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Gender Discrimination in India

Themes and Perspectives

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*For All Gender-neutral and
Gender-biased People*

This volume is mainly based on a collection of research papers on women and gender discrimination. We have touched and traversed new horizons on gender discrimination in the present volume. We are ever thankful to our energetic and enthusiastic contributors of this volume. Lastly, we are thankful to all of Manglam Publications in publishing this volume in time. Special thanks from us to Mahendra Yadav of Manglam Publications. We hope this volume would provide value and insights regarding the gender discrimination not only to the special readers of sociology or political science but also to the general readers at large.

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the condition of Indian women now. The various organizations and schools of thought that have emerged in India since independence will undoubtedly be included in this.

The Concept of Gender

According to the definition, the term "gender" refers to the classification of objects that approximately correspond to the two sexes as well as their respective characteristics. The biological and reproductive aspects of sex differences are frequently discussed, but gender is also influenced by social and cultural factors. In other words, gender is societal while sex is biological. One sex is given preferential treatment over the other, a practice known as gender discrimination. There is a widespread practice of socially valuing the biological distinctions between men and women. This applies to all societies, including Indian society.

The Various Manifestations of Gender Discrimination

Even though men and women are equal under the constitution, the disadvantages of women occasionally receive more attention and emphasis in society. This discrimination can be shown in many different contexts.

1. *Discrimination in the distribution of power:* Indian families tend to be patriarchal. Thus, they do not endorse the sex equality idea. Cooking, caring children, keeping the house clean, helping out family members etc. are all considered domestic tasks that belong to women. Rarely do men perform such tasks. But when it comes to asserting power, it is usually the male who does so.
2. *Socialization discrimination:* In our socialization process, discrimination against female youngsters is on the rise. Mothers in India favour having sons as children. Because they can safeguard their parents in their old age. This predisposition for men has resulted in the misuse of cutting-edge technologies. The purpose of using sophisticated scanning and super-

Still Behind Bars —A Study on the Status of Women in India

—Paramita Ghosh¹

Introduction

The Indian women really began to taken significant political and social significance in their nation after independence. The majority of women at independence were still uneducated, but they didn't let the flame in their hearts go out. They made a lot of progressive choices, like uniting themselves to fight for a different set of objectives. The objects were to achieve gender equality, increase work possibilities, change the laws that only partially benefited women, and build a society where women were not subjected to intellectual, physical or emotional discrimination. Notwithstanding the conservative view of their colleagues, women activists and concerned organizations were successful in focusing people's attention, even though their efforts were slow to achieve a real breakthrough. It gradually expanded to the lower rungs of the current political structure. Since that time, people have been frantically attempting to develop a new self-concept or self-identity that is wholly independent of the one that has been historically enforced. We must examine the history of the women's movement from the time of independence until the present in order to evaluate

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and adequate services to victims of abuse, as well as the prompt administration of justice, must all receive urgent attention. A collaboration between the state and civil society can be used to accomplish this. Lack of infrastructure, such as safe spaces for women, secure transportation, and adequate rest rooms, makes urban environment dangerous for women and girls.

Conclusion

At the federal and state levels, numerous programmes for the protection of young girls have been introduced. The initiatives, however, didn't provide the anticipated outcomes. The practice of gender biased sex selection persists despite the efforts of government, civil society organizations, NGOs, and the media to keep it at the top of the public and policy agenda. Here, it would be helpful to reevaluate the efficacy of the policies and techniques used to address the problems related to the missing girls. In conclusion, women have a higher status relative to other countries in independent India. Several of the issues that plagued the community of women for generations are no longer present. Child marriage, the 'sati' custom, the exploitation of widows, devdasi system, the purdah system have all but vanished. The way people view women has changed somewhat as a result of advancements in science and technology, universalisation of education, socio-political movements, modernization, and related factors. The morale and self-confidence of women were raised by these changes. Several of the women who were able to take advantage of the chances provided for them have demonstrated their ability to carry out the duties placed upon them in a manner comparable to men.

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