

# Haryana Vision-2030: A Goal to Achieve Gender Equality

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## *Abstract*

The social position of women in Haryana is perilous. Geographically men and women both live by sharing half of the space each but it's not sufficient to provide the position of dignity and equality to women which further generates gender inequality. Today Gender Inequality has become the universal phenomenon. The social phase of sex is gender which varies with a lot of variables such as culture, socio-economic status, earnings and employments etc. So gender inequality is the situation affected by a broad range of conditions and women have been disadvantaged and she is not allowed to avail all those resources which a man does. But now Haryana is stepping toward the empowerment of women and girl child from last few years. Now gender equality is one of the goals introduced in Haryana Vision 2030 to achieve gender equality and empower the women and girls.

**Keywords:** gender inequality, Socio-economic status, Gender equality

## *Introduction*

Gender Inequality has become the universal phenomenon and each country of the world is facing this problem directly or indirectly. Geographically men and women both live in this world by sharing half of the space each – but it do not provide the position of dignity and equality to women. Over the long period of time women have achieved the noticeable progress but even than there is the unequal distribution of various resources between men and women. Due to spreading gender inequality the female community endures the lack of access of education, health facilities, financial resources, opportunities of participation in social, economic, political and cultural section of the society. The world of men and women has been divided into two halves forming many pairs of binary opposites. It is a world of body vs mind, nature verses culture, emotion verses reason, private verses public. These dichotomies stand in chain to each other that shape the culturally constituted role for men and women. Existence of women, importantly because of her biological system that she bears and rears children. The society has imposed all the childcare responsibilities to women not to men. This is a kind of exploitation of women after the name of motherhood because no work other than breastfeeding which a man cannot do.

The word “Gender” is used to explain those properties of men and women which are socially determined. However the same thing biologically explained under heading “Sex”. The word gender came

into existence in early phase of 1970 to discriminate the biological sex difference. Hence the social phase of sex is gender which varies with a lot of variables such as culture, socio-economic status, earnings and employments etc. So gender inequality is the situation affected by a broad range of conditions and women have been disadvantaged and she is not allowed to avail all those resources which a man does. Thus, gender inequality may be defined as the direct or indirect disparity between individuals due to their gender.

Today the world has achieved improvement toward gender equality and women empowerment. Even then women and girls are continuously suffering from discrimination and violence in every part of the world. **“Gender equality is not only the fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world (Sustainable Development Goals, 17 Goals to Transform Our World, United Nation).”** The European Union (EU) and the United Nation (UN) are jointly starting a new initiative focused on eliminating all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) - the spotlight initiative. The above mentioned initiative is placed at the core of the goal “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” attached with 2030 agenda of sustainable development. Gender inequality exists in various distinct forms around the whole world and various sections of the community. The democratic values of equality, rational and scientific outlook, achievement orientation and other modern values have been injected in the traditional value system. But the changes have been very slow and imperceptible. The traditional values continue to influence social behavior. Women constitute about half of the world's population. But they are placed at various disadvantageous positions due to gender difference. They have been victims of violence, exploitation and discrimination. Unless equality between man and woman is fully established and attained, the highest social development of mankind is not possible. Against all such difficulties women around the whole world have launched powerful movements to fight against gender discrimination and injustice. They are taking strict action against violence and demanding equal rights and opportunities for development and jobs.

In ancient India the society was male dominated completely even than the woman of that ancient time enjoyed and availed all the respect and lived the life with full dignity and self respect. Our history reflects the superior status of women with life full of freedom and respect. But now gender inequality exists in the various sections of the society. Thus, the position of women was very precious in ancient Indian society. As the time passed away the status of women started to change in every sphere of society as well as life. Our Vedas are the witness that women had lost their political rights of attending assemblies during Vedic period. One of the sacred book of Indian religion mentioned that a daughter is the source of misery. At that time period our Indian society actually started to classify according to gender lines. Then the situation reached that married life and the devotion for her husband became the only duty of a woman. During the medieval period the gender inequality had increased considerably and women was started to treat as inferior than man during Muslim rule in India. At that time women was facing injustice in every section

of her life. But during the modern time period the status of women has changed noticeable and now the women community is participating in every social as well as economic activity and stepping forward with men. Now in modern society we are living in 21<sup>st</sup> century and now women's position is stated equal to men in our constitution and having equal rights. But unfortunately due to the influence of lot of factors the law and constitution is not able to provide the full access of equality to women.

### ***Literature Review***

Lalita Devi (1982) studied that working women are getting freedom, power of decision-making and dignity at home because of economic independence and as a result today women are availing respect and corporation. Raghunadha Reddy (1986) found in his research that 42 percent of working women take decisions about normal family matters not on major issues like as housing, finances and future of children etc. Anita Sharma (1990) discussed that there is significant change in the psychological setup of women and family members due to modernization. Rajendra Prasad Jaiswal (1993) studied that working women have gained the position of authority but their position in home did not change significantly. Anjali Kushwah (2015) discussed about the Women's Economic Independence and Change in Family Power Structures. The present literature study highlights the important role of economic independence on participation of women in Indian society.

### ***Gender Inequality***

The United Nations Organization also promotes the development of women and women's movements by creating national and international forums for action. The UN declared in 1975; Decade for Women, 1976-1985. Then United Nation organized the Conferences in Mexico City, Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing to nourish the women's movements. Gender Inequality stands for discrimination between men and women in different political, cultural, social and economical fields. Human Development Report by UNDP provides the ranks according to Gender Inequality Index (GII). India ranks 132 out of 187 countries in the Human Development Report by UNDP for 2013 on the Gender Inequality Index (GII). One serious point reflected by the above said report was that except Afghanistan in whole South Asia all the countries even Pakistan ( Stands at rank 123 on Gender Inequality Index in Human Development Report by UNDP) are safer than India for women.

