passes from father to son, women move in with the husband & his family upon marriage & marriages include a bride price or dowry.
4. **Dowry:** - The dowry system in India contributes to gender inequalities by influencing the perception that girls are a burden on families. Such belief limits the resources invested by parents in their girls and limit her bargaining power within the family.
5. **Gender-based violence:** - Gender-based violence such as rape, sexual assault, insult to modesty, kidnapping, abduction, cruelty by intimate partner or relatives, importation or trafficking of girls, persecution for dowry, indecency and all other crimes are practiced on women. These crimes show the high degree of inequality in India.
6. **Women's inequality in decision making:** In India, Women have less authority than men to legal recognition and protection, as well as lower access to public knowledge and information, and less decision-making power both within and outside the home. This is also one of the reasons for inequality in gender.

### **CULTURAL FACTORS**

1. **Old age support from sons:** - A key factor driving gender inequality is the preference for sons, as they are deemed more useful than girls. They are supposed to support the old age security of their parents.
2. **Patrilineality system:** - It is a common kinship system in which an individual's family membership derives from and is traced through his or her father's lineage it generally involves the inheritance of property, names, or titles by persons related through one's male kin.
3. **Role of sons in religious rituals:** - Another factor is that of religious practices, which can only be performed by males for their parents' afterlife. Sons are often the only person entitled to performing funeral rights for their parents.
4. **Son Preference:** - Boys are given the exclusive rights to inherit the family name and properties and they are viewed as additional status for their family. Moreover, the prospect of parents "losing" daughters to the husband's family and expensive dowry of daughters further discourages parents from having daughters. There is a strong belief that daughter is a liability.



**LEGAL & POLITICAL FACTORS**

According to the Constitution of India, both men and women are equal in the eyes of the laws and hence they have equal rights. But, unfortunately, legal & political bias has prevented the law to attain the success of equality in gender. This is another reason for inequality in gender.

**ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION: -**

From the above factors, we can interpret that economic, social, cultural, legal and political factors are responsible for gender inequality in India. The needs of the day are trends where girls are able not only to break out of the culturally determined patterns of employment but also to offer advice about career possibilities that looks beyond the traditional list of jobs. It is surprising that in spite of so many laws, women still continue to live under stress and strain. To ensure equality of status for our women we still have miles to go. Man and Woman are like two wheels of a carriage. The life of one without the other is incomplete.

**SUGGESTIONS: -**

For reducing gender inequality in India, we should offer high level of education to girls and increase women empowerment. We should also give them opportunity in active politics & social activities so that social integration in Indian society can be made. In context of above NGOs can also play an important role to eradicate Gender Inequality. Politicians should frame out policies for increasing social welfare development regarding this issue. The Campaign of our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" can be successful, when the mindset of Indian society will be changed towards women.

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