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**GENDER, SCHOOL AND
SOCIETY**

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GENDER, SCHOOL AND SOCIETY

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UNIT - 1 BASICS OF GENDER

① Write the Concept, Meaning and Scope of gender.

Ans. Concept of Gender : Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context, time – specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision – making opportunities. Gender is a part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age. The concept of gender was adapted as means of distinguishing between biological sex and socialized aspects of femininity masculinity. Moreover, gender was considered achieved and more or less stable after it is acquired in early childhood.

Meaning of Gender : According to 'WHO' – "Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women".

According to West and Zimmerman – "Gender is not a personal trait; it is an emergent feature of social situation; both as an outcome of and a rationale for various social arrangements and as a means of legitimating one of the most fundamental divisions of society."

According to Gupta GR – Gender has been defined as "The commonly shared expectations and norms within a society about appropriate male and female behaviour, characteristics and roles. Gender can be considered a social and cultural construct

the differentiates females from males and thus defines the ways in which females and males interact with each other. These roles and expectations are learned and they can change over time as well as vary within and between cultures".

Scope of Gender : There should not be gender discrimination in all walks of life. Boys and Girls should be treated equally in all respects. We should make the children know that boys and girls have equal importance and status in the society. There should not be any kind of emotional imbalance among the children. The children should know their responsibility towards the society and try to lead a comfortable life by respecting each other. We should remove the super scitious. Notions among the community with respect to gender discrimination. The physical potentiality with respect to boys and girls may not be the same That does not mean girls should not be treated on par with boys and girls. So equal opportunities should be created for both the genders to establish an ideal community.

2. Write the differences between sex and gender.

Gender	Sex
1. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. (WHO)	1. Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women. (WHO)
2. Where as gender roles and power relations and the power relations they reflect vary across cultures and through time, and thus are amenable to change. It is not universal and change over time.	2. Sex and its associated biological functions are programmed genetically.
3. It is universal and mostly unchanging, without surgery.	3. It is universal and mostly unchanging, without surgery.

Some examples of Sex characteristics (WHO) :

♣ Women menstruate while men do not. ♣ Men have testicles while women do not. ♣ Women have developed breasts that are usually capable of lactating while men have not. ♣ Men generally have more massive bones than women.

Examples of gender characteristics (WHO) :

♣ In most countries world wide, women earn significantly less money than men for work of equal value. ♣ In most countries, women do more housework than men. ♣ In country 'X' many more men than women smoke as female smoking has not traditionally been considered appropriate.

4. Write a note on 'Gender discrimination'.

Ans: Gender discrimination means 'discrimination based on a person's gender or sex, which more often affects girls and women. Because of gender discrimination, girls and women do not have the same opportunities as boys and men for education, meaningful careers, political influences and economic advancement. Gender discrimination occurs when sexes are treated unequally. Gender discrimination is not based solely on gender differences but on how people are treated differently because of their sex. So gender discrimination is the unfair treatment of a person because of gender. It affects both men and women.

Major causes for Gender discrimination in India :

Though the Indian constitution provides equal rights and privileges for men and women and makes equal provision to improve the status of women in society, majority of women are still unable to enjoy the rights and opportunities guaranteed to them.

Traditional value system, low level of literacy, more household responsibilities, lack of awareness, non availability of proper guidance, low mobility, lack of self confidence, family discouragement and advanced science and technology are some of the factors responsible to create gender disparity in our society. The most important causes of gender disparity are poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, social customs, belief and anti-female attitude.

Changing the face of gender discrimination : In order for there to be change in perceived gender roles, two important considerations come into play :

1. Both sexes are at least partially to blame : Men and women both have gender roles that are defined by any given society and gender roles and stereotypes are created by and also perpetuated by both sexes. By the same token, women are not the only ones demanding equality, many men also fight hard for the rights of women.

2. Social attitudes must be changed : Gender roles and stereotypes leads to in the work place against women and against men - and in society at large. In order for discriminatory practices to end, change must begin in societal values and attitudes, but equal rights must be enforced by laws because individual members of societies will never all think the same.

4. What are the characteristics of patriarchal system?

Ans: Patriarchy is a social system in which males hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property. In the domain of the family, fathers or father figures hold authority over women and children.

So, a patriarchal social system can be defined as a system where men are in authority over women in all aspects of society.

