

GENDER DISCRIMINATION AMONG GIRL CHILD

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ABSTRACT

The Constitution guarantees equality and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex. The Constitution guarantees the right to equality, right to life, prohibits discrimination and empowers the state to make special provisions for the girl child. The Government invoking these provisions have introduced various special measures. In consonance with this policy various laws have been enacted. The discriminatory provisions of law are being progressively reviewed. The National Commission for Women, the Department of Women and Child Development and the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women have reviewed various laws and recommended amendments to many of the laws with the objective of promoting equality and to amend discriminatory provisions. Despite the constitutional mandate of equal legal status for the girl child, the same is yet to be realized. The de jure laws have not been translated into de facto situation for various reasons such as illiteracy, social practices, prejudices, cultural norms based on patriarchal values, poor representation of women in policy-making, poverty, regional disparity in development, lack of access and opportunity to information and resources etc. The research paper provides the suggestion and betterment steps to discard girl discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

Gender is a common term where as gender discrimination is meant only for women, because females are the only victims of gender discrimination. Gender discrimination is not biologically determined but it is determined by socially and the discrimination can be changed by the proper and perpetuate efforts. Denial of equality, rights and opportunity and

suppresment in any form on the basis of gender is gender discrimination.

Half of the world's population is females. They are doing two-third of work of the total work in the world but received only one-tenth of the world's total income. Nearly two-third of the women is illiterates and they have possessed only one percent of the total world's assets. In the world only one-fourth of the families are headed by female. India is a male dominant society and gender discrimination is customized habitually. The gender difference in child schooling is one of the most fundamental problems. faced in developing countries. Where the initial enrolment rates at the primary educational levels and thereafter, the overall schooling outcomes at the subsequent educational levels are significantly lower for female children in comparison to male children. Even in some countries it is observed that the drop-out rates at the primary and secondary educational levels are far more for female children than male children. This leads to the debate, if there is any disparity in parental investment in children, if not then, why we observe the gender difference in schooling outcomes. Do we need any further clarification to understand this concept? In this paper, I am looking for the much discussed gender disparity in child schooling in India, while controlling for a range of other individual, household and community level characteristics and then, if

this is a manifestation of the intra-household resource allocation favoring the male child, using household fixed effects estimation model.

From web to death females are facing lots of discrimination against them. Some of them are

- Abortion of female gravida with the help of scanning. ☐
- Feoticide (By giving liquid extract from cactus / opuntia, giving raw paddy to new born female baby, by pressing the face by pillow or by breaking the female baby's neck)
- Not giving enough and nutritious food ☐
- Not allowing to go to school (Denial of education) ☐
- Not giving needy health care while in ill health ☐
- Early marriage ☐
- Eve teasing,
- Rape and Sexual harassment ☐
- Dowry
- Divorce,
- Destitution even for silly or without any reason.

Causes of Gender Discrimination

The causes of gender discrimination are ☐

- Educational backwardness ☐
- Caste ☐
- Religious beliefs
- Culture on the name of family history ☐
- Customs and beliefs ☐
- Races ☐
- Low income ☐
- Unemployment

- Society
- Family situation and Attitudes

Like male or even above them female plays important role in the family and national development. But her contribution is not recognized by the male dominant society.

Legislation for girl child

Ten recommended practical action plan by the national conference on status of girl child, held at Mumbai are-

1. No discrimination on the basis of sex and equal opportunities for girls as boys with stress on welfare of girl child.
2. Strict implementation of total ban of female feticide in all states and union territories.
3. Emphasis on creation of awareness on care of girl child e.g education, health care, legal status, etc through the local mass media programmes.
4. Improvement of nutritional status of girl child by mid day meal programme, special nutritional supplementation program, vitamin D supplementation program, etc.
5. Free education to all girls upto secondary school level in all the states of India.
6. Compulsory immunization to all female children .record of complete immunization should be a essential requirement along with birth certificate during school admission will increase the immunization status of the children.
7. Stress on health status and problems of female child during home visits to avoid negligence on care of female child by the family.
8. Revision simplification and implementation of child labour act and

laws pertaining to exploitation of children especially girls in regards to sexual exploitation.

9. Motivation for adoption of female child especially handicapped one needs to be stressed .Mass adoption should be promoted by voluntary organization.
10. Job opportunities for handicapped and socially deprived girls should be arranged by govt. And non govt. agencies.

Opportunities for girl child

Mahila Samakhya Program is a program that comes under the New Education Policy and was formed in the year 1988. This particular program focuses on the empowerment of the women who belong to the marginalized group.

National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) was started in 2003 to ensure access to education to girls who could not benefit from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Under this scheme model schools have been set up and it covers 24 states.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme was launched in 2004 in order to provide primary level education to girls. The scheme was especially designed for the underprivileged girls in the rural areas.

