

ACTIVITY - I ➔ Gender / School and Society

Q1. What is the concept and meaning of Gender?

Ans. Concept of Gender: *Def/ Syllo* ①

"Gender refers to the cultural, socially-constructed differences between two sexes. It refers to the way a society encourages and teaches the two sexes to behave in different ways through socialisation."

Concepts are terms used by social scientists as analytical categories to study society and social behaviour. Concepts such as sex and gender, masculinity and femininity and patriarchy are important terms in gender studies.

The concepts of gender in feminist writings and other sociological discourses became popular in the early 1970. In simple terms, gender explains the difference between men and women in social terms as men and as what a man can do; as women and as what a woman can or cannot do. Therefore, gender is a analytical category that is socially constructed to differentiate the biological difference between men and women. The term gender is also used to describe as "masculine" and "feminine".

Feminist writings focus on this aspect and claim that these differences are not biological but are social constructions of patriarchal society. Some theorists suggest that the biological difference between men and women also result in their mental and physical differences. They argue that biologically, men are physically and mentally superior to women. Other theorists suggest that the biological differences between men and women are exaggerated. The differences are socially

constructed by the patriarchal system of society by which men are described as superior to women. Therefore, women become subordinate to men in the society.

Regarding gender, Simone de Beauvoir said, "One is not born a woman one becomes one". This view proposes that in gender studies the term "gender" should be used to refer to the social and cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity and not to the state of being male or female in its entirety. However this view is not held by all gender theorists. Beauvoir's is a view that many sociologists support though there are many other contributions to the fields of gender studies with different backgrounds and opposing views such as Psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan and feminist such as Judith Butler.

Meaning of Gender:

Gender allows us to see these dimensions of human roles and personalities as based not on nature but on social factors. It then allows us to address issues like subordination and discrimination as issues where change is possible.

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"Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Gender emphasizes that masculinity and femininity are products of social, cultural and psychological factors and are acquired by an individual in the process of becoming man or woman.

"Gender" is the term widely used to refer to those ways in which a culture reformulates what begins as a fact of nature.

ACTIVITY - A

Ques. Describe which the major problems face women due to violence?

Ans. Introduction :- Violence exists whenever one group controls its own interests the life chance, environment, action and perception of another group. Rape, Sexual abuse, enforced prostitution, Sati practice, child marriage are the examples of physical violence.

Violence is described as horrendous deeds of attacking, destroying, sabotaging, assaulting, molesting, killing and so forth. Violence against women has become a prominent topic of discussion in India in recent years. Violence may be hidden in more complex practices of exploitation and control in fashions, beauty contests, films and media.

A dowry death is a murder or suicide of a married woman caused by despite over her dowry. In some cases, husband and in-laws will attempt to exact a greater dowry through continuous harassment and torture which sometimes results in the wife committing suicide.

The majority of these suicides are done through hanging, poisoning or self-immolation. When a dowry death is done by setting the woman on fire, it is called bride burning. Bride burning murder is often set up to appear to be a suicide or accident. Dowry is illegal in India, but it still common practice to give expensive gifts to the groom and his relatives at wedding which are hosted by the family of the bride.

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An honour killing is murder of a family member who has been considered to have brought dishonour and shame upon the family. Examples of reasons for honour killings include the refusal to enter an arranged marriage, committing adultery, choosing a partner that the family disapproves of and becoming a victim of rape. Honour killings are rooted to tradition and can not be justified by any major world religion, because none of the major world religions confirms honour-related crimes.

Murders of women accused of witchcraft still occur in India. Poor women, widows and women from lower castes are most at risk of such killings.

Female infanticide is the elected killing of a new born female child or the termination of a female foetus through sex-selective abortion.

Female foeticide is elected abortion of a fetus because it's female. Female foeticide occurs when a family has a strong preference for sons over daughters which is common cultural theme in India.

Rape is one of the most common crimes against women in India. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 defines rape as penile and non-penile penetration in bodily orifice of a woman by men, without the consent of the woman.

Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrator. Women are becoming more independent and educated which is increasing their likelihood to report their rape.