Characteristics of a patriarchal system : Some characteristic of a patriarchal system include :

1. Male dominance : In a patriarchal system, men make all decisions in both society and in their family unit, hold all positions of power and authority, and are considered superior.

2. Male identification : Men are concentrated with identification that includes qualities of control, strength, forcefulness, rationality, strong work ethic and competitiveness. Each of these qualities contribute to male identification in a patriarchal system.

3. Male Centredness : In a patriarchal system, the center of activity and progression is on men and what they do to move the society forward. In any patriarchal system, men will be the focus and developer of all events and inventions, men will be the heroes in all situations, and men will be the centre of social engagement, fun and entertainment.

4. Obsession with control : Men living in a patriarchal system or society must be in control at all times. They have a desire to control all social and family situations and must make all decisions regarding finances and education.

Additionally, in a patriarchal society, the oppression of women is emphasized. The term 'oppression' means to push down or restrict; therefore, women are not allowed to rise up to leadership levels or make decisions. Women are also not allowed to demonstrate independence or suggest changes to any social order.

In essence, women also have a role in a patriarchal society, but only in a sense that is submissive and subservient to men.

5. Write the patriarchal system's impact on women's status.

Ans : Patriarchal is a system where by women are kept subordinate in a number of ways. The subordination that we experience at a daily level, regardless of the class we might belong to, takes various forms – discrimination, disregard, insult, control, exploitation, oppression, violence – within the family, at the place of work, in society.

Patriarchal ideology to keep women away the power systems has been attempted through the construction of private and public realms for women and men respectively.

Private patriarchy is based upon household production as the main site of women's oppression. Public patriarchy is based principally in public sites as employment and the state.

In this patriarchal system, different kinds of violence may be used to control and subjugate women, such violence by men may even be considered legitimate and women are always routinely experienced by male violence. Due to such violence and the continued sense of insecurity that is instilled in women as a result keeps them bound to the home economically exploited and socially suppressed.

In this patriarchal system, men and women behave, think, and aspire differently because they have been taught to think of masculinity and femininity in ways which condition difference. According to Lim, "patriarchy is the system of male domination and female subordination in economy, society and culture that has characterized much of human history to the present day. Patriarchal institutions and social relations are responsible for the interior or secondary status of women in the capitalist wage labour market."

6) Explain the need and importance of Women's Education.

Ans: Meaning of Women Education : Women Education refers to every form of education that aims at improving the knowledge and skills of women and girls. It includes general education at schools and colleges, vocational and technical education, professional education, health education, etc. Women education encompasses both literary and non-literary education.

Need of Women's Education : "Education for all" is one of the major tasks being carried out by the Indian government but still we have the lowest female literacy rate in Asia. India is working but the pace is slow as we haven't achieved what we should have been so far. By 2011, female literacy rate in India stood at 65.46%. So, India is far behind as compared to other countries at global level.

When a woman is not educated then it not only affects her but the entire family as well as the nation. In many studies it has been found out that illiterate women high fertility as well as mortality rate. It has been seen that infant mortality rate reduces to half in case women have received primary education as compared to illiterate female. Apart from this children, illiterate woman are malnourished. Illiteracy also reduces the overall earning potential of the family.

So educating women results in promoting self respect and also helps in raising the status of women. An educated woman will be aware of her rights. She can fight against social evils such as domestic violence, dowry demand, low wages etc.

Importance of Women Education : The importance of women education are briefly summarized below :

Educational with empower women to come forward and contribute towards the development and prosperity of the country. Economic development and prosperity of the country.

Economic Empowerment : So long as women remain backward and economically dependent on men, the helpless condition of them cannot be changed. Economic empowerment and independence will only come through proper education and employment of women.

Improved life : Education helps a woman to live a good life. Her identity as an individual would never get lost. She can read and learn about her rights. Her rights would not get trodden down. The life or condition of women would improve a lot, if we take a broad outlook in the field of female education.

Improved health : Educated girls and women are aware of the importance of health and hygiene. Through health education, they are empowered to lead a healthy life style. Educated mothers can take better care of both herself and her baby.

Dignity and honour : Educational women are now looked upon with dignity and honour. They become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role models.

