

Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-5): A Study of Gender Equity among the Women Teachers in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Strategically millennium Development Goal-5 targeted to bring gender equity in almost all frontiers of life and undo the hitherto historical inequality for harmonic development. It was expected that economic independence among educated women would promote gender equity. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders since 2015 have been observed to have differential responses across the nations including India. The present paper intended to identify the degree of gender equity among 250 lady teachers of Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The data have been collected through self-structured pre-tested questionnaire-cum-interview schedule. The selection of the subjects were drawn through purposive sampling method. Simple statistical tools like mean, percentage and SD have been used to identify the relational factors. The result manifested that gender discrimination continues to prevail in our society. It was found that higher percentage of lady teachers continue to struggle against subjugation and subordination. It has been ascertained that due to patriarchy gender equity is miles apart. Irrespective level of education and economic independence the gap between sustainable development and gender equity would continue so long androcentric mindset appears. It is suggested that the role of the State and of society at large need some kind of rigorous involvement for gender justice.

KEYWORDS: SDG, Patriarchy.

INTRODUCTION

In the last three decades, women who make up half of the world's population have benefited more than men from progress in social and economic development. But this is not true in India as India shows disproportionate sex ratio. Though India is marching forward to the status of developed nation, it is shocking to find that population of females has been comparatively lower than males. In spite of, they continue to be over represented among the world's most vulnerable groups, as access to some resources and power remains highly skewed towards men.

There are always a number of components in the society which are disregarded of their basic rights in every society, state and nation, but these components lack in the awareness of their rights. If we enlist such components from the society, then women would

must be top this list. In fact, all women are the important factor of every society.

Gender equality is the process of being fair to women and men. It is a goal in its own right but also a key factor for sustainable social development, economic growth and environmental sustainability. A sustainable path of development can be achieved to ensure that women's and men's interests are both taken into account in the allocation of resources through providing the same opportunities to men and women. Basically, equality between women and men should be promoted in ways that are appropriate to each particular context. Both men and women have a stake building a more just society where all people are equally valued for their contributions. In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environmental

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Development (UNCED) made important provisions for the recognition of women's contribution and their full participation in sustainable development. The United Nations has accepted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with specific targets to achieve within stipulated time. The common goal of SDGs that no one will be left behind is a move towards equitable and inclusive society for all. It is only for to end the poverty and ensure that people enjoy with fruitful peace and prosper.

The Concept of Sustainable Development and Goals:

In the late 1980s the report of Our Common Future by the World Commission on Environment and Development defined the concept of "Sustainable Development" as development which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The concept of sustainable development goal was born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 in 2012. The SDGs are built on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets decided at the UN headquarters in New York from 25-27 September 2015, which came into force on the 1st of January 2016. The specific targets of each SDGs are to be achieved by 2030. Sustainable Development Goals are built on the Millennium Development Goals. However, contrarily to the MDGs those were intended for action in developing countries only: the SDGs apply to all countries.

Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. Equity is used for example within the education, health and humanitarian sectors referring to the equal distribution of resources based on the needs of different groups of people. Gender equity in this context refers to the fact that a gender analysis of these needs is necessary, as they in many respects may be different for women and men, boys and girls. When used in this way the concept gender equity has opened up for a definition that only embraces part of the gender equality agenda. Thus, it leaves the transformative and challenging aspects of gender equality out and makes it possible to avoid the necessary contestation of power relations and unequal social, economic and political structures.

Sustainable development cannot achieve without gender equality. It also depends on an equitable distribution of resources. Women's empowerment is a multi-dimensional process and it is a key factor for achieving sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. There has been progress over the last decades, but the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. But gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates social progress.

Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office, all remain huge barriers. All these areas of inequality have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic: there has been a surge in reports of sexual violence, women have taken on more care work due to school closures, and 70% of health and social workers globally are women.

At the current rate, it will take an estimated 300 years to end child marriage, 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.

Political leadership, investments and comprehensive policy reforms are needed to dismantle systemic barriers to achieving Goal 5 Gender equality is a cross-cutting objective and must be a key focus of national policies, budgets and institutions.

International commitments to advance gender equality have brought about improvements in some areas: child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) have declined in recent years, and women's representation in the political arena is higher than ever before. But the promise of a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality, and where all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed, remains unfulfilled. In fact, that goal is probably even more distant than before, since women and girls are being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 17 Proposed Sustainable Development:

In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. These 17 Goals build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals that emphasized only equality of opportunity and the 2030 (SDGs) agenda acknowledges that equality must be based on both opportunity and outcome. The 17 goals are:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainability use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The following target has been included to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by UNDP:

1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere;
2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation;

3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation;
4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate;
5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life;
6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
7. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws;
8. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women;
9. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all level.

