

Gender Biasness and Its Implications in Girl's Education

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Abstract

Gender discrimination is when someone is treated disadvantageously and unequally based on their gender. Discrimination based on gender is an absolute violation of human rights that affects society negatively. On this note, gender biasness obstructs girls' education and also arise different problems in the global and societal context. The aim of the study is to find out the implications of gender biases in girls' education. Different social barriers and norms play a significant role in increasing gender-based discrimination in society. This study will also focus on the different forms and factors of discrimination and identify different strategies to overcome the issue.

The main objective of the study is thus understanding gender based discrimination and how it affects girls in their education. Different implications of gender based discrimination and also suggests different strategies to overcome the issue. Gender based discrimination is an extreme form of human right violation that affects society along with the all-round development of the country. In order to conduct this study, secondary qualitative data has been collected in order to have proper insight regarding this topic. It has been identified that gender based discrimination in education is harmful to society as it obstructs the overall development of girls and women, hence, it is required to be mitigated to improve the situation of girls and women in society.

Keywords

Biasness, Education, Gender Discrimination, Society

INTRODUCTION

Background

Society and education are the two main building blocks of the world that are related to each other. Education is necessary for building a good society and is thus regarded as the main aspect of strengthening the society as well as the country. However, gender biasness is considered as one of the crucial aspects in the global world that hampers getting similar advantages and privileges from society depending on the perceived gender identity of an individual. On this note, gender biasness is a major problem of a society that obstructs girls' education in various parts of the global world. Worldwide men are more literate than women which signifies that gender biasness is one of the core issues in the contemporary scenario. As of 2020, about 90% of males and around 83% of females in the world were literate [1]. The mentioned data signifies that men get more opportunities than women in education. Different social barriers play a crucial role in gender based discrimination that results in discriminating against the educational facilities of women. There are many reasons that cause this discrimination; however, there is a significant requirement to mitigate this in order to build a healthy society.

Aim of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to understand the aspects of gender biasness and its implications in discrimination against girls' education. Following this aim, the objectives can be identified as:

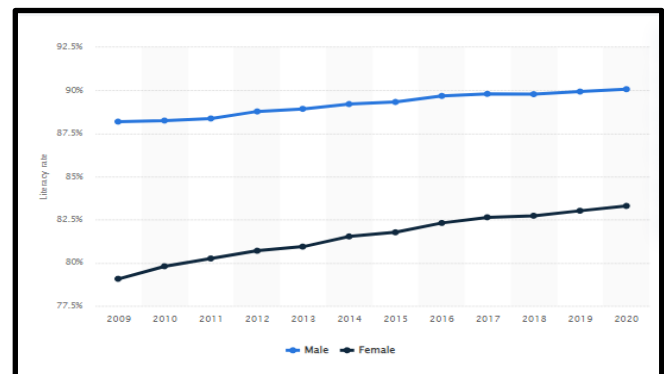


Figure 1: Global adult literacy rate from 2009 to 2020[1]

Objectives

- To understand the nature and forms of gender based inequalities
- To determine the implications of gender based discrimination on girl's education
- To identify different forms and factors that influence gender biases in a society
- To recommend different strategies to overcome gender based discrimination in fostering girl's education

Scope and relevance of the study

Gender based discrimination is a major problem in society all over the world and it affects the social and professional life of an individual. Worldwide girls and women are the major victims of this gender based discrimination. Discrimination is an extreme form of human right violation and gender based discrimination is the worst among them. Education is important for self-development and it also

obstructs the all round development of a society. Gender bias is a major problem globally as it affects the education and skill development of a girl. According to UNICEF nearly 1 out of 4 girls are neither trained nor in education compared to boys [2]. Therefore, this study is relevant to aware people of gender biasness and its implications. This study is also relevant to recommend different strategies to overcome the gender based discrimination in education.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

Research design is a structure or framework of research to perform a research study effectively. Research design allows researchers to sharpen the research methods that are suitable for the subject matter of the study [3]. An impactful research design helps to reduce the biasness of the study and also makes data collection and analysis more efficient. The choice of relevant research design helps to improve the neutrality, reliability and validity of a study. There are different types of research designs that are impactful for different researchers. This research follows the *qualitative research design* that makes data collection and analysis easier. While conducting this study, the qualitative research design has been used to understand people's beliefs, attitudes, experiences, behaviour and interactions for having a core idea regarding gender biasness and its implications in girls' education.

