

Is Gender Equality a Myth?

OUTLINE

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need more
substantiative
paragraphs

Disparity in political power

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Men and women, originally mutually reinforcing binaries, have deteriorated into elements of a hostile competition. This competition clearly reflects signs of domination by men over women. Historically, gender roles complemented each other as it was essential for survival. Simultaneously, these roles did not exhibit rigidity.

Men having the role of hunters did not stick to hunting only, and but also performed the function of gathering and child rearing. Similarly, women being predominately gatherers were capable of hunting. ~~If hunting~~ ^{and gathering} are correlated with securing food supply, a similar trend of mutual co-operation is reflected across the animal kingdom.

As mankind evolved so did the gender roles and power dynamics. With agricultural revolution static societies emerged laying down the foundation of rigid gender roles. With further progress, the distinction between public and private grew further and so did the distinction between the rights of men and women. With

women confined to the private sphere, their asset ownership was also compromised. Lesser resource ownership translated into lesser agency in decision making. Biological differences further exacerbated this situation, greatly shifting power dynamics. The consciousness of power disparity led to a desire for power retention by men which led to establishment of system of patriarchy. Patriarchy extended into all domains of human life and produced a unique form of oppression against women. Only in last few centuries have a consciousness against patriarchy developed and called for gender equality. Multiple measures to achieve gender equality been taken, however, they have been inadequate. The disparity in social status, resource ownership, nutritional availability, health apparatus availability, decision making, security and climate implications, and crime affectedness reflect a persistent gap in gender equality rendering it nothing more than a myth.

A persistent disparity exists in social status of men and women across globe. It originates from

at the individual level i.e. consciousness of inferiority and vulnerability and extends upto higher levels of a society. These higher social levels further reinforce this disparity through the superstructure of patriarchy. Furthermore, contemporary social set-ups reflect social disparity through less inclusivity in decision making - of women - from nuclear family upto higher levels of social strata. Additionally, this trend reinforces women's status as a "second sex" across society, as identified by Simone de Beauvoir, a prominent Feminist scholar of twentieth century.

Social disparity is accompanied by economic disparity. Women across world show a significant lag in asset ownership. Furthermore, wage gap between men and women also noticeable across multiple societies. Additionally the socially internalized notion of man being the breadwinner deals a blow to the decision making agency of women, even if she earns more than the man. According to the United Nations Developmental Program (UNDP), women work twice the working hours as men but earn a tenth of men. Furthermore, the asset ownership stand below a hundredth; this trend is global in scope.

and distributes the entire human population by half.

Economic ownership disparity is followed by nutritional disparity across both sexes. ~~that ownership commands~~ nutritional ownership and this is supplemented by power dynamics; Men being awarded higher social role claim higher share in food supply and biological differences supplement this notion. This trend has been visible from centuries. Bertrand Russel in "History of Western Philosophy" has highlighted the difference in food allocated to Spartan men and women by nearly a half. In contemporary times this disparity is reflected in Women Empowerment Index (WEI). Nutritional parity taken as an indicator of empowerment between men and women was visible across the world. ^a UNDP report (2023) which showed a stark ten percent gap.

Nutritional disparity translates into health disparity. However, nutrition induced health issues in women are also accompanied by overall unavailability of health services across states such as Afghanistan, or inadequately available across most of the regions of the world. As far as nutritional imbalance

and its adverse affects on ~~most~~ women is concerned, ~~a third~~ percent of women across world suffer from anemia while the percentage of men suffering from anemia stands at around fifteen percent. Anemia is caused by iron deficiency. Similarly, lack of health services have also been quite visible across many states in under-developed world. Rooted in economic conditions ~~in~~ patriarchal norms women have suffered in child birth or in some accident. Recently, an Earthquake in Afghanistan left most of women affectees ~~dead~~ due to lack of female doctors, and subsequent reluctance of families to expose their women to male staff.

plz keep short
and well
directional

Technological uplift of the world has not benefitted women as it has men. A persistant inequality exists in availability of technology, ownership and usage between men and women. Rooted in socio-economic reasons, it encompasses the gadgets of daily usage such as kitchen appliances, vacuum cleaners and washing machines, and devices of communication as well. This technological disparity renders women dependant and sub-ordinate to men, ~~thus~~ thus reinforcing

patriarchy. According to 2024 report of World Bank, percentage of technology ownership ^{by women} across the world remained as low as thirty four percent. Furthermore the tech-literacy remained to thirty percent. The trend varied across regions with global North showing a higher percentage and global South showing quite a low score.

