

(2)

(Gender Studies)

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Q. Discuss the global gender inequality created by globalization.

Ans.

Introduction:

The changing world order has marked the beginning of a new era in the world. Globalization is a relatively new concept but of utmost importance. This is because it is reshaping the world as we know it. Even though it has several positive impacts, there are several negative ones along with. Globalization should not only be seen under the lens of economic and social growth but also with the perspective of women and its effect on them.

What is Globalization:

Simply, globalization can be defined as the gradual elimination of economic borders and concomitant increase in international exchange and transnational relations. When the concept of globalization is discussed, it is imperative to note that it does not affect the socio-economic conditions only, but also

has an impact on the members of the societies.

• Global Gender Inequality due to Globalization:

women are already a grieving group of individuals who are neglected throughout the world. Without a doubt, globalization has improved the female lives. However, there are several contributing factors that have aggravated the issue of gender inequality as a result of globalization. These factors are discussed as follows:

(1) Global Political Crisis:

It is an age old tale that women are not given executive or parliamentary positions. Even today active participation from women at higher posts is missing. It is estimated that only 11% Asian women are part of executive or ministerial positions. Thus, it can be seen that globalization has severely highlighted gender inequality on political ground.

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(2) Globalization and Gender Inequality:

The process of globalization has widely contributed to gender inequality. According to Equal Measures 30, 2019 Index SDG Gender Index Report was published that showed 40% of women and girls belonged to countries with gender inequality.

(3) Inadequate Representation of Women as Litigators:

women in the governments in modern era are extremely underrepresented. This results in them not being heard and important issues being ignored. It was seen that only 24.3 percent of all national parliamentarians were women in February 2019. This number is seriously ~~less~~^{low} as compared to actual number of women.

(4) Socio-cultural Taboos:

certain cultural taboos, especially in the third world countries, are prevailing and spreading throughout the world as a result of globalization. People are encouraging and strengthening such ideas despite efforts to curb them. The group most affected by this are the females.

(5) Women and Health:

Globalization has resulted in remarkable improvement in provision of healthcare facilities. Despite the efforts of two decades, societies remain unsuccessful in providing fundamental healthcare to women. It is estimated that one third of the girl + women health issues during ages 14 and 44 are of sexual and reproductive nature. Moreover, sexually transmitted diseases still prevail in many women because these issues are considered taboo and not addressed. In 2013, almost 300,000 women lost their lives due to complications of pregnancy or child birth that could have been easily avoided.

(6) Eco inequality and Global economy:

Globalization has opened many doors for economic opportunities for women. New grounds for trade and trade markets are established for women. However, women have to face a lot of trouble in the form of gender inequality in the economic circle. ^{data by wrec shows} For example, women employment rate in ages 25-54 yrs is 63% where as for men it is 94%. This shows that despite globalization, gender inequality exists and is only taking a worse form.

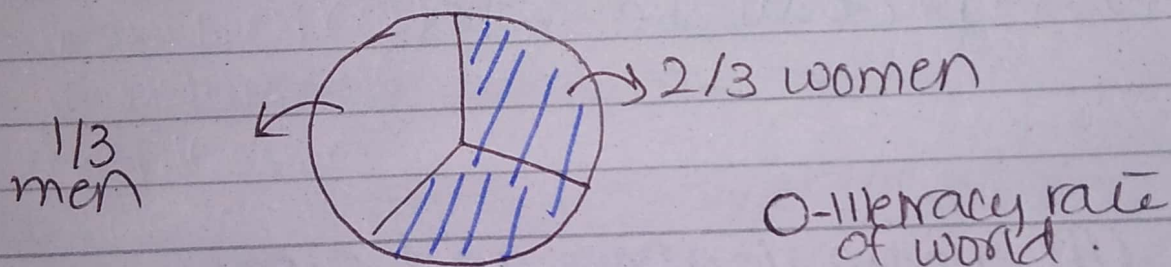
(7) Workplace Challenges:

women have had the privilege to enjoy certain changes that globalization brought along with. However, women have also had to face discrimination as a worker. A survey was conducted in ~~nineteen~~ nineteen countries of 4-20 that showed that 4 in every 10 women said that pay gap is their greatest concern followed by harassment, lack of promotion and lack of family and work balance. This shows that inspite

of new opportunities, women have to face discrimination.

