



Gender Equality as a Right: An Analysis

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Abstract: The concept of bringing gender issues into the mainstream of society was established as a strategy for promoting gender equality and highlights the necessity to ensure that gender equality is a primary goal in all areas of social and economic development. Gender-specific intervention can target women exclusively. Men and women together, are only men, and this enables them to participate in and benefit equally from development efforts. It requires changes in goals, strategies and actions so that both women and men can influence, participate in, and benefit from development processes. In a fast emerging global world, there is a dire need to provide equality for both the sexes especially women, who are still groping in the dark for freedom and individuality. The image of women as a subservient and inferior one still lingers in the world and hence women are curtailed of their freedom and emancipation. Gender remains an obstacle to women seeking and abating leadership position. Hence this paper attempts to throw light on the concept of gender issues as a strategy for promoting gender equality.

Key words: gender issues, gender equality, mainstream of society

Introduction

The concept of bringing gender issues into the mainstream of society was established as a strategy for promoting gender equality and highlights the necessity to ensure that gender equality is a primary goal in all areas of social and economic development. Gender-specific intervention can target women exclusively. Men and women together, are only men, and this enables them to participate in and benefit equally from development efforts. It requires changes in goals, strategies and actions so that both women and men can influence, participate in, and benefit from development processes. In a fast emerging global world, there is a dire need to provide equality for both the sexes especially women, who are still groping in the dark for freedom and individuality. The image of women as a subservient and inferior one still lingers in the world and hence women are

curtailed of their freedom and emancipation. Gender remains an obstacle to women seeking and abating leadership position. Commenting on women's debased position, a Mexican scholar and poet, Sister Juana Ines, who served as a model of the 'independent women' in the centuries before emancipation, was rightly indignant at the injustices women suffered in the process of becoming empowered. This is because of one deciding and influencing factor-gender. Hence similar to this theme are other aspects there women being deprived of their rights and individuality just based on the differences and inequalities in the treatment of gender.

Gender equality

Gender equality has been a social concern since man step foot on earth. When we think of gender equality, discrimination against women is what



comes to mind, but in recent years psychologist and sociologist have begun to study how men are discriminated against. It is considered general knowledge that men still make more money a year than women, and it is true that men hold most of the position of power in society. Men are physically stronger while women are more emotionally aware. Men are best suited as providers while women are better nurturers.

Of course, there are always exceptions, but these generalizations are relative to our biological origins. We acknowledge the differences between the sexes, but who can say that one is better than the other? They balance each other out. But, in a male dominated world, masculine tendencies are utilized and associated with power. Feminists recognized this and pushed for equality within the sexes. When women finally were able to enter the workforce, they had to prove themselves in a "man's field, often forgoing their feminine qualities, and mimicking male attributes. Now females are born with a disadvantage, not only do they have to ignore their natural tendencies, but learn male behavior to succeed in the workforce. Cultural norms have inhibited advancements in equality often exploited by the media, by supporting the association of submission with women and dominance with men. Nowadays, women are seeking equality with men. In fact, each gender is better than the other one in different tasks.

Gender is a primary marker of social and economic stratification and, as a result, of exclusion. Regardless of one's socioeconomic class, there are systematic gender differences in material well-being, although the degree of inequality varies

across countries and over time. As a result, gender inequality is a characteristic of most societies, with males on average better positioned in social, economic, and political hierarchies. For more than two decades, the goal of reducing gender inequality has held a prominent place in international organizations and in national strategy statements. Millennium Development Goal 3 reflects the global attention to the issue of gender inequality and has been providing the impetus for governments to eliminate gender inequality in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels by 2015.

Talking about gender is talking about roles which brought based on sex distinction between male and female. Each region has distinct working division between male and female depending on values and beliefs held by the society. So it is not surprising to find in some areas, women only do the small things for their tribe like in Bataknesse. But in native Indian, women appear as a female ruler because it was believed women have greater strength than men. Gender differences appear to be a problem when discrimination based on gender happens and as we know, women who become the main victims of this. Women experience discrimination in many ways. Besides that I already mentioned above, women also suffer from slavery, violence, sexual harassment, discrimination because patriarchy system, religion, differences opportunities to working and lead an institution.

Feminist movements, such as achieving the right to vote in the 1920's, and the push for equality in the workforce and education in the 1970's, brought to light, more than ever, the



inequalities of the sexes. These movements brought attention to basic human rights; that politics, education, and employment should be equally accessible to the sexes. But as women moved into the workforce, they found that to be successful in their career.

Discrimination on women in many countries appears at the time colonialism come. Not only as second class citizens. Most tribes hold matriarchy system. Properties belonged to women and when a man married, he must stay in his wife's house. But it changed when colonizers bring their culture, effecting it and change the social system to be like theirs or as we know, patriarchy system. Women began to be marginalized through a variety of restrictions to the social accesses. Sexual harassment often experienced by women. But the saddest part is when therapy victim also has to take the blame. Women often blamed for dressing "sexy" so they provoke men to harass them without seeing the men's factor. The things above are the external factors (outside the woman's own personal) that cause discrimination.

Women can do everything that men can, and they even do it better. They also can do many things that men cannot. But there is a fact that their work is not appreciated as men's although they have to sacrifice a lot for their family and career . . . So someone said, "A woman's place is in the home." The Government has also drawn up a draft National Policy for the empowerment of women which is a policy statement, outlining the state's response to problems of gender discrimination. As persistent gender inequalities continue, we need to rethink concepts and strategies for promoting women's dignity and rights. UN

Secretary General Kofi Annan has stated, "Gender equality is more than a goal in itself.

Conclusion: To conclude, differences do certainly exist; however, these are largely through nature. Also, the role women may have is usually dictated by other factors, such as, religion or society, not ability. Most women have declared that women and men should have equal rights. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.

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