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Problems yield to Gender Discrimination in khati Jaati of Sehore District

Ms. Neetu Jalodiya

Research Scholar, School of social science, DAVV, Indore

Dr. H. L. Fulware

Principal of Raja Bhoj PG college Dhar M.P.

Abstract- Gender is a common term where as gender discrimination is meant only for women, because females are the only victims of gender discrimination. Gender Inequality, in simple words, may be defined as discrimination between women based on their sex. Discrimination is traditionally considered to refer to those negative and unfair actions meant to restrict or deny the equal treatment of individuals and groups. Discrimination is an unfair behavior that translates into practice prejudices This paper deals with problems which yield to gender discrimination in khati jaati of rural and urban areas of sehore district, and the effects and solution to gender discrimination. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. This study is empirical and exploratory in nature.

Keywords- Women empowerment, Discrimination, Education, Socio- economic problems.

Introduction- 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”. The above described position of women as per Manu is still the case in present modern day social structure. Barring few exceptions here and there, women have no power to take independent decisions either inside their homes or in outside world.

Women are generally perceived as empathic, intuitive, devoid of aggression, emotional, dependent, oriented towards group, not competitive, less ambitious, devoid of entrepreneurial spirit and as lacking the desire to be in a leadership position. By associating feminine characteristics with women and masculine characteristics with men (and successful leaders), women’s opportunities to climb the organizational ladder are limited.

Females are nearly 50 per cent of the total population but their representation in public life is very low. Woman continues to bear the major load of the household work. Her primary role is often viewed by the society as housewife. 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.

Savitribai Phule and her husband Jyotirao Phule struggled hard to make gender-equality ends meet. They started India's first school for girls. She taught the girls consequently, she is considered to be the first woman teacher in India. She encouraged the girls to move out for education and development. Slowly the girls were aware and went to school. Now girls are educated and at top positions in the society. Even though there is no objective reason for women to reach top management positions in an organization, women are prevented to reach those positions because of the discriminatory practices within organizations and societies.

Not only in education, in case of family food habits, it is the male child who gets all the nutritious and choicest foods while the girl child gets whatever is left behind after the male members have taken their meals or the food which is low in both quality and nutrition.

Research objective –

- 1 To study the major problems yield to gender discrimination in study area.
- 2 To analyze the effects and suggestions for gender discrimination in study area.

Research Methodology- The study is based on both primary and secondary data. This study is empirical and exploratory in nature. The primary data is collected through observation, and group discussion with the females of the khatai samajh. Therefore, secondary data is used from various sources such as Research Papers, Annual Reports, Websites and Madhya Pradesh census report, Journals, Government Websites, Newspapers etc. The data collected is analyzed and studied to reach conclusions and suggestions.

Discussion-

The main factors responsible for gender inequality in the study area are have been a late and incomplete convergence of capabilities where women and men have to be on equal footing as to education, health, and nutrition domains are the parameter for discrimination. The khatai jaati consists of patriarchy society where women are given no rights. A girl child at the age of 2-3 years is engaged to a boy of 4-5 years of age as per the wealth of the family. When it is time for kids to study there are given only the responsibilities of families, land and other family business which is to be further managed by the male member and girls are given responsibility to take care of household work and superstitious are filled in her mind. Only few girls could complete their education but they are also not allowed to move from houses to work or to be economically independent.

Table 1: Factors for Gender discrimination in society

Factors for Gender Discrimination	Respondant	Percentage
Religious belief	53	18%
Tradition & custom	32	11%
Negative thinking	50	17%
Traditional ideology	35	12%
Ignorance	27	9%
Conceptual difference	21	7%
Cultural difference	30	10%
Familiar difference	41	14%
other	6	2%
Total	295	100%

Source- data collected through primary survey

The above table shows that together there are many reasons responsible for the gender discrimination in which 18% of the respondents that religious belief is majorly responsible for gender discrimination. Tradition and customs and negative thinking also effects inequality in society, traditional ideology and ignorance towards development are considered to be factors which effects the respondents in the study area. Conceptual, cultural and familiar differences contributes in the families and society as well for this discrimination in the society. As the above table shows all the factors are responsible for this discrimination in society.

