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GENDER ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS OF A FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

Gender roles and expectations are rapidly changing scenario in India since mid 19th century. During the Pre industrialization period gender roles were handled out differently as compared to the on going era. Male dominated society existed in all the parts of India. Ladies were treated as burden and men were favored in the society. This scenario changed by the end of start of the 20th century through rapid transformations by the government. This article talks about the changes bought between the time period mentioned and what is the difference between the two. Different sources are used in order to compare the state of women in the society. The study of reforms has made it able to understand the improvements made in the society. The research tries to make new improvements with respect to the upliftment of women in the society that can help us to make the state of women better in the society.

Key words : Women empowerment , women remarriage , Sati pratha.

INTRODUCTION

Women are always treated below men . This scenario is not just seen in today's time but also have been in existence since the ancient India. The atrocities with women has a very significant impact on the social structure of the society. During the time of kings and queens women were considered to do the household jobs rather than working and helping in administrative systems. Practices like sati pratha, Jauhar, child marriage and no widow remarriage has have created a miserable life of women. The concept of sati is that when a woman

and her husband die, she should sit in the flames with her husband and burn herself to death. It was said to be her solemn duty to her husband. In ancient Hindu scriptures, it was believed that when a woman dies of sati, the doors of heaven will open directly to her. When we try to understand what Jauhar is in today's world, we come to know that it is only about mass murder, but in medieval times it was a Rajput custom where Rajput women sacrificed their lives for their men who lost in battle. Medieval India is well remembered for many circumstances, but one of them is child marriage. At that time, the birth of a little girl was a shame for the parents. They were considered a burden for the family, so the parents married them off as soon as possible. One of the reasons for early marriage was that the girls were considered as an honor to the family so as to prevent them from scandals they were married at a very young age. At that time, men thought that women were nothing more than marriage material, they were treated as material. That is why the birth rate increased, women suffered from very bad health, which is also the reason for the high mortality of women and babies. Treating women as material was common at that time. In the Middle Ages, being a widow was considered cursed, it was believed that if a woman remains a widow, she will cause decay and bring bad luck, after becoming a widow, a woman must leave all the comforts of home that her husband promised. Widows had no place in any holy or sacred ritual or place. They were not allowed to remarry. Since she had no choice to live a quiet life, she always wore faded white clothes and had to eat very special foods that only widows ate. There is evidence that in the past women had the opportunity to receive an education. But in the later Vedic period, the scenario changed completely, the scope of their education changed and they were taught all household chores. On one hand courses on Islamic religion visual arts was carried out. However, the suffering of women and girls never diminishes during this period. The struggle for women and empowerment in India today. As time passed, the society evolved with changes and women somehow got the opportunity to enjoy their rights and powers, but it was not available to all women in the society. At the beginning of this modern era of women and empowerment, many names appear under the East India Company in India. They were exceptionally brave women of that time like Begum Hazrat Mahal, Uda Devi and Azizun Bai and one of them is Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the awareness of women empowerment and its impact on the quality of a women's life through gender discrimination.
2. To study about the lifestyle of a discriminated women.
3. To offer suggestions for gender discrimination and women empowerment.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Various internal sources are used as a way to understand the scenario at that time. The case study method has been applied in order to fulfill the requirements of the study.

Annette conducted a study(2012) titled "Gender discrimination among construction workers and the means of empowering women construction workers". This study looked at how gender discrimination and problems at home and at work affected women's participation. The building sector in India is examined, along with the challenges experienced by women aspiring to become architects. This survey looked at 51 contractors, 440 male workers, and 440 female workers. The study's findings show that many female employees work as the sole provider of money for their families and are illiterate. Furthermore, harassment of female workers takes place at their residences.

Gupta & Sen (2003) conducted research on the employment of Indian women and other aspects of gender discrimination. The low percentage of women who work alongside males is one of the most common instances

of gender bias in the global labour market, according to the study's author. This study examines the relationship between gender discrimination and human progress. The degree of gender bias in all three dosages is a critical worry raised by this study, especially in relation to work market severance. studies on how rates of female labour force participation are affected by gender discrimination. This study analyses the central trend of gender discrimination divided in some way through measuring. Thus, the severance analysis. Thus, the study of severance indicates the raising the mean would be definitely being necessary for reducing gender bias.

Mukherjee & Rakhi (2015) carried out a study on gender inequalities in rural communities. An examination of the community development blocks in the West Bengali districts of Nadia and Haringhata. The idea of gender inequality or discrimination is founded on the productive and profitable roles that men and women play, and gender relations shape this discrimination in a variety of ways. The metaphysics of gender inequality frequently include more significant social change that is influenced by certain cultures. In the concept of rural society, gender discrimination has been examined in terms of both space and time in this study.