Women frequently do not receive justice for their rapes, because police often do not give a fair hearing and/or medical evidence is often concealed which makes it easy for offenders to get away with their crimes under the current laws.

Martial rape: In India marital rape is not a criminal offense. 80% of Indian men admit to forcing their wives or partners to have sex.

Martial Marital rape can be classified into one of three types.

Battering rape: This includes both physical and sexual violence. The majority of marital rape victims experience battering rape.

Coercive-ally rape: Husband's use the minimum amount of force necessary to coerce his wife.

Compulsive or Submissive rape:

Torture and "Perversion" sexual acts occur and are often physically violent.

Gangrape is defined as the rape of an individual by two or more perpetrators. Following the rape there was widespread national and international coverage of the incident as well as public protests against the government of India and the government of Delhi.

Modesty-related violence against women includes assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty and insults to the modesty of women.

Human trafficking and forced Prostitution

People are frequently illegally trafficked through India for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and forced bonded labour. Human trafficking, forced prostitution also known as involuntary prostitution, is prostitution or sexual slavery that takes place as result of coercion by another party.

Domestic violence is abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as dating, marriage, cohabitation or a familial relationship. Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse and intimate Partner violence (IPV). Domestic violence can be physical, emotional, verbal, economic and sexual abuse. Domestic violence can be subtle, concealed or violent.

Ch. 11. The Prime Minister of India in the Modern Age.

1. THE LIFE OF INDIRA GANDHI

INDIRA GANDHI (1917-1984)

Indira Gandhi was one of the most charismatic leaders of modern India whose ideal and activities touched different spheres of India's public life and politics and left an important on world affairs, especially, the Non-alignment Movement. She was very brave lady who faced many challenges during her tenure. She was the prime minister of over fifteen-and-a-half years.

Born on 19 November 1917 at Allahabad to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Kamala Nehru. Indira Priyadarshini was educated at Visva-Bharati University and Oxford and became involved in political life almost from childhood.

In 1942 Indira married Feroze Gandhi. She became a member of the Congress working committee in 1955 and was elected president in 1959. She became a member of the cabinet of Lal Bahadur Shastri as minister for information. In 1966 on the sudden demise of Shastriji, she was made the prime minister.

Indira Gandhi strengthened the democratic structure and tradition of India. She had tremendous influence on the masses. Among the major achievement of Indira Gandhi as prime minister were India's role during the liberation of Bangladesh against Pakistan. She gave direction to India's economy

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to reach the declared objectives of democratic socialism and greater social justice for weaker sections. It was under her leadership that the singing of Shimla pact with Pakistani premier Z.A.B. hullo and the singing of Indo-Soviet Treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation took place. She nationalised banks, abolished proxy passes of maharajas and conducted the first nuclear tests at Pokhran. The imposition of emergency rule in 1975 proved to be a major mistake that she realised later.

Indira Gandhi was deeply interested in literature, music and fine arts. Various cultural institutions, performing artists, educationists, intellectuals received the status of an institution encouragement. She was proud Calcutta received the status of an institution and national importance. She was conferred Bharat Ratna in 1971.

Indira Gandhi passed into history when she fell to assassin's bullets on 31 October 1984 at her residence. These assassins were none other than her own security men. As a mark of respect to the departed leader her birthday is observed as National Integration Day.

ACTIVITY-1

What is legal status of Gender and it is an important part of Women's Rights?

Women's Rights

Women's Rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls of many societies world wide, and formed the basis to the women's rights movement in the nineteenth century and feminist movement during the 20th century.

Women's Rights around the world is an important indicator to understand global well-being. Women's Rights is the fight for ideas that women should have equal rights with men. Sometimes "Women's Rights" includes protection of women where women are subject to special circumstances (such as maternity leave for child-bearing) or more susceptible to mistreatment (trafficking in women, rape).

Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights included through not limited to the right to bodily integrity and autonomy; to be free from sexual violence; to vote to hold public office; to enter into legal contracts to have equal rights in family law to work to fair wages or equal pay to have reproductive rights to own property to education.