Even after so many programs and policies of the government, we are still lagging behind in providing education to the girl child. The problem here is not in implementation but in the level of commitment of people in general.

Balika samridhi yojana - The Balika Samriddhi Yojana started in 1997 is an important initiative of the government to raise the status of the girl child. The scheme's aims at changing the negative attitude of families

and communities towards the girl child, to increase enrolment and retention of girls in schools, to raise the marriage age of girls and to create income opportunities and activities. A series of incentives are incorporated into the Yojana, such as a gift of Rs. 500/- to the mother on delivery of a baby girl and the condition of an annual scholarship for the girl child education .

Ladli scheme – Delhi Ladli Scheme 2017 is a scheme under the Department of Women and Child Development, New Delhi. It invites application from girl child who born in the last 1-year and must be the resident of Delhi. The objective of this scheme is to empower the girl child socially, economically and also promote birth registration of girl child in Delhi. The selected child will receive INR 11,000 as a financial support.

Kishori shakti yojana – Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) seeks to empower adolescent girls, so as to enable them to take charge of their lives. It is viewed as a holistic initiative for the development of adolescent girls. The programme through its interventions aims at bringing about a difference in the lives of the adolescent girls. It seeks to provide them with an opportunity to realize their full potential.

This scheme is a redesign of the already existing Adolescent Girls (AG) Scheme being implemented as a component under the centrally sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. The new scheme dramatically extends the coverage of the earlier scheme with significant content enrichment, strengthens the training component, particularly in skill development, aspects aimed at empowerment and enhanced self-perception. It also fosters convergence with other sectoral programmes, addressing

the interrelated needs of adolescent girls and women.

Sukanya samridhi yojana – is a small deposit scheme of the Government of India meant exclusively for a girl child and is launched as a part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign. The scheme is meant to meet the education and marriage expenses of a girl child. The objective behind this scheme was to save the future of girl child. In India there is still a belief that having a girl means financial burden and this scheme is an answer to all such people with this insane mentality.

Beti bacho beti padhao yojana – Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is good initiative campaign launched by the Indian Government in the year 2015. The main objective of the scheme is to improve girl's welfare service efficiency and creates awareness about them among the general public.

According to the census, CSR was 945 girls to 1000 boys in 1991, 927 girls per 1000 boys in 2001, which go down to 918 girls per 1000 boys in 2011. Such a twisted ratio reflects pre-birth inequity as well as post-birth discrimination against girl.

To overcome this issue of declining CSR (Child Sex ratio) and women empowerment, Pradhan Mantri of India established a "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" Yojana on 22nd January 2015..

Nari sakti yojana – drought management could be effectively done under this yojan The Mukhya Mantri Nari Shakti Yojana is a comprehensive scheme with provisions of diverse and innovative schemes focusing social, economic and cultural women. The prime goal of this scheme is children and women affected by domestic violence besides setting up of women's

helpline, protection homes, short stay palnagar, constitution of self-help groups, promoting inter-caste marriage, nutrition capacity building. The main object of this scheme is development of children and affected by various factor.

Recommendations

1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which results in harmful and unethical practices regarding female infanticide and sex selection before birth;
2. Increase public awareness of the value of the girl child and at the same time strengthen the self-image, self-esteem and status of the girl child;
3. Improve the welfare of the girl child, especially in regards to health, nutrition and education.
4. Promote changes in negative attitudes and practices towards girls by encouraging and supporting NGOs.
5. Protect the girl child from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with her education, or to be harmful to her health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
6. Support non-governmental organizations, in particular youth centered non-governmental organizations, in their efforts to promote gender equality and participation of girls in society.

CONCLUSION

A nation or society, without the participation of females cannot achieve development. If we eliminate gender discrimination, girl child will deliver all the potentials, skills, knowledge to develop the family, the nation and the whole world. We recommend that a few pilot projects

may be taken up in different parts of the country, more particularly in those States where the level of gender discrimination is more acute. It is important to initiate such projects, because however much we may bewail the failure of the constitutional and legislative support systems to provide protection to the girl child, the harsh reality is that unless change occurs in society's own centuries old gender-discriminatory cultural attitudes and biases no governmental action can succeed by itself. It will be possible through the means of such projects to experiment with and test in live field conditions different approaches, in full collaboration with the community and families at large, so as to derive from the experience thereof actionable lessons on the most practical and efficacious means to alleviate these vexatious problems. There are numerous issues that call for new paradigms of action or strategic paradigm shifts. To mention a few.

How can the role of the family be reoriented and strengthened in improving the status of the girl child? How could public awareness of the value of the girl child be increased and her status, self-image and self-esteem strengthened? How could additional income generating opportunities and better livelihood options be made accessible 48 to women in the family? How could opinion be built against such gruesome and unethical practices of prenatal sex selection, foeticide and infanticide? How should families be made more conscious of the importance of better health care, nutrition and education for the girl child?

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