

*Editorial*

## Gender equality and its importance in society

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**EDITORIAL NOTE**

Gender equality is the state of having equal access to resources and opportunities, including economic participation and decision making, regardless of gender and the state of equally valuing different behaviours, aspirations, and needs, regardless of gender. It's also considered to as sex equality or sexual equality. Gender parity, which is used to analyse gender balance in a certain environment, can assist in achieving gender equality, but it is not the ultimate goal. Gender equality entails more than just equal representation; it is intimately linked to women's rights and frequently requires reform agenda.

Gender equality on a global scale also requires the elimination of weak in terms against women and girls, such as sex trafficking, femicide, wartime sexual violence, the gender wage gap, and other oppressive techniques. Despite multiple international agreements asserting their human rights, women continue to be significantly more likely than males to be poor and uneducated, according to UNFPA. They have less opportunity for home ownership, finance, training, and employment. This is due in part to old preconceptions of women being labelled as child-bearers and homemakers rather than family breadwinners. They are considerably more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and far less likely to participate in politics than men.

Some feminists have criticised the political discourse and policies used to achieve the above items of progress in gender equality, asserting that these gender equality strategies are superficial in that they do not seek to challenge social structures of gender bias and only aim to improve women's situation within the societal framework of male subordination, and that official public policies are questionable. One of the critiques faced at gender equality policies, especially those of the European

Union, is that they focus disproportionately on measures aimed at integrating women into public life while refusing to address the root causes of oppression in the private sphere. Another criticism is that focusing on the situation of women in non-Western countries while ignoring issues in the West is a form of imperialism and strengthens Western moral superiority, as well as a way of domestic violence by portraying it as something different to violent outsiders rather than relatively liberal Western cultures. Another criticism is that there is a selective public discourse on different types of female oppression, with some forms of violence, such as honour killings, receiving a lot of attention in the West, while other forms of violence, such as the lenient punishment for crimes of passion in Latin America, don't. It is also maintained that criticising specific laws in many developing countries ignores colonialism's influence on those legal systems. There has been criticism that international law, international tribunals, and universal gender-neutral human rights theories are at best mute on many of the issues that women care about, and at worst male centred, treating men as the default. Excessive gender neutrality can aggravate women's problems because the law assumes that women are in the same position as men, ignoring the biological fact that there is no equality in the process of reproduction and pregnancy, and that, in addition to physical differences, there are socially constructed limitations that place women in a socially and culturally inferior position.

An enlightened society begins with women reclaiming their powerful voices, and then gender becomes less of a power dynamic. Gender equality is a fundamental right that helps to a healthy society organized by respectful interpersonal relationships. There is a gender gap in illiteracy, with women being more affected in rural areas, where child marriages are more common and maternal health care are underutilised. In addition, with the sex-ratio at birth declining, violence against women is still on the increase.

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