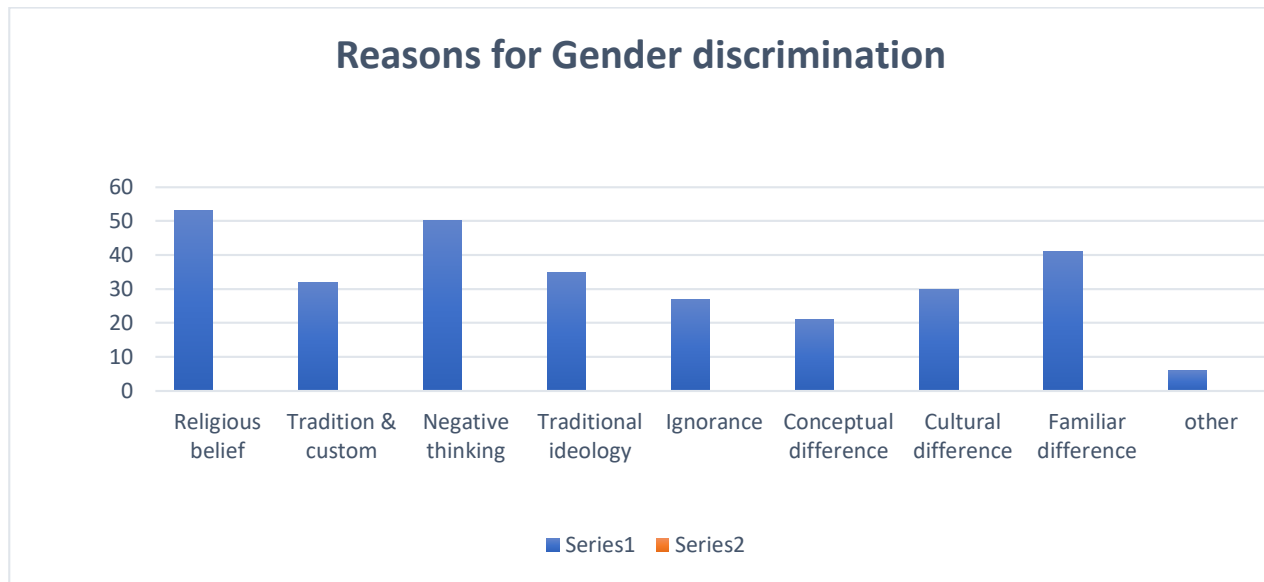


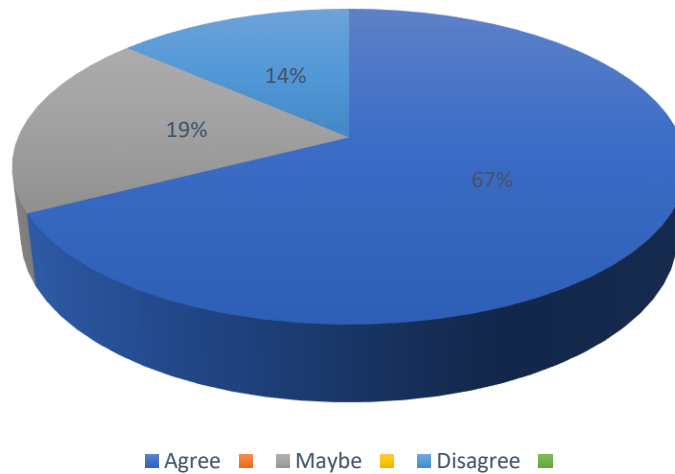
Table 2: Social and economic inequality in society

Social and economic inequality	Respondent	percentage
Agree	199	69%
Maybe	56	18%
Disagree	40	13%
Total	295	100%

Source- data collected through primary sources.