Justice : Educated women are more informed of their rights for justice. It would eventually lead to decline in instances of violence and injustice against women such as dowry, forced prostitution, child marriage, female foeticide etc.

Choice to choose a profession of her choice : Educated women can prove be highly successful in the fields of life. A girl child should set equal opportunity for education, so that, she can plan to become a successful doctors, engineers, nurses, air hostesses, cook, or choose a profession of her choice.

Alleviate poverty : Women education is a pre-requisite to alleviate poverty. Women need to take equal burden of the massive task of eliminating poverty. This would demand massive contribution from educated women. There cannot be much social and economic changes unless girls and women are given their rights for education.

7. What are the benefits or advantages of women's Education ?

Ans : ♣ Women who are educated – are more able to influence their future. ♣ Women who are educated – are able to reduce poverty. ♣ Women who are educated – reduce the risk of child mortality. ♣ Women who are educated – are 50% more likely to have their child immunized. ♣ Women who are educated – are less likely to be taken advantage of; less likely to contract HIV/AIDS. ♣ Women who are educated – are less likely to become victims of domestic or sexual abuse. ♣ Women who are educated – reduce corruption and change the conditions that lead to terrorism. ♣ Women who are educated – are better equipped to contribute to the family income. ♣ Women who are educated – are healthier and tend to have greater self esteem and self confidence. ♣ Women who are educated – help contribute and prosper their community. ♣ Women who are educated – see the potential and need to promote education in others.

UNIT - 2

FACTORS AFFECTING GENDER DISCRIMINATION

1. Explain different factors influencing gender differences and practices i.e. (A) Inequality in ratio (b) Female infanticide, (c) Feticide (D) Crime (E) Violence

Ans. (A) Inequality in sex ratio : The sex ratio is the ratio of males to females in a population.

Causes for inequality in sex ratio : The following factors have been identified as responsible for the inequality of ratio:

1. **Difficult Enumeration** : The lower percentage of female may be partially attributed to the unequal enumeration of males and females in census counting.

2. **Higher Female Mortality** : The most important reason for lower female ratio is the higher mortality of female children as well as mothers.

3. **Male Dominated Emigration** : It can be easily accepted that international migration in India is male dominated. This however cannot be said to be a very important point since not many people emigrate from India to outside countries.

4. **Lower Social Status of Women** : The most important factor is the lower social status of Indian women resulting into insufficient medical aid and nutritive provisions.

5. **Misuse of the Technology** : Pre natal sex determination is the main reason of low sex ratio in India followed by abortion of female foetuses.

6. **Patriarchal System** : The patriarchal societies in many parts of India have translated their prejudices and bigotry into a compulsive preferences for boys and discriminations against the girl child.

(B) Female Infanticide: Female infanticide is a deliberate and intentional act of killing a female child within one year of its birth either directly by using poisonous organic and inorganic chemicals or indirectly by deliberate neglect to feed the infant by either one of the parents or other family members.

psychological stress without the actual hitting which cause injury to the mind and harm the reputation.

2. How are the following responsible for gender discrimination (a) sociological (b) physical (c) religious (d) economic (e) psychological (f) legal (g) political (h) employment

Ans. The following are to some extent responsible for gender discrimination.

a) Sociological : There are certain communities that do not like girls education. They encourage early marriages and reluctant to spend money on girls education.

b) Physical : There are no schools in certain areas girls should walk 3 to 4 miles to go to school. So the parents stop their girls going to school.

c) Religious : The religions in our country do not allow girls to move freely in the society because of early marriages and superstitious notions. They discourage girls education.

(d) Economic : Poverty of the people in the country is the main cause for discouragement of girls education.

(e) Psychological : The traditions and customs in our society do not allow girls for good education girls are not treated on par with boys.

(f) Legal : Though the government is making many laws in support of girls education, expected results are not coming. The laws and acts that are made for girls are not being implemented properly.

(g) Political : There are some departments meant for girls education. There are some ministers appointed for it. Yet there is no improvement in the case of girls education because of the attitude of certain politicians.

(h) Employment : People in the country believe that girls are not fit for certain professions. The superstitious notions prevailed in our society is responsible for not encouraging girls to choose certain professions.

3) What is socialization process? Write about socialization and women education.

Ans. The socialization process : Socialization is the process by which children and adults learn from others. We begin learning from others during the early days of life; and most people continue their social learning all through life.

