



# GENDER INEQUALITY AND EMPLOYMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

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**Abstract :** The status of women an issue of great concern to nineteenth century reforms in India. Their first efforts were directed against certain customs-sati, female infanticide and prohibitions and against widows remarriage-seen as detrimental to the status of women, later they tried to educate women and bring them into public life. By the first decade of the twentieth century a few Indian women were convinced that they needed an all-India women's organization, run by women, to deal with women's problems. Saraladevi Choudhari, the founder of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal (Great Circle of Indian Women's) in 1910 wrote the following critique of the male champions of the women's movement.

## Introduction

In this study an attempt will be made to analyse the different dimension of gender inequality. At the same time, it has been proposed in this study to explore the various aspects of empowerment of women in rural Bihar. They are the so-called social reformers. They advertise themselves as champions of the weaker sex, equal opportunities for women, female education and female emancipation are some of their pet subjects of oratory at the annual show. They even make honest efforts at object lessons in the above subjects by persuading educated ladies to come up on their platform and speak for themselves. But woe to the women if they venture to act for themselves.

In general, sociologists use the term sex to refer to the anatomical and physiological differences that define male and female bodies, Gender, by contrast, concern the psychological, social and cultural differences between males and females. Gender is linked to socially constructed notions of masculinity and femininity; it is not necessarily a direct product of an individual's biological sex. Some people, for example, believe that

they have been born into the wrong bodies, and seek to 'put things right' by switching genders part way through life, or following the lifestyle or dress of the other sex. The distinction between sex and gender is a fundamental one, since many differences in origin. Contrasting approaches have been taken to explain the formation of gender identities and the social roles based on those identities. The debate is really one about how much learning there is: Some scholars allow more prominence than others to social influences in analyzing gender differences.

Sociological interpretations of gender differences and inequalities have taken contrasting positions on this question of sex and gender. Three broad approaches will be explored below. First we shall look at arguments for a biological basis to behavioral differences between men and women. Next, attention will turn to theories placing central importance on socialization and the learning of gender roles. Finally, we shall consider the ideas of scholars who believe that both gender and sex have no biological basis, but are entirely socially constructed.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITRATURE :

Saraladevi Choudhurani A Women's Movement; The Modern Review, October 1911. In this book S. Choudharani explained the different aspects of gender inequality and empowerment of women. Women's Indian Association Report for the year 1930 1931,

(iii) By 1930-31, the Women's Indian Association claimed

sixty-seven branches, twenty-six centers and 4,000 members. Identifying Gender Backward District using selected indicator; Preet Rustagi, economic and political weekly, vol, xxxv, No 48, November 25 December 1, 2000.

The article identifies gender backward district among fifteen major Indian states- Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal- based on 13 gender sensitive indicators -such as demographic, educational, health related, socio-cultural and economic level of development, The assesses the relative levels of backwardness or development, ranking based exercise on individual indicators. The study limits itself mostly on secondary data from 1991 census, 270 districts have been taken into consideration. The study indicates female to male ratio (FMR) as a demographic variable. Female Literacy serves as basic indicator of educational status. The health related variable is mortality rate. The

data source used for the study is: the census of India, 1991, mortality estimates from Rajan and Mohanchandran (1988) and U. NFPA'S calculated data on fertility and female age at marriage. The paper undertakes detailed state and district wise discussion on each of the selected indicators under separate heads.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXISTING KNOWLEDGE:**

Gender inequality and empowerment of women are related issues. In this research work, it had been decided to highlight the issues and problems of gender in equality and women It is indeed contribute a lot of knowledge to the existing literature in rural women of Bihar.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Prime objective of this study is to establish the relationship between gender to gender inequality and empowerment of women. An important objective of this study is to explore the relationship between welfare majors and empowerment of women in rural Bihar. Another important objective of this study is to explain the relationship between education and empowerment of rural women.

In this study in has been decided to analyse the different aspects of gender inequality in rural Bihar.

### **HYPOTHESIS :**

In almost all societies, gender is a significant form of social stratification. Gender is a critical factor is structuring the types of opportunities and life chances faced by individuals and groups, and strongly influences the roles they play within social institutions from the household' to the state. Although the roles of men and women vary from culture to culture, there is no known instance of a society in which females are more powerful than males. Men's roles are generally more highly valued and rewarded than women's roles; in almost every culture, women bear the primary responsibility for child care and domestic work. While men have traditionally born responsibility for providing the family livelihood. The prevailing division of labor between the sexes has led to men and women assuming unequal positions in terms of power, prestige and wealth.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

For the study, Darbhanga district has been selected as study area. During the research work, field study will be conducted in the rural areas of this study. Interview method has been selected to collect relevant information regarding gender inequality and empowerment of women. To conduct interview method scheduled will be structured. Every question will be logically related with the central points of this research study. Besides interview and schedule several other some techniques will also be used. On the basis of observation methods case study method as well as life history method important data will be collected. Representative and adequate samples will be selected through the sampling methods. For this study secondary sources will be utilized.

## **Conclusion:**

Through the study makes no attempt to look at transition overtime and significance lies on its methodology that reinforces two points-one disaggregated analysis and second significance of looking at different aspects of gender development. The finding of the study concludes that no state or distinct exhibits a uniform pattern of backwardness or development in terms of gender sensitive indicators.

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