The above table show that for gender discrimination social and economic inequalities are responsible in society and respondents were asked if they agree with the same factor from which 69% of the respondents agree to the factors. 18% of the sample were not sure about the factors but agree that gender inequalities is seen in our societies and 13% of the sample who were very superstitious and believed in traditional ideology disagreed to the factors.

Social & Economic inequality



The major problems which yield to gender discrimination in study area:-

- **Family problem-** The society follows the patriarchy in the study area. All the important rights and decision making are given to male of the family as it is considered that male is superior part of family and always takes right decision for the family and the society. Girls are not allowed to move out of their houses for education, developing her skills and could not take any decision for her life.
- **Social problem-** As male is said to be dominant part of society is considered to take decision for females in the family as well as society. There are many practices in the society which does not allow girls to aware, take decisions, develop her confidence, ignorance, child marriages, poverty are the major issues which is faced in the rural society.
- **Economic problem-** In study area about 70% of the population belongs to rural areas where primary activities is majorly practiced by the people. Agriculture on lease, dairy, and other practice which does not provide financial assistance to the people. More than half of the population lies under poverty line as only male member of the family is working and females are not allowed to earn or work independently.
- **Educational problem-** As there are many factors together responsible for female education such as schools are outside villages, social constraint, poverty, gender inequality, poverty, early marriages, which do not allow girls to be educated.
- **Cultural malpractice-** there are many malpractice which is practiced on cultural basis, there are many myths and superstitious which is believed by the society and practiced on customary basis. Both male and female believe in cultural practices where early child marriages, polygamy, dowry, abortion of female feticide and many other realms are practiced.

Suggestion for eliminating women discrimination in study area.

1. **Education** - Education develops the skills, imparts knowledge, changes the attitude and improves the self confidence in both male and female. It provides employment opportunity, awareness and increases income level if females wants to be independent. Hence educating women is the prime factor to combat gender discrimination and for the upliftment of women. Not only the female, the society must be educated and aware to give equal right in society. As most of the population belongs to rural areas females are not allowed to move out of the rural areas, or develop her skills.

2. Employment - Employment provides the source of income and improves the economic position of the women. Employed women are given importance by the family members and society also. It is said that each and every women in the world is employed which is true but this work which is household work does not give the economic independence to the women and it is believed that it is the responsibility of a female to do household work willingly or unwillingly.

3. Economic Independence- In India, girls in the young age depends on her father, in the middle age she depends on her husband and in the older age depends on her son which is same in the study area. Woman always depends on male member for her livelihoods hence, independent in economical aspects are imperative for women's development specially in rural areas. Economic independence will provide freedom to the women from the slavery position and boost the self-confidence. Economic independence of women also helps in the nation's economic development.

4. Empowerment- Empowering women with the help of laws, education and employment will make the society to accept the women as an equal gender like male. Female also has all the potential and empowering women will help to use her full capability and mitigate the economic dependency of women.

5. Self-confidence- Due to prolonged suppression, women, an especially uneducated and unemployed woman hasn't had the self-confidence to stand for herself. Women need self-confidence to fight against all the atrocities and superstitious against her and to live self-esteemed life. Hence, boosting the morale and self-confidence of the women, is the key to eliminate the inferior complex of her.

6. Decision Making - Even in the family as well as in the society the decision making power of women is denied. Mostly males make the important decision in the family and in the society. This makes women as voice less and destroys herself confidence as females are also somehow responsible for this discrimination. Elder females does not give right to girls to take her decision and she feels less important in the family as well as in the society. So, to end gender discrimination women must empower with decision making power.

Conclusion- Indian society is inherited with male chauvinism but now the society has started to realize women's importance and has accept women's empowerment, women as an active agent for development, participation in and guiding her own opportunities. There are many reasons which effect the development, growth, and economic growth of females. Social and economic factors majorly cause gender discrimination. The evidence we gathered presents a rather gloomy picture, as gender discrimination seems to be still present in societies in 21 century, mostly affecting women that aspire to climb to the upper levels of the growth model. Last but not least, we encourage women to step up, strengthen their ambition and continue to strive for better and equitable representation in societies and every step of life.

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