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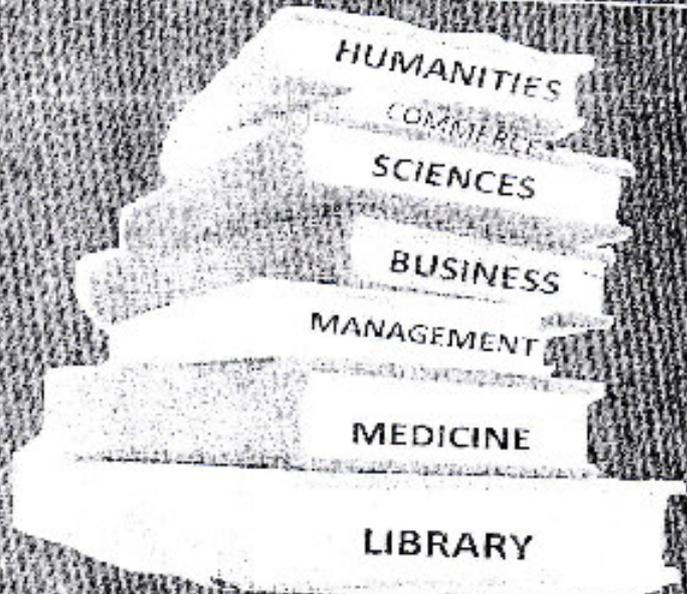
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Gender Discrimination and Human Rights**Dr. R.G. Suralkar**

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Abstract :

This paper is nothing but an attempt to throw light on the gender discrimination and human rights. In this paper an attempt has been made to point out the meaning of gender discrimination and human rights. In the same way the paper also focus on the history of human rights, gender mainstreaming, definition of gender inequality, gender analysis, causes of gender inequality, social inequality, wealth inequality, treatment and responsibility inequality, political inequality, life inequality, and membership inequality. We have seen that there is a strong commitment to equality between women and men in international human rights are based on the belief that everyone, by virtue of her or his humanity, is entitled to certain fundamental human rights.

Key Words : Gender Discrimination, Equality, Human Rights, Men and Women, Development

Introduction :

Gender equality is nothing but having equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for men and women as well as boys and girls. Gender equality states that the interests, needs and priorities of both men and women are taken into consideration identifying the diversity of different groups of men and women. Gender equality that provides a level playing field for men and women so that they have a fair chance to realize equal outcomes are a precondition for ensuring gender equality and human rights. Gender inequality has been a social issue in India for many centuries. In some parts of India, the birth of a child girl is supposed to be accurse. Hence we can say that the discrimination starts from girl birth. Sometimes girl child is also killed as a foetus. Hence for so many reasons, many girls across the country are forced to drop out of school. Gender equality denotes an element of interpretation of social justice, usually based on tradition, custom, religion or culture, which is most often to the detriment to women. The state maintains the framework of social order by implementation of various laws without which well ordered social life would not be possible.

History of Human Rights

The root of human rights lies in earlier tradition and documents of many cultures. In ancient time, peoples rights were based on their family income and status. In those days people got rights and responsibilities through their membership in a group. If we go back to the history, after King John of England violated a number of ancient laws and customs by which England had been governed, his subjects forced him to sign the Magna Carta. This document is considered as of great importance to history of human rights. It also established the right of widows, who owned property, to choose not to remarry, and established principles of due process and equality before the law. Human rights can be understood as the fundamental rights that a person cannot be denied by any person simply because he or she is a human being. In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which had 30 articles most of which had been drafted by Rene Cassin who



was later on awarded Nobel Prize in 1968. This has been the landmark in the history of the concept of Human Rights in the world. Non Blood Revolution of 1688 in England one of the most important event . It has been called as Bill of Rights Act. With this act , king of England accepted the rights of human being.

Gender Discrimination and Human Rights

The discrimination between men and women , birth of a boy and a girl continues in every aspect. Be it education, health, protection or participation the girl child is always treated unequally. Indian society still hasn't been awakened to the importance of empowering the women. It is the need of time to make a change in the mindset of the society and destroy the prejudice that damage the future of the girl child. What is required is a concerted effort to sensitize the society in eradicating this issue of gender inequality.

Gender is also an important term to understand in the context of gender identity. Gender identity reflects a deep felt and experienced sense of ones own gender, which may or may not conform with the biological sex one is assigned at birth. Gender identity is separate from sexual orientation, which refers to which sex one is attracted to, for instance, many transgender persons are heterosexual. Gender is also used to describe those characteristics of group of women and men which are socially constructed, while sex refers to those which are biologically determined. Gender analysis identifies and addresses inequalities and or differences experienced by different groups of men and women. With respect to health, opportunity, access to social places and political representation it explores the ways that norms, roles and relations may impact differently upon the health and social development of men and women.

There is an argument that the study of inequality in relation to gendered identities, relations and experiences must continue with, and further utilize, the relatively recent exploration of the study of men and masculinities if the theoretical analysis of gender is to be enriched, and inform the much needed focus on women's experiences alone. Optimism about the future of global gender equality must be cautious for two reasons. First is the obvious point that there is no guarantee that current trends will continue. Second, gender equality can be seen as a two step process that can be summarized colloquially as first get in the club.

Discrimination against the girl child starts from the mothers womb . The child is exposed to gender differences since birth and in recent times even before birth, in the form of sex- determination tests leading to foeticide and female infanticide. Education is considered as a means of development of personality and awareness. Basic education is crucial to alleviating poverty, reducing inequality, and driving economic growth. Young girls are denied even to have basic education. Despite the improvement in the literacy rate after independence, there continues to be large gap between the literacy levels of men and women. Gender inequality remains a big barrier to human development. Girls and women have made major stories since 1990, but they have not gained gender equity. The disadvantages facing women and girls are a major source of inequality. All too often, women and girls are discriminated against in health, education, political representation, labour market, etc- with negative consequences for development of their capabilities and their freedom of choice. Violence against women in the family can take the form of domestic violence or harmful or degrading practices that are violent to and or subordinate women. Discrimination can be linked to migrants, stateless persons, non-citizens and asylum seekers, members of minority



are especially susceptible to discrimination and intolerance, based on their gender, race ethnicity, religion and other distinguishing factors.

The GII is an inequality index. It measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development: reproductive health, measured by mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates, employment, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education, and economic status, expressed as labour market participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years older. Gender inequality can be further be understood through the mechanism of sexism. Discrimination takes place in this manner as men and women are subject to prejudicial treatment on the basis of gender alone. Sexism occurs when men and women are framed within two dimensions of social cognition.

Causes of Gender Inequality

Since many years, the world is closer to get gender equality. We see that some of the women are participating in politics. However, the World Economic Forum estimates it will take another century before true gender equality becomes a reality. Followings are the ten causes of gender inequality

- 1) Uneven access to education
- 2) Lack of employment equality
- 3) Job segregation
- 4) Lack of legal protection
- 5) Lack of bodily autonomy
- 6) Poor medical care
- 7) Lack of religious freedom
- 8) Lack of political representation
- 9) Racism
- 10) Societal mindsets

Conclusion

Human rights are those rights which are entirely accessible by every person as he or she is a member of human family. Human rights are based on the belief that everyone, by virtue of her or his humanity, is entitled to certain fundamental human rights. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and women. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy to make women's and men's concerns and experiences an integral part of the design, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of all sectorial policies and program, including health. The final goal is to achieve gender equality.

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