Poverty, ignorance of family planning, cost of dowry etc., have been reported as the possible causes for this crime.

c) Female Feticide : Female feticide is the termination of the life of a foetus within the womb on the grounds that its sex is female and is also known as sex selective abortion. Women illiteracy, traditional and cultural practices of different religions, child marriages etc., have been reported as the possible causes for this female foeticide.

d) Crime : The year 2015 has witnessed a reduction in crime against women as compared to 2014. Recording a decrease of 3.1%, 2015 saw the registration of 3,27,394 cases under the head of crimes against women as compared to 3,37,922 cases in 2014, show figures from the National Crime Records Bureau.

Cases of rape have fallen by 5.7% coming down from 36,735 in 2014 to 34,651 in 2015. Incidents of gang rape too have shown a decrease from 2,346 in 2014 to 2,113 in 2015.

There has been a marginal increase of 2.5%, however in other sexual offences against women. Under the category of "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty", 2015 saw 84,222 cases being registered across the country as against 82,235 in 2014.

Delhi has the highest rate of crimes against women overall. Assam and West Bengal have recorded the highest number of trafficking cases both among adults and children. Rajasthan saw the highest crime rate of 57.3 against SCs followed by Andhra Pradesh (52.3) , Bihar (38.9) and Madhya Pradesh (36.9) per 1,00,000 population. Rajasthan also had one of the highest crime rates against STs behind only Kerala, Andhra Pradesh , Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha followed with crime rates against STs.

(E) Violence : There are many violence against women in India because of the male dominated society here. Women generally face various kinds of crime like dowry death, sexual harassment, cheating, murder, girl child abuse, robbery etc., Violence against women which counted as crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) are rape, kidnapping and abduction, torture physically and mentally dowry deaths, wife battering, sexual harassment, molestation, importation of girls etc. The cases of violence against women is increasing day by day and becoming too broad. The meaning of term violence is striking someone physically and causing injury. It may involve verbal abuse or

Natural socialization occurs when infants and youngsters explore, play and discover the social world around them.

Planned socialization occurs when other people take actions designed to teach or train others from infancy on.

Positive socialization is the type of social learning that is based on pleasurable and exciting experiences.

Negative socialization occurs when others use punishment, harsh criticisms or anger to try to "teach us a lesson" and often we come to dislike both negative socialization and the people who impose it on us.

Socialization & Women Education : If a broad profile were drawn of the common experience of growing up female in Indian society, it would highlight physical restrictions as well as mental or psychological negativity communicated to little girls from birth onwards. The idea of life-long dependence and insecurity get communicated in terms of marriage and motherhood being the sole objectives of a woman's life. Communication of deep-rooted beliefs, such as the 'impurity' of menstruation, enables girls to internalize their lower ritual status under patriarchy. Transmission of culturally sanctioned attitudes constitutes the gendering process which guides girls into becoming socially acceptable women. Socialization in the family setting receives powerful reinforcement from the modern media, including both TV and cinema, which use these basic elements of culture to weave commercially successful products which perpetuate tradition both in terms of its material practices & attitudes.

Girls education needs to be looked at in a far wider and more complex and nuanced perspective than what is generally applied with reference to gender parity. This wider perspective needs to be constructed on the basis of the realization that girls lives and education in contemporary India continue to be shaped by historical forces which have their roots in culture. The specificity of India's patriarchy lies in the relation between gender and caste. The concepts of purity and pollution are fundamental to caste, and though women themselves are deemed "impure", the major burden of the maintenance of caste purity rests on them. An engagement with the structures of knowledge and power is necessary to devise a new policy and strategies for girls education.

4. Write a short note on 'Rural societies & Girls education'.

Ans. Women are the centres of the any family. It is an

established fact that there are three evils in the social status of rural women in India. Illiteracy, poverty and illness still provide huge challenges in rural areas and women are among the most vulnerable groups. Due to the circumstances women contribute to the economy and to the combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and at the work place.

