

GENDER ISSUES IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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The methodology adopted in this paper is own observations and knowledge and data's attained from different literary sources .

This is the Indian culture that admires women as the mother of human race. In vedic age women gained high places in society. They were the creator of vedic mantras. 1. But there started fall in their position soon after. Later male become the head of society. Putra was the Vansh-Rachak of family. Women do not have the rights of property and can not participate in politics. 2. The situation continues to fall and even today women are facing the bad effects of gender inequality.

Women played the most important role in the modern society. Inspite of urbanisation and industrialisation, still our culture and economy are predominantly rural based. Gender inequality is a major social problem of our rural society. Women represent the half of the population of India and 75 Percent population lives in villages.

Gender inequality is critical for its effects on a large part of society. If we want to organise our society, women will have to give a real and effective equality with men. The effects of gender based inequality directly reflect on the economic development and though our constitution and many other legislative acts have promoted for gender equality but they are not sufficient.

The Panchayati Raj Bill was implement with the view of empowerment of women. In the Panchayat bodies in of our country 800,000 elected women members. Women are the chairpersons in one third of all these bodies.

Out of 475 Zilla Parishads in our country 158 are chaired by women. 3. Many women oriented projects have been launched by Government, which are paying an important role in promoting gender equality. But gender equality has not yet been attained and women are facing many problems in their lives.

Gender equality is clearly linked with an educated and aware society. Good education is a key to social development. The Position of women in any society is a true index of its cultural and spiritual values. Though we always show very high principles towards women but actual condition is bitter. According to the census of 1961 the female literacy rate was 12.95 % for female and 34-44% for males. This reached 54.16 % for females and 75.85% for males in the census of 2001. 4. However this shows a constant increase in female literacy. The number of female illiterates was 200,068,077 in 1991 and it reduced to 189,554,886 in 2001. 5. There has been an upsurge of consciousness through out the country towards the need of women education. Some states are making a very good and rapid progress. In Kerala total literacy rate is 90-92 percent in which male stands for 94.20% and female for 87.86 percent. In Delhi male literacy is 87.37 percent and female literacy is 75 percent. In U.P. and Bihar female literacy is still in a worst condition In U.P. female literacy is 42.98 percent and in Bihar this stands for 33.57 percent. 6. According to the census of 2001 most female workers are involved in agriculture. They are agricultural labourers rather than cultivators. Even after a

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decade of economic reforms 60 percent of India's total workers are employed in agriculture. There is no other employment opportunities for them. The agriculture sector is over burdened and mostly effects on women's income and labour. They are working hard but not getting sufficient facilities and healthy atmosphere. In matters of health, food education they have to satisfy with inferior facilities. A woman always been at work either at home or outer.7.

Our constitution is guaranteed for equality of women. Education is first and most important necessity for women empower if we educate a girl we are educating a family. We have to be able to overcome gender inequality and should change patriarchal structure of our society.

Today our constitution makes several arrangements to uplift women: They have equal- opportunities of employment. The constitution prohibited any kind of exploitation due to caste, creed or sex. Today women are working and making effective progress in diverse fields. They are administrators, politicians, IPS, Business women. But all these changes are limited to the urban areas. In villages women even today burdened by ancient customs and old traditions.

CONCLUSION

In rural India there is continued inequality towards women, they are being harassed in all spheres of life. We have to empower them

mentally and physically. The first step towards empowerment is self- respect and self- confidence. Gender disparity, is find out in whole of our society but in rural India condition is worst. There is no consciousness in rural society. Bad social customs like child- marriage, dowry, and Drug edition are common evils of rural society. Rural women is badly harassed and exploited even today. Two things are mostly needed to empower them-education and economically self-dependence. In rural areas women participate in carrying more than half of family income but their work can not find so importance as a man's work. Education is first and for most necessity for women empowerment. The states in which women education ratio is high, the population growth rate is low, child and mother life expectancy, Average age, age of marriage are higher.

Gender based inequality directly effects the economic development and over all progress of a nation. Women even today don't have control over land and other productive assets; Education is the most important thing necessary for women empowerment. Good education is a key to social development. Women literacy rate is still low in our country. There is a need of a countrywide movement towards women education. For the over all development of the country, educated, healthy and enlightened and empowered women is very much essential and for gaining this object we have to work with full of our strength.

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