

CORPORATE SECTOR: A STUDY ON EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Women are actively and equally supporting men from time immemorial in all sorts of socio-economic ups and downs. India is the first among countries to promote interests and rights of women, but this community still ostracised from the economic, social and legal privileges. Both male and female community is said to be equal in progress yet women remain subjected to exploitation, manipulation and repression. This study revolves around the female exploitation in the private sector. India is emerging as a global power but half of its population, the women across the country, struggle to live their lives and work with respect and dignity. Women are facing problem in every aspect of life be it domestic, employment, health or basic rights. It is now realised that the supremacy of men over women must end. Working women face problems regarding sexual harassment during the mobility of work.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, India has experienced rapid population and economic growth. However, despite this growth, Indian women are absent from the labour force. Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP) rates remain low and have even fallen in the recent years. Reasons behind these happenings are very evident and not hidden from the society. Some such reasons are - sexual harassment at workplace, gender indiscrimination, mobility during work, low income, non-inclusive in workplace, LGBTQ protection, and pregnancy indiscrimination.

Sexual Harassment is a recurring problem around the globe. Different countries have different measures and policies to deal with the consequences of such problems. India is no different from any other country. Sexual Harassment occurs in the workplace but unfortunately there are no public records for more than 50% cases. The reason behind the absence of reports is the fear of society and the fear of facing the consequences. In *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger*, Soraya Chemaly says, "Ask a man what his greatest fear is about serving jail time, and he will almost inevitably say he fears being raped. What can we deduce from the fact that jail is to men what life is to so many women?"¹

Working women face many problems. The main problem starts from their house and certainly comes from their family and relatives. Women need permission from the male family members to work and go out for job. Even after seeking permission their struggle is not over as women do not have many choices of jobs as compared to men. At the workplace women are treated as an inferior gender. Quoting Hillary Clinton *“Human rights are women’s rights, and women’s rights are human rights”*² Even today, in the second decade of the 21st century, despite of the substantial rise in the number of women joining workforce in India as great entrepreneurs, CEOs, social service workers, educators and many more, yet women face gender discrimination. Kofi Annan says, *“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for, meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”*³

Urging gender equality as the elemental human right in all aspects, the constitution of India guarantees all the citizens equality of status and opportunity. Sexual harassment at workplace of women creates a hostile and insecure environment which discourages them and adversely affects their social and economic progress. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act,2013, enforced on December 09, 2013 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development is India’s first specific legislation rendering to the issue.

Gender discrimination has always been a thing of concern and it is a society’s responsibility to make sure that the women of any nation must not be a victim of it. Quoting Emma Watson, *“Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong... it is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum not as two opposite sets of ideas.”*⁴

REFERENCES

- 1 *In Rage Becomes Her: The Power Of Women’s Anger* by Soraya Chemaly
- 2 *Hillary Clinton (interview)*
- 3 *Kofi Annon (interview)*
- 4 *Emma Watson (interview)*