Another visible trend in gender inequality is the nature of jobs owing to social and economic reasons as well. Women across the world reflect a higher employment in pink collar jobs. This attitude is rooted in the perception of women being the care givers and nurturers. According to Project HOPE, the percentage of women in healthcare professions remained with highest being in nursing i.e. 77% and lowest being in surgery i.e. 6-11% where men stood upto ninety percent of staff. On the other hand the professions which command a perception of ruggedness and strength minimal women employment. Oil rigs in the north sea offer a handsome salary but have almost no woman employees.

ANSWER

Another similar disparity is visible in private institutions and enterprise. Not only women remain low at higher positions or at ownerships but also are limited to departments such as sales. ~~Apart from this the private enterprise reflects exploitative trends from work place harassment to low wages.~~ According to the data provided by Forbes (2025) there are only 406 female millionaires across the world out of 3028. Furthermore, percentage of CEOs across worlds remains as low as nineteen percent in 2024. This is a reflection of deep rooted gender norms, and stands a precursor to many other ~~such~~ systems of inequality and exploitation of women.

Educational disparity is not only a reflection of gender inequality but also leads to a number of ~~diving~~ consequences. The educational disparity is visible in educational availability, enrollment percentage, effective utilization, relative contribution to episteme and distribution of female students across different fields. In most of the world opportunities of

education are differently available to both men and women. The former have a greater opportunity as compared to the latter, owing to a number of socio-cultural reasons. The percentage of ability is further declined with enrollment and dropout rates. The similar socio-cultural elements influence the enrollment in STEM fields as well as their employment. Furthermore, a relative absence of women from episteme is quite visible. Afghanistan under the Taliban regime shows such trend where women are not only barred from education but also women writers are shamed, with their writing banned.

Women are mostly victims of crimes of co-ersion. These include honor killings, rapes, domestic violence and cyber harassment. Apart from this they are generally perceived as easy targets for theft, robbery and murder. As far as the threats of co-ersion are concerned, a notion of co-erative patriarchy is the most significant. Honor killings, rapes, domestic violence and cyber-bullying are the acts of co-ersion perceived by men as legitimate ways to keep the dissenting women in check. This dissent

may encompass a number of phenomena ranging from proposal rejection, career pursuit, marriage by choice or even a minor argument between the perpetrator and the victim.

Globally, almost 5,000 women are murdered in the name of honor everyday worldwide - according to the UNFPA.

Similarly, 370 million women have been raped globally according to a UNICEF report of 2024. The UNICEF has reported around 650 million cyber harassment incidents from bullying to revenge porn worldwide. Other crimes include acid attacks and forced marriages. Crimes against women are further exacerbated by a lack in slave enforcement and criminal justice system.

good use of data

Another indicator of gender inequality is relative distribution of administrative roles. Across the world women inclusivity in administrative roles remains quite low. It increases in developed states and reduces in the underdeveloped world. Furthermore, hard areas of administration remain sufficiently short of women. If India and Pakistan are considered, the female officers from Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS), and Indian Administrative Services (IAS) are not appointed in

volatile regions of Balochistan and Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK). Though, preventive and precautionary in nature, it has dire consequences for the general population of that region, as traditional conservative societies - which mostly inhabit regions of conflict - hesitate in approaching male staff in issues relating women.

law enforcement structures and judiciary also reflects similar trends of gender disparity. Not only does the law enforcement agencies reflect a disparity in work force, but also remain ill equipped in dealing with gender specific issues. Obviously ninety percent of rape cases remain unreported and ninety nine percent (99%) of rape cases remain short of conviction.

This is rooted on both internalized patriarchy within the institutions responsible for law enforcement as well as inadequate apparatus for evidence collection. Judiciary suffers from some issues, firstly there is less female staff, secondly there is either lack of evidence or loopholes in the law in women specific crimes.

such lengthy sentences do not convey any sense

Conflicts also effect women differently. Female prisoners of war across the world had been treated as exploits of war. With men either mured in the war or after it, women were mostly taken as war captives and were subjected to sexual assault.

Identifies post-conflict rapes and torture as state exhibiting coercive patriarchy. Aimed at eliminating a nation, rapes on a mass scale, as perpetrated by the government are mostly targeted at women. This has happened historically and continues till date.

According to Oxford Law Blog, 17,178 women were raped in Rakhine by forces of Myanmar in 2017 crisis. Similarly, around 109 women in ~~Am~~ Palestine were sexually assaulted by ^{the} Israeli soldiers since 2023.