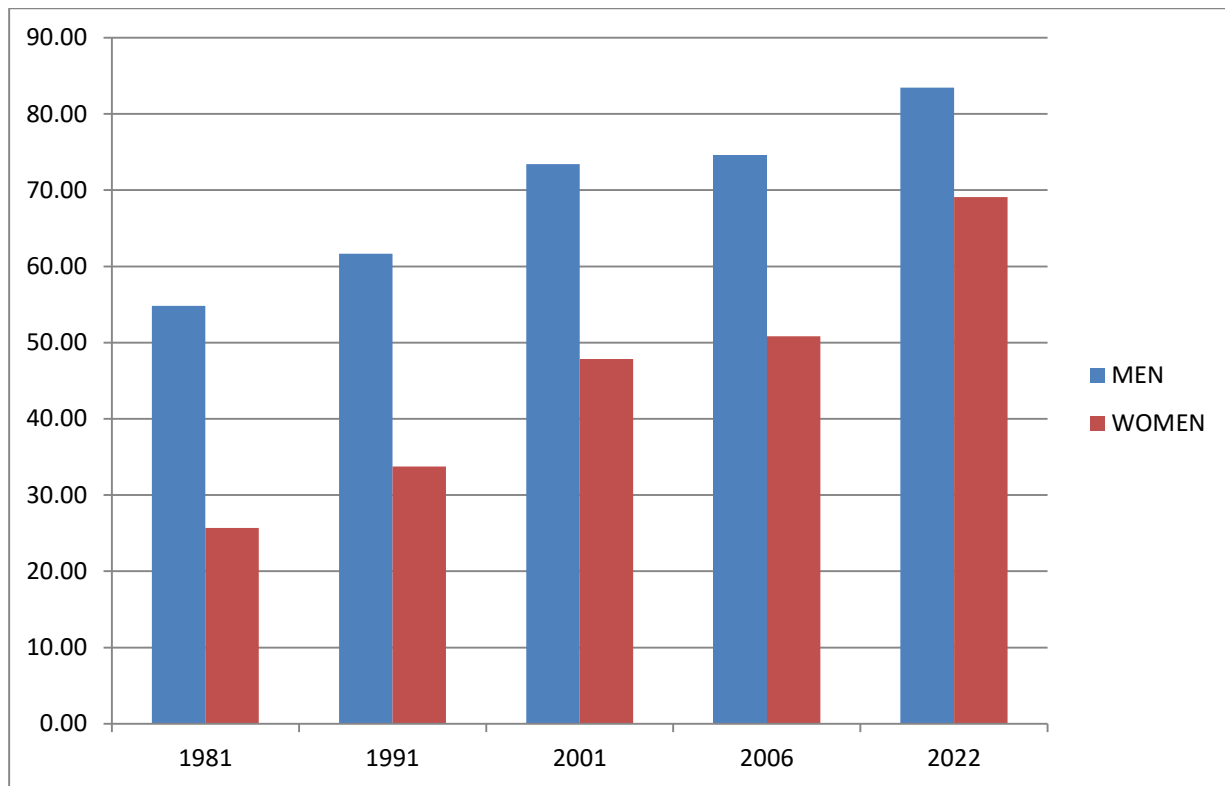
Nabavi (2013) conducted studies on the relationship between women's position and gender inequality. This study demonstrates how the position of women in Islamic society is clear and based on historical research. The status of Muslim women differs from country to country based on the influences of culture and society. Women's status and position are entwined with the definitions of discrimination and gender inequality. It is impossible to understand someone's position or status unless one understands the role that they play. In terms of operations, a woman's status or position denotes the obligations and privileges connected to her roles. Gender inequality leads to a lack of equality.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