The Rights available to women in India can be classified into two categories namely constitutional right and legal rights. The constitutional rights are those which are provided in the various provisions of the constitution. The legal rights on the other hand are those which are provided in ..

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laws (acts) of the Parliament and the state legislatures.

Women's rights can be classified into several general categories with some specific rights applying to several categories.

Economic Rights includes :-

- Right to own and dispose of property.
- Right to equal guardianship of children during marriage.
- Right to child custody after divorce or widowhood.
- Basic civil freedoms.
- free speech
- Freedom of religion.
- Freedom to change nationality.

Social and cultural rights includes :-

- Education - both basic and higher education.
- Equal access to both basic and higher education.
- Equal access to educational programme, including sports.
- Professions open to women, including law, medicine, teaching, theology.
- Roles in Religious institutions, including voice, participation serving as clergy.
- Treatment within military : roles, promotion, treatment.
- Choices regarding children roles and responsibilities regarding
- Sexual choices, including sex outside of marriage.
- Choice regarding family size and reproduction and methods of controlling , contraceptives abortion .

→ Safety from sexual mistreatment, including rape, traffic in women, and exploitation of prostitutes.

→ choice of dress.

Political rights, includes:

→ Participation in the political sphere, including having voice and influence voting.

→ Running for and serving in political offices.

→ Inheriting titles and ownership in her own name.

The Rights and Safeguards enshrined in the Constitution for women in India, are listed below.

The state shall discriminate against any citizen of India on the ground of sex [Article 15(1)].

The state empowered to make any special provision for women. In other words, this provision enables the state to make affirmative discrimination in favor of women [Article 15(3)].

No citizen shall be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the state on the ground of sex [Article 16(2)].

Traffic in human beings and forced labour are prohibited [Article 23(1)].

The state to secure for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood [Article 19(1)(g)].

The state secure equal pay for equal work for both Indian men and women [Article 19(1)(g)].

The state is required to ensure that the health and strength of women workers are not abused and that they are not forced by economic necessity.

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avocations consuetud to their strength [Article 39(e)]

The state shall make provision for securing just and humane condition of work and maternity relief [Article 42].

It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women [Article 51-A(e)].

One-third of the total number of the seats to be filled by direct election in every panchayat shall be reserved for women [Article 243-D(3)].

The offices of chairpersons in the municipal palities shall be reserved for women in such manner as the State Legislature may provide [Article 243-7(4)].

QUESTION

Empowerment - What is it? Explain with examples.

Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. It is the process by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's life. Empowerment means individual acquiring the power to think and act freely, exercises choice and fulfillment their potential as full and equal members of society. Empowerment means a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights. It is multi-level construct referring to individuals, organizations and community. It is an international, ongoing process centered in the local community involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring and group participation, through which people lacking an equal share of valued resources gain greater access to the control over these resources.

The word empowerment in the context of women in the India policy was used in 1986 - Educational policy which is known as the "NPE, 1986" and the title of the chapter was "Education for women's Equality and Empowerment". It has actually two aspects % empowerment first means empowerment that is women being able to be D

themselves through whatever is imparted to them and use them to get strength for themselves. It may be education, health or so on and the second is that they should be able to help others to become empowered. Women's empowerment is very essential for the development of society.

It's need :-

The need of women empowerment arose because of the gender discrimination and male domination in the Indian society since ancient time. Women are being suppressed by their family members and society for many reasons. They have been targeted for many types of violence and discriminatory practices by the male members in the family and society in India and other countries as well. Long and old practices for the women in the society from ancient time have taken the form of well developed customs and traditions. Today the topic on "Women empowerment" has become a burning issue all over the world. Women empowerment refers to strengthening the social, economic and educational powers of women. Women's empowerment educates and empowers women, who are homeless, with the skills and confidence necessary to secure a job, create a healthy lifestyle and regain a home for themselves and their children.

As per United Nations development fund for women, the term women's empowerment means:

Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.

Developing a sense of self-worth abelit in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.

Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power. Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

The benefits of girl's education for women's empowerment and gender equality are broadly recognized.

As female education rises fertility, population growth, and infant and child mortality fall and family health improves,