Research Type

Types of research refer to the different methodologies that are used to conduct a research study. Identifying the proper research type is important to improve the efficiency of the study. Different research types are used widely to evaluate different subject matters in a research study. *Exploratory research* type is taken for this study to make research study more efficient and effective [4]. Exploratory research examines the known factors of a study and also focuses on the relevant additional information. In this research, exploratory research is important to evaluate the lesser-known issues of society and also helps to educate people about gender based discrimination and its implications on girls' education.

Research Duration

Research duration refers to the total devoted time to perform the research study to get a valid outcome of a research. Approximately 2 months have been the total duration to get optimal results regarding this topic. Firstly, depending on the title, the aim and objectives have been developed. After that, a significant amount of secondary data has been collected for conducting the study and thereby attaining the objectives.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria

- ❖ Authentic and relevant journals, articles, websites and newspapers are considered to collect data
- ❖ Journals and articles published after 2018 are selected

for data collection.

- ❖ Articles and journals that are written in English are only included in the data collection.

Exclusion criteria

- ❖ Conference papers and doctoral dissertations are excluded from collecting the datasets regarding the specific research study.
- ❖ Journals and articles that are published before 2018 are excluded from data collection.
- ❖ Languages other than English are not considered for selecting the journal and articles.
- ❖ Blogs and other non authentic sources are excluded from data collection.

Data collection and analysis

Data collection and analysis techniques are the most important part of a research study. The overall success of the study depends on the data collection and analysis and the result of the study is also based on the data collection and analysis. Therefore, following the relevant data collection techniques is essential for any research study. Proper data collection and analysis help to improve the efficiency and authenticity of the research study. Two types of data collection methods are there that are used widely in the field of research. Quantitative data refers to the numerical data that helps to perform statistical analysis and qualitative data sets include personal opinions and views of an individual [5]. Qualitative data collection and analysis are important to understand the issue more prominently. This research follows the *qualitative data collection and analysis* methods that make the research study time efficient and more reliable. This research study also focuses on thematic analysis for analysing the data sets. It gives a clear understanding of the issues and also helps to suggest valid collusion of the problem.

RESULTS

Gender biasness and its impact on modern society

Gender biasness and gender based discriminations are not an emerging problems of society it present in society from the beginning. Gender based discrimination is present in every corner of the world which signifies it is a global problem that needs to be overcome to reduce violation of human rights [6]. Gender inequalities affect everyone in their social and professional life every day and it begins in childhood and follows through to adulthood. Gender inequality impacts children's sense of self from a young age. Globally, boys get more attention than girls in a classroom and boys get more opportunities in education. It increases self-doubt among girls and affects later on their future. Gender inequalities impact the mental health and physical health of an individual. Therefore, gender discrimination is the main source of stress in women and girls like any other stressor.

Depending on different situations, facing discrimination can also result in anxiety and psychological trauma in women

and girls. Gender inequalities and discrimination on the basis of gender also influence post traumatic stress disorder in an individual. Sometimes depression and anxiety lead to suicide. Women are 1.5 times more likely to attempt suicide and the major reason behind this is gender discrimination and inequalities [6]. Gender based discrimination sometimes impacts the physical health of an individual. Different research shows that experiencing discrimination is interlinked with worse physical health. Discrimination in educational institutes and workplaces impacts the sexual health of women and girls, especially on women and girls who experience sexual harassment. On the other hand, gender biases influence harassment, discrimination and bullying in educational institutes and workplaces. Besides school and households, women are more likely to be the victim of gender based discrimination at work that affects self-confidence and obstructs career development.

Forms and factors of gender based discrimination in education

Gender based discrimination is a crucial issue in society that generally impacts women and girls. Gender inequality and biasness have different forms and factors that influence discrimination in several ways.

Formal an informal schooling process

Different sociologists treat the education system as the institution of social and cultural reproduction. The existing form of discrimination, especially gender based discrimination enters the school through formal and informal processes.

Course taking

Another way in the education system where discrimination occurs on females is through course taking especially in high school, which leads the students to different educational and occupational paths. Selection of subjects and career choices also become the cause of depression and stress among the girls.

Cultural norms

Cultural norms may also be a factor in increasing gender based discrimination around the world. Hence, women are forced to pursue educational paths which give them the opportunity to take long leaves so they can stay at home as mothers. It affects the career of girls and leads to anxiety and depression even sometimes taking lives.

Uneven access to education

Around the world women still, have less access to education even in developed countries. A huge number of girls are not getting primary education even in 2022 which signifies girls do not have even access to education. As of 2020, about 90% of males and around 83% of females in the world were literate [1]. The uneven access to education affects them in their social and professional life.