### ***Types of Gender Inequality***

According to Amartya Sen, the world in which we live the burdens of responsibilities and opportunities are unequal among men and women. Gender inequality exists in every part of world with different faces. Gender inequality is not a single homogenous phenomenon but a collection of disparate and inter-linked problems. He classified the gender disparities as:

- (1) Mortality Inequality
- (2) Natality Inequality
- (3) Basic Facility Inequality
- (4) Special- Opportunity Inequality
- (5) Professional Inequality
- (6) Ownership Inequality
- (7) Household Inequality

Gender Inequality is tragic not only because the women is excluded from basic social and economical opportunities but also affects the future generations with long lasting effects on mind of female counterpart. The origin of gender inequality has been the male dominance over whole society. In India disempowerment of women at household level results into the hard access to education, employment, health care facilities, income and all kind of freedom. Today Indian society require rescue of female counterpart from inequality by empowering and supporting the women for safe and productive future.

#### ***Gender Inequality in Haryana: Haryana Vision 2030***

The development of any society is judged in terms of the position held by women in that society. Since men and women are considered as two wheels of vehicle of society, both wheels should work equally to move the vehicle of society. One of the most serious and harmful disparity among the various societies is the gender inequality and it's particularly happening in our state Haryana from last many years. During few years, there is the improvement in status of women in Haryana but the rate of growth is below the level of satisfaction and significance. In Haryana gender disparity starts at the early age of the women and having the lower chances of survival as compared to male due to negligence of parents and society toward their infant female. Women tolerate this kind of discrimination at various levels in various forms firstly less access to food and nutrient, schooling facilities as compared to their male counterparts. Also they face discrimination at workplace in the form of less wages and allocation of job sectors. Discrimination between men and women can be observed in various forms in many other areas of human interest such as granting of land rights by the state to women, intra-household allocation of food and resources and payment of wages women etc.

Haryana is a state of India located in the northern part of country. Haryana is stepping toward the empowerment of women and girl child from last few years. Now gender equality is one of the goals introduced in Haryana Vision 2030 to achieve gender equality and empower the women and girls. This includes the goal of empowerment of women fully economically in safe and secure environment by 2030 by implementing various policies related to all social indicators such as health, nutrient, education, employment etc and also by achieving the significant level of infant and child sex ratio. But, the status of Haryana state

shown by present census data and other related reports is totally different from what are we expecting by 2030. Today the female contribution toward workforce is at 17.79% as compared to male contribution which is at 56.44%. Through Haryana Vision 2030, there is a need to empower women strongly at economical level. Also there is a need of consistent and sustainable contribution of the society, law and constitution toward female economical empowerment. Data indicates that there is 259% increase in kidnapping and 382% increase in molestation cases registered during 2011-2015. Which clearly indicates that how much safe the women are in Haryana? Even they cannot step out of their houses after sundown due to increasing rate of crime against women in Haryana. Our law and society both fails completely in providing the safe environment to girls and women. That's why one of the focus points under gender equality in Haryana Vision 2030 is to ensure the safe, secure and positive environment for women inside and outside the house. So, strict rules and regulations should be established by the government to stop the serious crime against women. One more thing is that census 2011 indicates that Haryana has the lowest child sex ratio in India with 384 girls per 1000 boys which reflects that the infant girl is under risk even in the womb of her mother which is a serious issue in front of educated community. By keeping in view the importance of the topic and situation, Haryana Vision 2030 includes the goal of achieving parity in infant and child sex ratio under the heading of Gender Equality. Some more targets are as follows:

- (1) Eliminate the unemployment gap between men and women.
- (2) Reduce crime against women to 12%.
- (3) Achieve total gender parity in birth rate.

At present, Haryana is struggling toward enhancing gender parity and sex ratio at birth time, a number of steps have been taken by the government of Haryana. Some of them are as follows: (1) Implementation of Awards system at both district and village level. (2) Strict implementation of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, Regulations and Prevention of misuse (PCPNDT), 1994 and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. All that rules and regulations have shown their significance and noticeable effect and today sex ratio in Haryana is 928 per 1000 boys in March 2018. To improve the access to education of girl child, Haryana government have started various programmes such that- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Aapki Beti Hamari Beti, Ladli Pension Scheme, Window Pension Scheme, Education Loans, Awards to the rural adolescent girls who are pursuing higher education, gender sensitization programme. All these programmes have positively improved the situation of females in Haryana. But this is not sufficient and there is need of more such policies and their implementation for empowerment of women in Haryana. Numbers of national and state government initiatives have started by Haryana government to improve the safety and security for women outside and inside the home and to protect the rights of women.

Also there is a strong need of economic empowerment of women in Haryana because it's the basic need for overall growth of a well human being. A number of programmes are going to start such as: (1) Skill

Development University (Faridabad), (2) Education Loans, (3) Individual Loan Scheme, (4) Employment of women as a part of MNREGA, (5) State Rural Livelihood Mission etc. If all these programmes will be implemented under strict administration, definitely the long term effects can be visualized in future.

### **Conclusion**

The paper concludes that gender disparity in Haryana was on peak in 2011 because the child sex ratio of Haryana was 834 girls per 1000 boys which was lowest figure among all the states of India. Then the government strictly started to focus over the female empowerment. A number of programmes and policies were implemented by national government as well as state government to empower women and girl child in various sections of the human environment and to impart the equality to access the health care services, food and nutrient, income and opportunity of schooling. The positive effects are observed of all these policies. But even then the level of improvement toward gender equality is not enough and there is a need to move one step forward to empower women with Haryana Vision 2030. Depriving women of their development rights is equivalent to violation of human rights. We should never forget that a nation's destiny depends on the Mother's dignity and respect.

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