GENDER INEQUALITY IN PUNJABI SOCIETY: AN ANALYTICAL REVIEW

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Abstract: All communities worldwide are framed in a constant pattern with all social set ups. And these patterns are associated with gender division. Due to physical strength generally, in most of the societies, male is dominating in social set up. In contemporary civilized society, it is hard to find a society in which female status is comparatively higher than male and this paper moves about this particular issue. Specifically, it is focused on Punjabi society. Main focus of the paper is to discuss gender inequality among the Punjabi society. Secondary data is used to get findings. Analysis has been granted in the directions of few parameters. And finally findings are discussed on the behalf analysis.

Keywords: culture, gender, inequality, society

Introduction
“Roles we play in social structure make us patronize our life in consistent ways. Our way of life is influenced by the rules, norms of society in relation with our interaction with different strata of society, where gender is one of important ingredient which decide our place, reputation, standing in society”

The social status of discrimination for gender inequality is referred in various aspects of life. “Through our ancient times gender inequality is inbuilt our system. In recent times gender inequalities is explained as social construction of gender, the gendered obsession of labor practice of public and promote a patriarchal ideology.”

Aims of the Study
This research paper mainly focus on the factors which are responsible for gender equality in Punjab such as declining sex ratio, women health status, female literacy, economic independence of women and gender based violence. Even, to suggest suitable and effective capacity building of women in the form of education, training and skills and development for accessing the benefits of existing opportunities.

Methodology
Mainly, secondary data is utilized. Further it is constructed on both qualitative and quantitative evidence. This data which is used as secondary data in this paper is critical dimension of gender inequality such as declining of sex ration, health perspective, education, financial eminence of womenfolk and violence against females.

Types of Gender Inequality

Impermanence Unfairness: In many parts of the world, a difference seems in life and death ratio. In many region of world, death rate for female is comparatively very high because due to gender biases create lack in health care and nutrition. “Mortality inequality has been observed extensively in North
Africa and in Asia, including China and South Asia.³³ As

**Nasality Dissimilarity:** In various male dominating societies, preference is given to a boy birth. In these sorts of cultures, female birth is not welcomed. Therefore, to avoid giving a birth to female abortion is used. “In many countries of East Asia, male birth is made possible with the help of technology. Girl birth is prevented by using modern equipments.”⁴⁴ It is counted as psychological and physical abuse for women. Even, they are not mostly acceptable in society.

**Elementary facility Variation:** females are facing discriminates in hidden forms too .In male dominating society, it is a general scenario where boys are facilitates with more and fine facilities as compare to girls. There is bias choice of parents can be seen for education, clothing and eating for their kids. Boys are more pamper and well facilitated as compare to girls. “Even, in many regions like Afghanistan girls are actively preventing from going to school. Girl education is not acceptable in the society. In south Asia and many other part of the world, fewer opportunities for girl child for education are witnessed. This not end of the story, differences for basic facilities are also seen.”⁵⁵

**Distinct prospect Dissimilarity:** It is also noticeable that in bias societies, higher and better education opportunities are given to male gender. Girls are not allowed to complete higher studies in reputed institutes. Marriage and social pressures are considered as an interruption. “Even, in developed nation gender bias issues are observed for professional opportunities. By virtue, In Europe and America, it is seen that for more professional responsibilities, inclination is given to male gender.”⁶⁶

**Professional Disproportion:** As per occupation and promotion is concerned, gender biasness is also evident in male dominating society very commonly. “Even, in developed nation gender bias issues are observed for professional opportunities. By virtue, In Europe and America, it is seen that for more professional responsibilities, inclination is given to male gender.”⁷⁷

**Proprietorship Difference:** It is also seen huge difference in ownership. In many nations, women are not appreciated to own properties. Even, they are not allowed to take a share in ancestor properties. In Punjab, despite of law, socially it is not appreciable if a woman takes her share in parents’ property. “Even, ancestor property rights are also favored men in many parts of India. Property share taken by women is not appericable.”⁸⁸

**Domestic Variation:** Gender bias in domestic environment in nurture of children is quite often. Family elements are unequal. Girls are groomed to look after for household responsibility. Actually, they are trained as domestic servant. Boys are encouraged to work outside. Therefore, they are not meant to liable for domestic help. Even, they enjoy more freedom and facilities as compare to girls. This is a bias attitude of male dominating societies and practicality in “division of labor.”⁹⁹ This attitude is very common in Indian families. Domestic duties practicalities are not bother in Indian and Punjabi society.

**Gender issue in Punjab**

Punjab does not reflect high level development of women. Society is basically leading feudal approach.
Therefore, a woman is not achieving top level of development. “Though state is witnessing highest income per capita but it has lower sex ratio.” \( ^{10} \) It clearly indicates that female birth is not appreciable. Women participation in political decision making and in social attributes is very low. It has proved that they don’t have social status which should be there in a respectable social setup. Following data is about political participation of women in Punjab:

### Table 1.1 Women Participation in Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women as MLA</th>
<th>Women as MLA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>N.A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>N.A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>5.98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>N.A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>N.A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>6.83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


This data proves that political evolvement of women is not up to mark. State has to do various efforts to improve this situation for the betterment of female gender in society.

### Economic Status of Women in Punjab

In Punjab, agriculture is a basic source of income in most of domestic set up. Female participation is very low in agriculture. “Census 1991 proves it. Though in last decade women participation in agriculture is increased by 4.4% but still number is not satisfactory.”\(^{11}\) Female are often involved in domestic task and household responsibilities. Women are basically economically dependent on male family members. This cause their poor social status too because it does not give them ample opportunity to participate in decision making. This is the reason that government and social initiative must be taken here to improve female circumstances. Further, table is given which indicates some statics about women participation in economic set up:

### Table 1.2 Women Participation in Economic set up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Work Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Person Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>54.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Violence against female gender**

An evaluation of the frequency and amount of misconducts devoted against females with other states demonstrates Punjab to be a low-risk state. “In 1996, Punjab’s percentage contribution to all-India was 0.8 and was ranked 28th in the extent of violence perpetrated against women. However, such figures need to be considered with the understanding that many cases go unregistered.”\(^{12}\) Additionally, numerous of the criminalities and massacres may not be evident acts viz., bullying of spouse, resorting to heaviness strategies or even miserly ladies the use of
wellbeing, schooling, occupation and supplementary prospects. In such circumstances, there is noticeably a dispossession of authorization and this is most expected to reason psychosomatic hurt to the women. Infanticide and feticide are the most severe criminal offence perpetrated against women. There is a need to address these women insensitive issues, with much greater importance than has been given in the past.

**Conclusion**

Finally, it can be concluded that gender inequality is a big constrain among the Punjabi society. Rectification of this problem can be done by improving women’s status in social environment. Cultural aspect also play role to undersigned women part in the surroundings. Government must introduce more policies and law for the betterment of females. Even Social groups and NGOs can also assist to improve women circumstances.

**References**

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