

Gender Equality & Social Transformation

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Recent Trends

- Women -led development witnessed in every sector
- Each day new sector is opening to women including services in defense sector and particularly in combat role
- In Government as well as in private sectors, there is no discrimination against women in employment & obligatory to have women as directors /members of the board
- In national , state and local self government number of female representation is increasing and many posts are reserved for women

Government initiatives

- Beti bachao beti padhao campaign has taken deep roots
- Drastic action against doctors, individuals attempting female feticide
- Female ratio has improved in adversely affected states including Haryana
- Special efforts to encourage SC/ST girls to continue in schools through scholarships
- Arrangements for loans to SC/ST women in public banks
- Houses in urban and rural areas with women as owners

Positive Impact

- Per centage of girls scoring high marks and passing in merit in increasing
- Number of girls participating in sports has improved substantially and many of them have brought medals making India proud
- President of India being woman from ST has sent soothing message to deprived sections that even a woman from ordinary background from ST can reach highest position in the country
- Number of women are working as judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts, Ministers, Vice Chancellors, administrators, police officers.

Drawbacks

- Percentage of school drop outs girls from eighth standard onwards is still more than forty percent in urban as well as rural areas
- Practice of child marriage is rampant in almost all parts of the country
- Very few girls have freedom of deciding whom to marry
- Incidents of honour killing by family members are reported from time to time
- Thousands of girls are reported as missing every year and they are not traced

Alarming pointers

- Incidents of gang-rape , rape and murder , molestation, are reported regularly
- Victims of sexual assault, financial frauds, cyber crimes through internet and social media are reported frequently
- Incidents of harassment in work places, on account of dowry are reported from urban as well as rural areas
- Harassment and neglect of elderly women is a cause of concern
- Several women admitted in mental hospitals and medically certified by psychiatrists as fit are not being rehabilitated

What is gender-bias?

- Gender refers to the socio-cultural definition of man & woman, the way society distinguishes between men and women and assigns them the social roles.
- Unlike sex, which is biological, the gender identities of women and men are psychologically and socially-which means historically and culturally-determined.
- Gender discrimination is visible in areas of education, health, economy/work, and political participation.

Important laws on women

- Constitution: Right to equality, government can make special provisions for women, life and liberty, fundamental duty to remove practices derogatory to the dignity of women
- Dowry prohibition Act
- IPC –dowry death, gang-rape, rape and murder, outraging women's modesty, eve-teasing
- Sexual harassment at work-place Act
- To curb sexual exploitation of women and children and to check flesh trade, Immoral Traffic (prevention) Act

Steps needed by authorities

- Gender audit should be conducted regularly to sensitize everyone on gender fair basis and implement these with gender sensitivity
- Encourage complainants to access justice and fight for their legal rights
- Treat every complaint seriously and document the same
- Conduct regular briefing sessions for every section under you and guard them against trusting anyone particularly family members, relatives, neighbours and friends who are potential perpetrators of serious crimes including rapes against women

Conclusion

- Earlier we realise the importance of being fair to women, encourage gender equality, and provide them
- The right to life
- The right to protection
- The right to development
- The right to participation
- We would be enforcing the human rights of women and achieve goals of societal transformation.