The Government of India launched a centrally sponsored scheme "Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education in 2008-09. According to the scheme, a sum of Rs.3000/- is deposited in the name of the eligible girls as fixed deposit, who are entitled to withdraw it along with interest thereon reaching 18 years of age and she should have already passed 10th class examination. The scheme covers (i) all girls belonging to SC/ST communities, who pass class VIII and (ii) all girls who pass VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and enroll in class IX in Government, Govt aided and local body schools. The objective of the scheme is to establish an enabling environment to reduce the dropouts and to promote the enrolment of girl child belonging mainly to SC/ST communities in secondary schools. 15.70 lakh girls have been benefited so far under the scheme. So far 3.11 lakh girls have benefited in the year 2012-13.

In 2015, 3.7 million eligible girls were out of school and in rural areas girls receive an average of fewer than four years of education. In rural households and especially amongst the poor, the girl child is a valuable resource for house work and in the fields, an additional hand that cannot be wasted away through an education with almost invisible gains and far too heavy a price that most rural and poor families cannot afford to pay. In our so-called 'modern India' estimates show that for every 100 girls in rural India only a single one reaches class 12 and almost 40% of girls leave school even before reaching the fifth standard and more than 15% children in schools can't read a simple story in Hindi, our national language.

There are many more contributing factors for this situation in rural areas such as the distance of schools from the corresponding villages, lack of sanitation facilities in schools, shortage of female teachers, gender bias in curriculum etc.

Q5. Explain the girls education in urban societies.

Ans. According to National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

6. Lack of proper monitoring: Proper monitoring is hindered by poor coordination between Tribal Welfare Department and School Education Department.

5. Explain women and girls status at present in our society.

Ans. The population of women is almost half of the total population of India. A country or a community cannot be considered civilized where women are not honored. Indian laws have been made without discrimination against women. As a result Indian women enjoy high position in our society. Women today occupy high ranking posts like I.A.S, I.F.S. Indian women are also in our defense services.

The modern Indian women participate in various sports and games like Hockey, Cricket, Table tennis, Badminton, Shuttle and also in athletics. The contemporary Indian women serve as M.P, M.L.A, governors and ministers. Women of recent time like Mother Teresa, Indira Gandhi, M.S. Subbulakshmi, Lata Mangeshkar and Prathibha Patil have achieved high fame in the areas of literature, music and acting. More and more women are joining the field of science and technology. In fact there is no sphere of activity in which women are unsuitable or incompetent. Let's now have a look at the darker side. Though the Indian law does not discriminate between men and women, the status of women of our country today is practically far below the status of men. Wife burning for failure to pay dowry as demanded also continues unabated all over India. It is a matter great shock that such cases are increasing in every year. In our country bride is burnt or murdered for non-payment of dowry. Kidnapping and abduction of women also increased in India. Under the stringent POCSO, 14,913 cases were registered of which 8,800 were rapes. Police say it is always difficult to prevent rapes committed by family member or those known to victims. The literacy rate of women is also lower than that of male persons almost all over India.

Though the status of today's women in India is high, the overall picture of women's position in India is not satisfactory.

under the ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the literacy rate in urban areas is 86%. It was found that in urban areas 17% of males and 13% of females completed educational level of graduation and above. Notably, the growth in educational attendance is the least among urban women. It hints at growing challenges in educating India's burgeoning urban population, fuelled by large scale economic migration.

Q6. Explain the girls education in Tribal Societies.

Ans. India has total tribal population of 10.43 cores which is 8.6 of total population of India as per 2011 census. The literacy rate among ST boys is 71.7% and among girls is 63.1%. During the post-Independence period, the Indian government implemented legislation and allocated funds to facilitate access to enrollment in primary education in India. As a result, both literacy rates and gross enrollment ratios of boys and girls across the general population have increased substantially during the past 50 years. The gross enrollment ratio is higher in class I to V which is 137.2 for ST boys and 136.7 for ST girls but it is only 90.7 and 87 in class VI to VIII. It implies that tribal enrollment declines significantly in higher class.

Problems in Tribal girls education:

1. Medium of language: Language is one of the important constraints of tribal girl children which prevents them acces to education.

2. The location of villages: The physical barriers creates a hindrance for the children to attend the school.

3. Economic conditions: The economic condition of the people is so poor that they do not desire to spare their children or their labor and allow them to attend schools.

4. Attitude of the parents: As education does not yield any immediate economic return, the tribal parents prefer to engage their children to remunerative employment.

5. Teacher related problems: In the remote tribal areas the teacher absenteeism is a regular phenomenon and this affects largely on girls education.