Lack of legal protection

Gender biases in any form are an absolute violation of human rights but still today, gender inequality takes place in different aspects of daily life. Gender biases in education are one of the major aspects that emerge as a result of the lack of legal protection for girls in different countries. Different developed countries implemented regulations and acts for girls in educational institutes to give them equal opportunities in education. On the other hand, developing countries such as Afghanistan, Mali, Chad and Guinea are not even recognizing this as a social concern [7]. Many young girls are expected to work rather than school and sometimes many girls get married at a young age due to a lack of legal protection. Illiteracy rate in developing countries are high with comparison to the developed countries. Illiteracy rate in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia is higher than the European countries [8]. The lack of regulations and legal protection affects girls' education globally and limits their future goals.

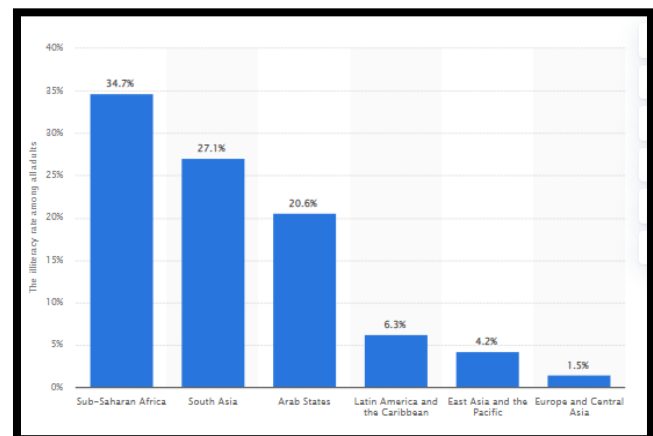


Figure 2: Illiteracy rate in developing regions of the world[8]

Impact of gender biasness in girl's education

Gender-based discrimination takes place in most countries globally and it affects girls' education significantly. Gender based discrimination and girls' literacy rates are interconnected and it is quite common in developing countries. Not only developing countries but also developed countries such as the USA, UK and other European countries are also facing issues with girls' education due to gender biasness. Gender biasness impacts negatively on girls' education and it affects their daily life and overall well-being. Due to gender based education systems, girls do not get even access to education and it affects their careers and overall well-being.

Gender biasness and the patriarchal mentality of society obstruct girls' education and that influence the child marriage rate globally. Afghanistan is a country where the girls' literacy rate is low consequently; it leads the country towards increasing the overall rate of child marriage. Even buying and selling of underage girls is common in Afghanistan which signifies the situation of girls and women is the worst here that occurs due to the low literacy rate among the girls [9].

Gender biasness in education harms girls physically and mentally and even it leads them to suicide. The uneven access to education due to gender biasness increases the child mortality rate and a major reason behind this is the lack of sexual and reproductive knowledge among girls. A proper course of education helps to improve girls' reproductive health and also helps to reduce their different physical complications.

Lack of access to education in different countries leads girls to an early death which is not acceptable in the modern age. Discrimination and lack of education in women influence social isolation among women [10]. Women and girls with lower levels of education qualification struggle to fit in different social situations and often remain marginalised. The lack of resources generated by education prevents girls and women from participating in different social activities and that is the main cause of depression and anxiety among them. The gender based inequalities and lack of education are linked with each other. Due to the lack of education among girls unemployment increases and consequently it increases illegal activities among women [11]. Countries with educated people are stranger than other countries, and more developed and more sustainable economies. Therefore, it can be stated that gender biasness in education obstructs the women's empowerment programme and also obstruct the overall development of a country. Education improves skills and productivity among girls and that also improves the economic development of the country

Strategies for overcoming gender based discrimination in education

Education is the key to the development of an individual or a country but gender based discrimination takes place around the world that affects education along with the development of the country [12]. Hence removing gender biasness from the education system is necessary for society to improve girls' social presence. Discrimination in the education system can be mitigated through different strategies. Avoiding separating male and female students is an effective way of reducing discrimination from society. Education institutes have to implement a co-education system and they have to include boys and girls in every activity in the institutes. Including literature that is free from gender stereotypes in the curriculum is a way of removing gender based discrimination from society.

Students are motivated by the curriculum they read in class; hence it is important to include stereotype mentality-free literature in the syllabus as it helps to reduce gender based discrimination in society. The role of teachers and instructors is very important in reducing gender based discrimination in the education system [13]. Teachers are needed to promote gender equality in the classroom by including boys and girls in different activities. Teachers have to spread gender equality values among the students to reduce gender based inequalities in the education system. Government support can be effective to reduce gender based discrimination in the education society. Government has to

introduce different initiatives to improve girls' education [14]. Government can introduce different government programmes to inform people about gender based discrimination and its impact on society.

