

Effects on Gender Equality During COVID-19

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Abstract

Gender equality no doubt has been the center of many movement across the globe. Various works and reforms have been made to attain the equality among gender. And every situation arising in society one or the other way effects the equality in better or adverse way. So does the situation of pandemic which arose worldwide, has brought its effects on it. The scenario has brought us in to the knees and made us realize where we stand, as developed society.

Keywords: Community, Covid - 19, Gender equality, Pandemic, Progress

Introduction

Being the part of the society each one of us has roles and responsibility, which could be achieved only when equality perceives in community. Equality, is the state of being equal, where every individual in society have equal rights and opportunities irrespective of its caste, creed, gender, colour or social status. For better and smooth functioning of any economy it becomes necessary that every individual should be treated equally. The equality among sexes or what is popularly termed as "Gender equality", has been the topic of debate since years. As it plays a vital role in progress of any society. The community providing or generating same probabilities for its citizens tends to grow faster in the path of progress and prospers more in comparison to any other community, which lacks in equivalent participation of its people. Discrimination among men, women, boys and girls. It hampers the development of any society as whole. The term "Gender equality", has not earned its importance overnight, but is the result of many movements, which has its roots present in the reforms of past many years. It is related to fundamental rights of individual and in some sense related to women right as well.

Women's are always devalued and regarded as a weaker section in society and, this behavior towards women has becomes a tradition, which is needed to be broken, which could be achieved only by gender equality. The equality that deals with providing the power, resources status and value fairly to each gender present, whether it be men, women or trans. The role each one plays has its own importance. And hence cannot be ignored. Rendering, men, women and transgender equal opportunities not only help in achieving their goals but also the global goal set by an economy.

According to UNICEF

"Gender Equality means that men, women, girls and boys enjoy the equal right, resources, opportunity and protection, it does not require that girls and boys or men and women be the same or that they be treated exactly alike."

No doubt the government and people are leaving no stone unturned in order to achieve the global goal of gender equality by providing rights resources, opportunities and protection to every individual.

Present Scenario and Role Reversal

In modern times we have witnessed many instances of gender equality not only for women but also for men. The greatest example is the paternity leave provided to father of the new born child, when the "father's

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is allowed to be away from work or office, earlier it was confined to the mother's only. Men have also showed their interest of work in the sectors which was previously regarded, or rather say reserved for women only. Like nursing, childcare, cooking, etc. We are now a days shown many male models, celebrities in the advertisement selling many baby products like pampers, kitchen products and even beauty items. Earlier this reversal in role is not easily acceptable in the society we live in. And sometimes such men even becomes a joke, for perusing or opting the women oriented career. If this is the mind set for man, imagine how much a transgender and women go through. If they comes out from house in a male dominating society. But as now in the literacy rate and education among people are increasing the attitude of observing as viewing things has also changing. Masses are getting aware about gender equality, and also giving their contribution towards the same. India as a developing economy, is required to provide much of equal involvement of each gender in enhancement of its growth. The constitution of India grants equality to each and everyone, and discrimination of any sort, is regarded as crime and punishable under law. The role assigned to men and women in India is totally different. Women's are regarded as the Laxmi of the houses, where else the man are the bread earner for the family. With the changing scenario women's are also becoming the breadwinner for their family performing the dual role with an ease. Which is also the demand of recent times. Women are now getting participated in political, financial & corporate sectors in the worlds. Some are the CEO of top companies, some are flying jet, plans some taking part in male sports some joining army. The sky is the limit for such wonderful and motivating females. These supportive and motherly role of women can be seen commonly today. Whether working in form of front line workers, health worker, social worker and other.

Pandemic and its Effects

As Covid-19 continuous to affect our lives. What gets most effected is gender equality, that to importantly in regarded to the equal protection to each individual. It has been almost more than a year we are caught in the corona crisis, on 24th march 2020 prime minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi announced total lockdown amid the breakdown of Covid-19, people lost their jobs, many industries small vendors had to shutdown their shatters permanently. Whole country has been caved in infront of this epidemic. The burden of unemployment and the lack of earning, increased frustration among male member of family and made the female members their punching bags. Much rise in domestic violence against women has been recorded since the pandemic. Many females are forced to be locked with their abusers, without an option of running away, the reduction in the work timing, loss of job among both men and women has resulted in the situation. Not only domestic abuse but the cases of rape has also raised during the period of Covid-19. As per National Crime Record Burea (NCRB) there is a rape case in India in every 20 minutes, which is enough to jolt all of us. Exponential rise in sexual attacks on women among both upper an lower class has questioned the protection of women in society, where women has no option other than being with such person. The period of quarantine also made women suffers a lot, if they are locked up with their abusers. As far as the condition for working women is concerned it has also been not that favorable. As working form home, changes their routine totally, form getting up early to in the morning to going to the bed late at night. Doing their household works with one hand and official works with other, with the bonus that maid can not be called as a reason of safety makes the situation more adverse for them. The dual role women are performing is sometime supported by this partner but totally depending on the mood and their own work pressure. We have also heard during this pandemic that many male members of family are helping in kitchen preparing food, making or experimenting with the new dishes, but no doubt it is only for the spare time they are having at that period. In case of women this doesn't apply, she manage between her domestic chores and her office chores, as both being important for working women and she has to balance between both work and house. One thing more to be taken into consideration is that, the experiment which male partner does in kitchen or in laundry can be mostly seen in the families financially stable, or who are not much effected by the catastrophe. The FB post or their watsapp status clearly shows this. But what about the people who are getting financial crisis and who have very little income or whose wives are homemakers. The condition of such women are worst.

The great example of which we have witnessed in last year lockdown, during the 1st wave is when the migrants are going back to their home town. Those migrants are small vendors, cleaners, labours, maids, guards, cooks, etc., who have lost their jobs and also their precious lives during this disaster. Villages doesn't have any employment opportunities, if it had there what would have been the need of villager coming to the town, and if there is any which is mainly farming that will be taken up by the male. What about the female migrants? The uncertainty about future loss of income, food shortage, they have to deal with all. Shutting down of firms, industries they have been working has left them destroyed deviated.

Bina Agrawal, A Professor, of University in Manchester of global development has found in her research that female has suffered more loss in job and income in comparison to man. During the situation of covid-19 not only the loss of their job, but the female also get affected if the male earning member of her family becomes jobless. Arising a big question on gender equality. The pandemic has also affected the life of daily worker in broader sense. It has always seen that whenever such holocaust occurs it mostly effects women and children as whole.

Conclusion

Equality and unity of course always lead us to overcome the hurdles and this time also we will definitely overcome and win the battle by working together men, women and all gender, no doubt for the betterment and development of our society, country and world as a whole by achieving the goal of global gender equality and making every individual realize their role, responsibility and rights for the smooth function of society.

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