(8) Female Illiteracy:

In this new world order, education is of utmost importance according to many countries. However, women are still deprived of this privilege even after the doors to education through globalization have opened. As per data, two third of ~~the~~ adult illiterates are women.



(9) Leadership and Governance:

It is notable that the women around the globe are extremely neglected for administrative roles. They are seldom appointed at higher roles. This creates a male dominance that exerts rules according to their needs, sidelining the delicate women. There are roughly 10% of countries only that are ruled by women.

(10) Feminization of Poverty:

Globalization has also created a great imbalance in poverty level. It is noted that almost 70% of the world's extreme poor are women. In another event, the World Trade reports show that around ages 20-34 years, women tend to be poorer than men. This is no coincidence that this aligns with the reproductive ages of women that shows that they are held back from employment due to reproductive roles.

(11) Globalization and GBV:

This fact cannot be denied that women have to face gender based violence all over the world in one form or another. However, globalization has created new and even more horrifying waves of GBV incidents. These include trafficking, prostitution or labour by force. According to government reports, in 2023, around 29,000 people were reported to be trafficked, 25,000 of which were women. Thus, it

can be observed that globalization opened a new portal of issues for women.

• Conclusion:

Globalization and its impacts are talk of the town. Where the world leaders appreciate economic growth and building trust and friendship, this cannot be denied that it has several negative implications. For women, they are once again the group at disadvantage. They may not be of the same caste, class or creed but are united under the umbrella of deprivation and discrimination. Hence, efforts should be made to address this grieved group.

Q - Differentiate between sex and gender.

Ans -

Introduction:

For a very long time the terms sex and gender have been used interchangeably. Theorists recognized the terms to be similar in nature. It was not until the 1970s that these terms were used to describe the same aspects of individuals. It was only after the feminist movement that a distinct line was drawn between the both terms.

Difference between :-

Sex

① Definition:

Sex is defined as the biologically determined difference between a man and a woman.

Gender

① Definition:

Gender is defined as the socially constructed roles, attitudes, attributes and activities of individuals.

② Nature:

Sex is biologically determined entity that systematically categorizes male and female based on chromosomal differences.

e.g. Male - XY
Female - XX

② Nature:

Gender is a socially and culturally constructed feature that defines identities based on gender roles an individual plays in a society.

e.g. Masculine or Feminine.

③ Natural:

Sex is based on natural characteristics and defined on the basis of anatomical, hormonal and physiological criteria.

③ Artificial:

Gender is relatively artificial in nature as it is based on the roles and attributes that are assigned to him as per societal rules.

④ Based on:

The understanding of the term sex is based on biological essentialism that is a deeply rooted belief that biological differences go far beyond reproductive organs

④ Based on:

Theorists and activists wish more a more fluid approach in structuring understanding of socially constructed roles in the context of affect of society, culture and



and hormones and involved in shaping all aspects of a person's identity.

biology in shaping the personality of an individual.

⑤ Universality:

Sex is a universal phenomenon that classifies people as male and female

⑤ universality:

Gender varies according to various cultures and mainly describes people based on masculinity or femininity.

⑥ Policies:

Policies are based on physical body i.e. identity.

⑥ Policies:

Policies are based on social construction i.e. male → aggressive

⑦ Fixed:

Sex is generally fixed and does not change over time and place.

⑦ Not Fixed:

Gender is not fixed and varies from time, place and from one society to another.

⑧ Categories:

categories people as man, woman and intersex.

⑧ categories:

no specific categories defined individuals

⑨ Narrow Approach:

Sex is generally narrower that is limited to male, female and shemale.

⑨ Wider approach:

Gender has a wider approach that involves various possibilities such as cis and trans etc.

Conclusion:

Sex and gender maybe used interchangeably but still are not synonyms of each other. A lot of in depth work by various theorists and activists has now made a clear cut difference between both terms. In Robert J. Stoller's publication 'Sex and Gender: The Development of Masculinity and Femininity', he highlights the difference between the two. Thus, it can be concluded that, even though sex and gender are similar, they are not same.