Schools and governments can perform different surveys and assessments to know the situation of girls' education in society. The government needs to promote social protection measures by cash transfer to improve girls' retention in secondary schools. Private schools and government schools have to focus on teacher training programmes that can help to reduce gender based discrimination in the classroom. The parent's role is also important to remove gender based discrimination from society [15]. Parents of girls and boys need to remove the stereotype mentality and have to teach their child about gender equality which can improve the mentality of the new generation and helps to reduce gender based discrimination in society. Parents can encourage their girl child to participate in extracurricular activities to remove gender based inequalities from society [16]. Parents have to make sure to give their girls enough freedom to make their own decisions and they also have to give enough financial support to girls for getting a proper education.

DISCUSSION

Gender biasness and gender based discrimination is a social problem that affects different aspects of society. Every form of discrimination is harmful to society and gender based discrimination is the most impactful among them. Gender based inequalities affect everyone in their social and professional life and obstruct the overall development of an individual [17]. It has a major impact on girls and it begins in childhood and follows through to adulthood. Gender biases affect education in modern society and obstruct the overall development of society. Globally boys get more attention and opportunities in a classroom in comparison to girls. It increases self doubt among the girls and also affects them later in their careers. Gender based discrimination is very impactful on the mental and physical health of a girl and it is the main source of stress among the girl and that affects their education. Girls in modern society face difficulties in different aspects of education and that leads them to anxiety and even influences different psychological difficulties among them [18].

Different forms and factors in gender based discrimination are present that affect girls in their social and professional life. Gender based discrimination enters within the school through formal and informal education. Gender based discrimination occurs in different educational aspects and course-taking is one of them. Discrimination in course taking affects career choice and it becomes the cause of depression among girls. Different cultural norms also play a crucial role in increasing gender based discrimination in education. Due to different cultural norms, girls and women are unable to choose their desired career path and later it affects their social and economic development [19]. The most impactful factor in increasing gender based inequalities is uneven access to

education and lack of legal protection in education. Women and girls around the world have less access to education even in this 21st century.

The problem of uneven access to education is quite big in developing countries and the major reason behind this is the lack of legal protection. Different developed countries such as the USA and UK have different rules and regulations about girls' education but some of the developing countries do not even recognise this as a social concern. Girls are forced to get married in many developing countries rather than go to school due to the lack of legal protection for girls' education [20]. Gender based discrimination is harmful to society and it impacts girls' education globally. Due to gender biasness in education institutes girls' are not get equal access and opportunities in education and that affects their social and economic development. The patriarchal mentality in society influences gender biasness and that affects in increasing child marriage in society. Gender based discrimination in education and professional field affects girls and women in there mentally and emotionally and even lead them to suicide [21].

Lack of education among women and girls due to gender based inequalities affects the reproductive health of women and girls and even due to the lack of education maternal mortality increases and the main reason behind this is gender based inequalities. Gender based discrimination among girls increases social isolation that affects mental and emotional health and even leads them to suicide in the worst cases [22]. Gender based inequalities affect women's empowerment and also obstruct the overall development of a country. Education is the key to the development of an individual or a country and gender based discrimination obstructs the overall development of the country. There are different strategies that can overcome gender based discrimination in education. The role of teachers is important to remove gender based discrimination from the education system. On this note, teachers need to spread gender equality awareness among the students to remove gender biasness [23].

Government support and government initiatives are also important to reduce gender based discrimination in the education system. The government needs to provide equal opportunities for girls that can help girls to grow their desired careers [24]. The government is also required to launch different awareness programmes and skill development programs for the girls to educate them and that can remove discrimination from the education system. Removing discrimination is a vital task in the present scenario and parents play a crucial role in it. Parents are required to give equal opportunities to their girls to improve their social status and it also helps to remove gender based inequalities from society.

CONCLUSION

Gender based discrimination is not an emerging issue it present in society from the beginning. Discrimination based on gender has impacted the education system along with the

development of women and girls. The main focus of the study is to determine the forms and factors of gender based discrimination and it also focuses on the different implications of gender based discrimination. This research also focuses on the different strategies to overcome the gender based discrimination in education. Considering these aspects it can be stated that gender discrimination in education is increasing due to different cultural norms, uneven access to education among girls and the lack of legal protection against gender biasness. These issues can be mitigated by different government initiatives and programmes.

Awareness among teachers and students is also required to minimise the gender biasness in the education system. Parents' role is also important to remove this evil curse from society. Parents have to be aware of gender equality and it can be beneficial for society to grow gender equality in the new generation. They are also required to give equal financial support to their girl child for their education. All these aspects can help to reduce gender based discrimination in the education system.

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