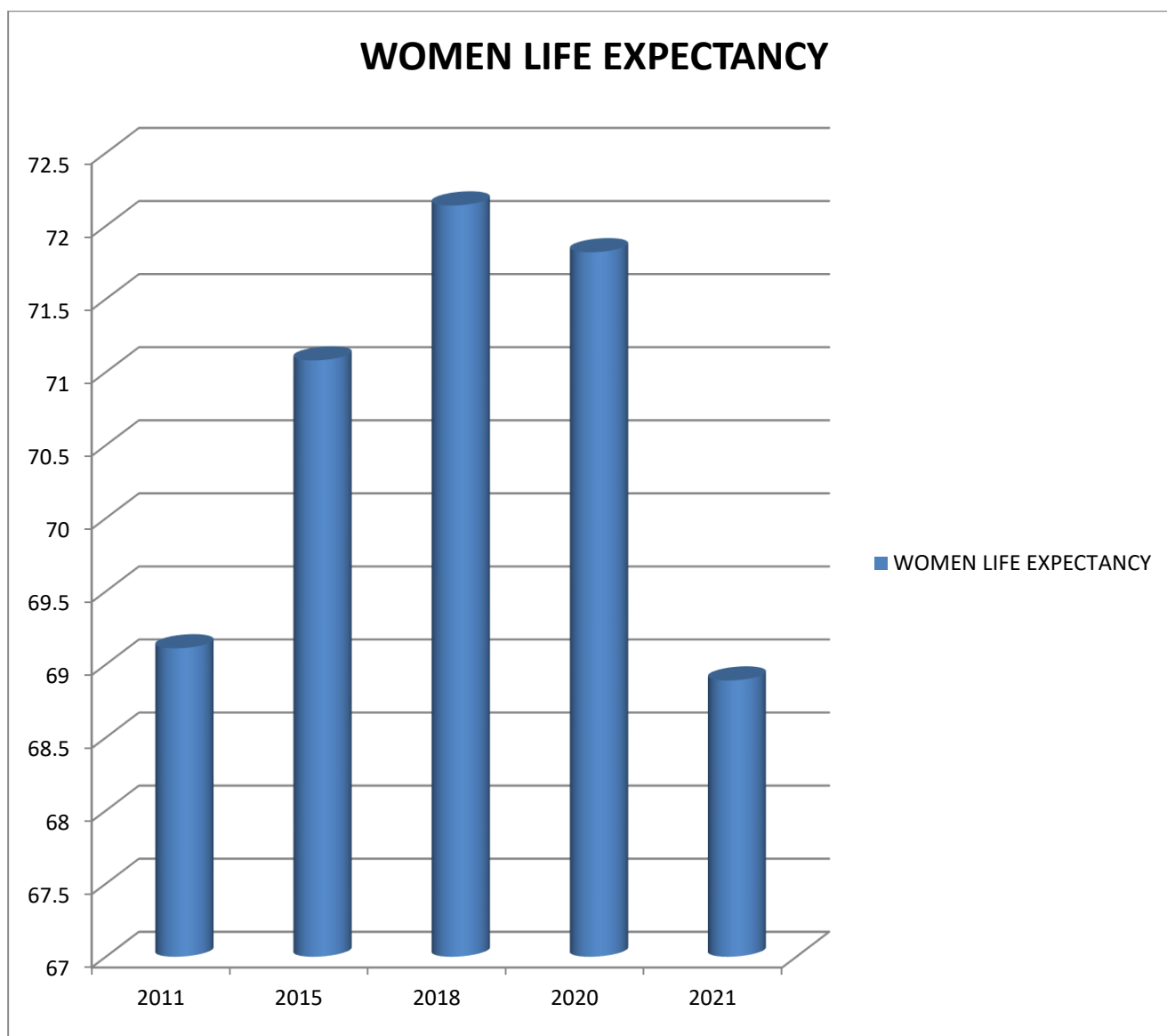
1. What effect does a woman have in her life through awareness program on women empowerment?
2. Do women are still facing discrimination in their normal lifestyle process?

METHODOLOGY

In the methodology we have compared the women according to the case study analysis. The below graph indicates illiteracy level in India.



The above graph shows the relation between women and men life expectancy since 1981 to 2022. This indicates that women is still not par as men even in 2022. But the state of women has been better since 1981. The reform resolution has changed the lives of women. The access to education has been increased in both men and women since 1980's. This has made country earn better human resource and the country is now able to renew the economy as a whole. The status of women needs to be addressed in order to make them be treated equally as men. In a society it is important that both men and women are equally educated so that they are able to enhance the overall performance of the family. Women and men are able to give equal contribution in the economy.



The graph describes the women expectancy ratio in India between 2011 to 2021. Women were always treated as a birth giving machine or marriage material since ages. This has lead to better conditions in women lifestyle and help them to achieve their goals. The women expectancy rate was maximum in 2018 and went minimum in 2021. This can be seen as one of the advent affects of covid-19. Women expectancy rate usually goes down because of high pregnancy rate, no sufficient nutrition and no access to medical needs. To reach the goal various reforms have been taken by the government in order to deliver justice to the women. The following acts are listed below which have helped in women empowerment:

- 1) Hindu Widow Remarriage Act, 1856
- 2) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929
- 3) The Hindu Women Right To Property Act,1937
- 4) The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
- 5) Dowry Prohibition Act , 1986
- 6) Protection Of Women From Domestic Voilence Act,2005
- 7) Ponso Act , 2012
- 8) Posh Act,2013

Each of the above mentioned act has been described in detail as to how they have helped the women in India. The series of revocations has been made in order to achieve the goals and regulations that we are living in today.

1. Hindu Widow Act, 1856

This act not only changed the live of the widows but also banned sati that was considered to be a ill practice of the early times. This step has helped the women in recovering from the miserable times they had to face. This act was passed under the British rule but has helped us to incorporate the society existence in a coherent manner. This outlook has helped women to indulge in remarriage after their husbands death.

2. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929

Earlier female children were made widows and had to live a life full of restraints. The widows had to wear white faded clothes and were not allowed to participate in any ceremonies or rituals. They had to eat special food and were not even allowed to enter the houses. Their existence was considered to be bad and they had to hide themselves from others. The children who became widows had to also follow the same procedure. Girls were married at a very young age and were treated as grown ups. Their entire childhood got uprooted and they were not even allowed to step outside the house without a male person. Male dominated society was seen at that time. This hampered the well being of women.

3. Hindu Women Right To Property Act, 1937

Earlier women were treated to be an extra member of the family. This made women have no right over the property of either the husband or father. With the reforming system the women was made eligible for attaining property from her husband. Even today there are parts of India where women is not considered to be having any share in the property.

4. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

The act's primary goal was to define and reform the laws pertaining to marriage between Hindus and non-Hindus. In addition to incorporating separation and divorce, which are already incorporated in Sastrik Law, it also codified and amended Sastrik Law. This ordinance brought legal consistency to all Hindu communities. There are religiously specialised civil regulations in India that regulate followers of particular other religions differently.

5. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1986

In ancient times kanya daan was considered to be a ritual followed in families. But with modernization people became greedy and used the brides family as a means to gain luxuries. These luxuries came to be known as dowry in legal context. Women were often asked to get dowry from their families house. If they failed to do so then they were tortured and even killed by their in laws. This act illegalized dowry and the strict actions were taken against the dowry death cases.

6. Protection Of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Women were considered to be husbands property and were allowed to be treated the way husbands wanted. This made heinous crimes to come into being, making the women life subjugated towards miserable conditions. Women were treated as slaves and were hit by their husbands with no outside or legal support. Most of the cases involved the husband being intoxicated and hitting the wife for no reason. This made the law intervene in between and making the domestic violence a serious crime to tackle out with.

7. Posco Act, 2012

The Indian government passed the Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 to protect children from sexual abuse and offences. The act defines a person as a kid if they are younger than eighteen. The severity of the offence determines the penalty under the POCSO Act.

In an attempt to deter criminals and end such crimes against children, the Act was reexamined and revised in 2019 to include harsher penalties, like the death penalty, for sexual activities against children. The POCSO Rules, 2020 have also been announced by the Indian government. According to Rule-9 of the POCSO Rules, the Special Court may, in suitable circumstances, grant an order for interim compensation to meet the needs of the child for relief or rehabilitation at any point following the registration of the First Information Report (FIR), either on its own or in response to an application submitted by or on behalf of the child. The child's interim compensation will be deducted from any eventual settlement.

8. Posh Act, 2013

India's historic Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013 (POSH Act 2013) aims to shield women from sexual harassment. Indian women are now empowered to demonstrate their autonomy and fight for their rights at work thanks to this law. The government has implemented measures to prevent and address complaints of sexual harassment, as well as to give women a safe and secure work environment, through this Act. This blog post will discuss the essential elements of the POSH Act of 2013, how it affects women, how difficult it is to put into practice, and how to enforce it.

The Indian government passed the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act, 2013 to safeguard women against sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace. The purpose of this Act is to protect women from sexual harassment in the workplace and to give them a safe and secure environment. The POSH Act was enacted by the Indian government in 2013 with the aim of addressing the issue of sexual harassment that women face in the workplace. This law aims to protect women from sexual harassment and create a safe and supportive work environment for them.

The above acts were enacted in order to provide a legal support to the women which has helped to decrease the discrimination but is still not par expectations.

FINDINGS

From the above research we are able to know the changing scenario of women and the improvements seen since ancient India. We are able to observe the changing environment which is provided by various provisions in the constitution. On the other hand, we are able to discover that the changes that were bought up are not sufficient enough. There is still a gap between men and women because of social obligations. The following are the suggestions which can improvise the status of women in the society:

- 1) Supporting organizations that empower women
- 2) Educate the next generation
- 3) Equal job opportunities
- 4) Equal family support
- 5) Motivate more women to accept positions as apprentices
- 6) Improve the atmosphere to support career development

The above methods can be used in order to give women the freedom they are entitled by giving them equal worth and equal opportunities. The scandals what we still witness can be avoided by taking the above mentioned clauses.

CONCLUSION

The document focuses on women and tries to analyze various fallouts that are still persisting in the society. It even focuses on the status of women in the ancient society. This particular document has tried to equip the women upbringing through various stages. It even tries to research about the reforms and all the acts that are implemented by the government. Various hindrances have also be forecasted with this document. The entire research majorly focuses on the solutions and problems faced by the women in the society. These suggestions can help to improve the status and make it equal to men.

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