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The Intersection of Race and Gender: How women of color experience Double Discrimination.

### 1- Introduction :-

**Thesis statement:** while all women face discrimination in a patriarchal society, the women of color face double discrimination because of intersectionality of race and gender. This discrimination can be ended by simultaneously treating both the ills.

### 2- Correlation between Race, Gender and Discrimination :-

### 3- How women of color experiences double discrimination :-

- 3.1) The problems of women of color vary from those of white women.
- 3.2) Voting rights are still an issue for women of color.
- 3.3) The political participation of women of color remains low as compared to white women.
- 3.4) Women of color are treated as second class citizens.
- 3.5) Women of color face many cultural challenges.
- 3.6) Women of color are still deprived of education rights.

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3.7) White women demand for abortion rights <sup>whereas</sup> health is basic health facilities are a challenge for women of color.

3.8) Poverty adds an extra layer to the discrimination of women of color.

3.9) Women of color face more workplace discrimination as compared to white women.

3.10) Women of color are subjected to intersectional invisibility.

4) Measures to end discrimination against women of color

4.1) Racial discrimination and women empowerment should be dealt simultaneously.

4.2) Equal representation should be given to all women.

4.3) Awareness movements to highlight the challenges of women of color.

4.4) Diversity should be embraced in a society.

5) Conclusion

When a white woman is raped by a black man, the news channels break the news as "A black man raped a woman" but when a black girl is raped by a white guy, the headline changes as "A black girl was raped." This shows that racial discrimination adds an extra layer to the discrimination of women of color. The issues that women of color face vary from those of white women. Even though white women got the voting rights during the first wave of feminism, black women were deprived of the right to vote. The political representation of women of color remains low as compared to white women. Black women are treated as second class citizens which adds to their ~~subjugation~~ subjugation. Apart from this, women of color face many cultural challenges and they are too deprived their rights such as education. Moreover, poverty adds an extra layer to the problems of colored women. At the workplaces, women of color face more hurdles and challenges as compared to white women. Moreover, women of color are a victim of intersectional invisibility. Therefore, a holistic approach such as dealing racial discrimination and women empowerment side by side can solve the issue of discrimination against colored women, women of color. Equal representation should be given to all women. Also, awareness movements can highlight the challenges of women of color. Therefore, despite all women face discrimination in a

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patriarchal society, the women of color face double discrimination because of intersectionality of race and gender. However, this discrimination can be ended by simultaneously treating the ill of racial discrimination and gender inequality.

There exists a close relationship between race and gender. Race adds an extra layer of challenge to the discrimination against, as it was highlighted in the work of a feminist Nancy Chadow. She through her intersectional approach highlighted that women of color face more challenges as compared to white women. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> waves of feminism were largely lead by white women who chanted the ~~long~~ slogans of "sisterhood". The idea of sisterhood was later on rejected by black women as they believed that there was a lot of difference between the problems of problems of white women and black women. Black women are less represented in every sphere of life and they are even considered as the second grade citizens.

Among the reasons because of which women of color face discrimination the very first one is that there exists a huge difference in the problems of white women and women of color. white women demand abortion rights, liberty, freedom and equal representation as the white men get. where as black women demand their recognition as citizens. Women of color face the issues such as

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poverty, lack of basic rights like education. Black women were treated as slaves when white women were demanding political rights in 1920s. At that time, even when white women succeeded in their struggle to get right of vote black women were not given the voting right. In fact, they were granted the right to vote after the black men were given this right. Therefore, there exists a difference in the demands of white and women of color.

Moreover, even after getting the right to vote, voting right is still an issue for women of color because of different socio-cultural factors intervening. In Pakistani society, women are highly dependent on their male counterparts and do not participate much in political or other outdoor social activities. The voting turnout of women was low as compared to the men in 2018 elections according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of statistics. This shows that women of color, face which are mainly women of third world countries have their issues embedded in socio-temporal contexts and they have to face more discrimination as compared to white women. Hence, it can be said that voting right is still an unresolved issue for women of color.

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In addition to this, the political participation of women of color remains low as compared to white women. Women of color not just have to compete with white men but they also have to compete with white women to get representation. Even in biggest democracies such as United States of America the representation of black or women of color is low. Among very few examples, one is of Kamala Harris who reached to the level of Vice President. She is the women and a first black women to reach serve as American Vice President. Apart from this, women of color has near to negligible political participation which is approximately 6% according UNICEF. So, the political representation of women of color is too low as compared to white women.

Women of color are too treated as second class citizens. Second class citizens are those who lack basic political rights. In a hierarchy in which people exercise liberty in any patriarchal society women of color are positioned at the lowest stage. The hierarchy goes on like white men, white women, men of color, and women of color, come at the last place. When women were given representation after their struggle to get rights most of the white women were seen in academia and black women were largely neglected. Immigrant women, which are brown or black face severe challenges because of language barrier etc. They even face discrimination from white women.

Hence, women of color are treated as second class citizens.

Furthermore, women of color face cultural challenges too. Women of color are usually women of third world countries like Afghanistan. These women face cultural challenges which are different from the challenges of white women. Males exercise most of power in families and women are not allowed to go out. Under the current Taliban government, women face severe challenges as they are deprived of basic right of education and are usually forced to stay at home. Such are the challenges of women of color which are not highlighted much internationally because these women do not get due recognition when it comes to gender discrimination as they do not belong to class of white women. Therefore, women of color are subjugated more because of the cultural differences.

Moving ahead, women of color face discrimination in the education sector. Their individuality is not respected in most cases. Because of different race and religion women face double discrimination. One example of such discrimination is that in France it ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> not allowed for women to wear hijab. Had it been a white woman white society is mostly ~~chri~~ christian and they do not cover their heads. Where as, the colored women are muslims ~~get~~ usually who cover their heads. So, these women face more discrimination as compared to white women.

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Moreover, when it comes to white women they have separate demands such as abortion rights whereas women of color demand for basic health facilities. Women of color face issues such as basic health care during pregnancy. Most of the Pakistani women are colored women and they are deprived of basic health rights. Many women in Pakistan die while giving birth to child as they lack access to the much health care treatment. Their diet does not contain sufficient nutrients that would give strength to their bodies. This shows that there are stark differences between the issues of white women and women of color and also that women of color are far behind white women in their struggle to get rights.

Poverty too adds an extra layer to the discrimination of women of color. Women of color compete in the job market and in doing so they have to compete with the women of white color as well. On the quota that is usually reserved for women, white women are prioritized over black women because of their race. When black women don't get jobs they remain behind the race and become the victim of poverty.