Apart from conflict, climate disasters also affect women differently. Aspects of conservatism may render them far from basic medical attention as happened in the recent earthquake in Afghanistan. Furthermore, issues of sanitation, hygiene or child birth may exacerbate in these events of natural calamity. A prominent example is of floods in South

Punjab in 2022. In the aftermath of flood, among the flood affectees there were 650,000 pregnant women. Without any medical assistance and post-partum care, this was a chief example, which reflected a difference in degree of tragedy between men and women, and reflected an agency of gender specific actions to minimize the magnitude of tragedy.

All the previously mentioned disparities culminate into a disparity between men and women at a wider political level. Political disparity also reinforces other forms of social, economic, legal and demographic exploitation of women. Political set-up across the world reflects not only a sharp decrease in ^{women}legislators as well as women specific legislations. According to the Gender Empowerment Index (GEI) global average score in case of political decision making stands at 22.5%. Furthermore, the women specific legislations across the world remain either incomprehensive or inadequately. An example is litigations regarding marital rape. Mechanism of conviction as well as evidence collection in cases of marital rape

exhibit loopholes as well as exploitative in adequacies.

Absolutism, however, hinders the truth. Across the globe few societies have progressed quite well in terms of gender equality. ~~Scandinavian~~ state exhibit such a case where women are relatively empowered in domains of politics, education, health and economics. Furthermore, its inclusivity has arrived with multiple countries as well. Their economies have improved and an overall social stability is visible. Finland has a forty percent (40%) representation of women at parliament. Under Sanna Marin, the Prime Minister of Finland, around 3% economic growth was witnessed in 2022. Furthermore, Rwanda reflects another instance of political empowerment of women with percentage of women increasing from seventeen percent in 1994 to around sixty one percent in 2023.

Secondly, some regions have showed a clear distinction in women specific crimes. This decrease has come in the aftermath of a number of structural, institutional and cultural reforms. Kingdom of Spain reflects as the best example in this regard. Legislation was

made comprehensive by the Spanish government and its implementation was made objective and rigid. With a reformed law enforcement mechanism and judiciary the initial years i.e. 2003-5 reflected a high conviction rate, it was followed by a general decrease in violence against women by ^{in 2024} 25 percent.

Though gender equality has remained unachievable to the aspired standards, opportunities of improvement still exist. However, this requires a dedicated effort at all levels of human interaction. Foremost step in this regard should be consciousness raising. Common people should be educated regarding a collective effort of gender equality.

It should encompass both moral and practical aspects of life. Encompassing a revised, gender inclusive curriculum, gender inclusive pedagogy and encouragement of women contribution to episteme, this approach will provide a solid basis for gender equal. Example of Bangladesh, this regard is worth mentioning. An induction of "awareness" raising factor in their socio-political conduct. Education enrollment increased from 26% to 75% in 2023, among ~~the~~ Bengali women in around twenty years of educational reforms.

Educational campaign should follow an implementational campaign. This approach should encompass all major dimensions i.e. social, economic, and political ones. Starting with political dimensions, the political ~~process~~ process should become more inclusive for women. The number of voters should increase along with induction of a system of ~~women only~~ women only seats. Women specific legislation should be made a ~~prerogative~~ prerogative of women body of legislature. Furthermore, ~~subjected~~ legislation should be subject to approval ~~by~~ ~~the~~ women body of parliament to determine its implications for women. Followed by this should be a categorical implementation of the law.

The implementational campaign should follow the sup. supervisory campaign at international level. This would reflect a global commitment to resolving the issue of gender disparity. Thus, international institutions should devise laws and treaties, mediate stalemates, provide funds for women welfare programs, ~~or supervise states in their conduct~~ and provide punishment or rewards based on state's conduct with women.

In conclusion, despite global efforts to curb gender inequality, the world still remains of gender equality due to a number of socio-political and socio-economic causes. This disparity between men and women extends from individual level to global level.

Prominent indicators of global gender inequalities are disparity in social status, less inclusivity of women in decision making, asset ownership disparity, nutritional and health service availability, educational disparity, exclusion from governance and more women being more affected by co-ercive patriarchy. However states such as Finland and Rwanda have mitigated the gender gap and neared the boundaries of gender equality.

As there is always room for improvement, gender equality can be achieved by a systematic and dedicated effort.

This should feature awareness raising, reform and implementation by the government and supervision and regulation by international institutions.