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"Impact Of Gender Inequality In Indian Society"

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ABSTRACT:

A long-standing social issue in India, gender discrimination touches women in all areas including education, employment, right to property, and social standing. Notwithstanding constitutional protections of equality, traditional patriarchal beliefs, economic inequality, and prejudiced social practices continue to marginalize women. This article emphasizes several facets of gender inequality by alluding to Amartya Sen's theory of gender differences and projecting the impact of sociocultural, economic, and political forces in sustaining discrimination. The study sees awareness raising, education, the application of the law, and policy reformulation as tools to assist close gaps between genders and provide opportunities for women to develop in India.

KEYTERMS Gender inequality, social discrimination, women's empowerment, employment gap, education disparity, Indian society.

INTRODUCTION:

Gender inequality is a long-standing issue influencing women's access to rights, opportunities, and resources all around India. Gender equality is constitutionally guaranteed even if social norms, tradition, and economic systems continue to encourage discrimination against women. Political participation, property ownership, healthcare, education, and employment among many other areas of life all show the gender gap. Social customs like dowry, son preference, and limiting women's decision-making exacerbate inequalities even more. Amartya Sen classifies gender inequality into seven distinct categories: inequality in mortality, job discrimination, and lack of property rights. Ending gender inequality requires a multi-pronged approach including legal remedies, educational changes, and socio-economic empowerment projects. The present work attempts to evaluate the causes, manifestations, and potential solutions for gender inequality in India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Amartya Sen's Viewpoint on Gender Inequality

Amartya Sen (1990) categorizes gender inequality into several types including mortality inequality, natality inequality, employment discrimination, ownership inequality, and household inequalities. His work stresses how women are systematically discriminated against in social and economic institutions, where their access to resources and opportunities is constrained. Sen thinks gender inequality should end with social change as well as policy efforts.

2.Gender Discrimination in Education and Employment

Nussbaum (2000) discusses how gender discrimination in women against women in education and employment compromises their independence and economic freedom. The continuing educational and job imbalance in India is reflected in a lower women's literacy rate and lower employability. Social gender attitudes, security concerns, and family responsibilities keep women from choosing on careers and higher education.

3. Under Patriarchy, Women's Property Rights and Financial Independence

Agarwal (1994) looks at how patriarchal traditions limit women's property rights and financial independence under legal laws like the Hindu Succession Act (2005), causing cultural resistance and family obligations. A gender fair society relies on women's economic empowerment.

4. Social Practices and Their Influence on Women's Empowerment

Kabeer (2005) reveals how gender-biased customs like dowry, son preference, and limited women's decision-making marginalize women. Such social customs mix gender discrimination, encourage economic dependency, and domestic violence. She emphasizes legal enforcement as well as awareness-raising initiatives for challenging such prejudicial norms.

CONCLUSION:

From education and employment to property rights and social standing, gender inequality in India is a deeply ingrained problem running throughout many aspects of women's lives. Though legal provisions guarantee gender equality, patriarchal attitudes and cultural beliefs still hinder progress. Correcting these disparities requires a combination of legal enforcement, educational reforms, and social campaigns. Empowering women through policy interventions, economic empowerment, and community involvement helps to bridge the gender gap and ensure equal opportunities and rights for all.

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