Review Of Literature

Gender inequality is pervasive across the world and women experience a series of disadvantages, in comparison to men. Yet, SD requires that we should all enjoy equal rights and be able to appreciate lives, free from violence and discrimination (UN Women, 2020a). There has been progress in some areas of discrimination, e.g., more girls in education, fewer girls forced into marriage, and more women in leadership roles, but policy decisions related to education, health and other sectors continue to take place in gendered contexts (Morgan et al., 2020). A situation where approximately half of the population is denied equal opportunities, equal participation in decision-making, and equal access to resources, education and employment will contribute to severely inhibiting SD and global prosperity (Dugarova, 2018).

The studies on gender equality reveal that women worldwide are more fragile in aspects such as poverty, representativeness in public employment positions, insecurity, or physical and sexual violence, thus emphasising the need to ensure a redesigned gender-responsive approach towards implementing the 2030 Agenda (Hirsu et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2019; Bourgault et al., 2021).

The World Employment and Social Outlook suggests that women are underpaid and under-employed (ILO, 2018), although playing a central role in the household economy and being important influencers in peaceful societies. The study from Manandhar et al. (2018) suggests that the concept of gender in SDG5, seeking the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, is narrow, focusing on women-specific limited roles. When considered in terms of social context impact, gender inequality affects justice in opportunities, leading to economic inefficiency and thus inhibiting growth and global SD (de Jong & Vijge, 2021).

Most studies suggest that progress in achieving gender equality continues to be slow. The Global Gender Gap 2020 (World Economic Forum, 2020) report highlights the urgency of achieving gender equality, while reporting gaps between men and women in health, education. Integrating gender equality with sustainable development requires a profound conceptual understanding of both concepts and their interlinkages.

We want to end with hope, however. There are many alternative pathways to sustainability and gender equality, albeit currently under-appreciated. They exist in urban and rural spaces where women and men make and sustain their livelihoods, in women's cooperatives and movements, in the writings of feminist scholars and in bureaucracies and global

institutions. We need to seek out these champions and create conceptual and policy space for their ideas and practices. These offer powerful challenges to the logic of 'homo economicus' and to dominant patterns of consumption and production that are promoting structural inequalities and unsustainability. They offer alternatives with the potential to create green transformations that are gender and socially equitable. And an emerging progressive politics of gender and sustainability alliance-building – combining movements, States and enlightened businesses as well as formal and informal practices – offers the potential to make them real. Feminists have always been the ones to provide the most trenchant critiques of dominant thinking and ways of life, usually from the margins. It is now time to emerge from those margins and promote new ways of being.

Objectives:

1. To identify the degree of gender equity among lady teachers of Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Research Design:

The present study aims at knowing the degree of gender equity Lady Teachers in State Capital of Odisha. Hence for the purpose of this study is based on explanatory research design which is most suitable.

Sampling Design:

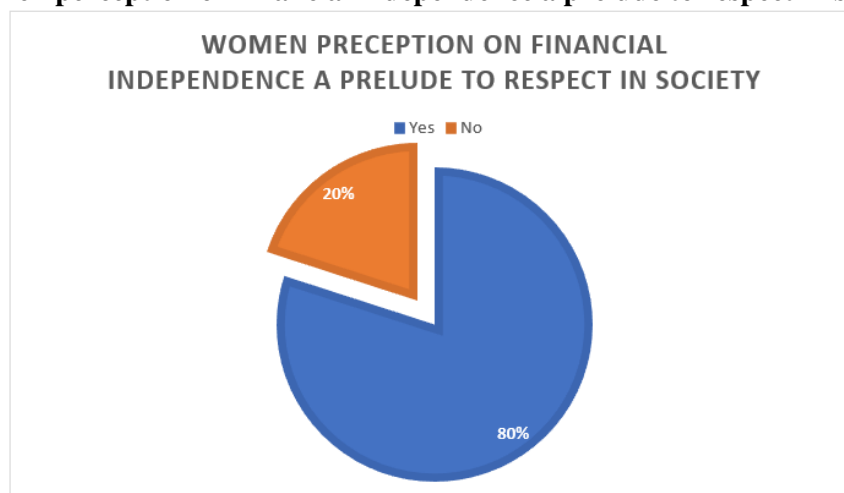
For the present study stratified purposive random sampling method was followed because of the time constraints. Present study undertaken comprises 250 lady teachers of Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Tools and Techniques:

Keeping the objectives of the study in mind data were collected from the married lady teachers serving in Schools and Colleges of Bhubaneswar City with the help of self-structured pre-tested questionnaire-cum-interview schedule.

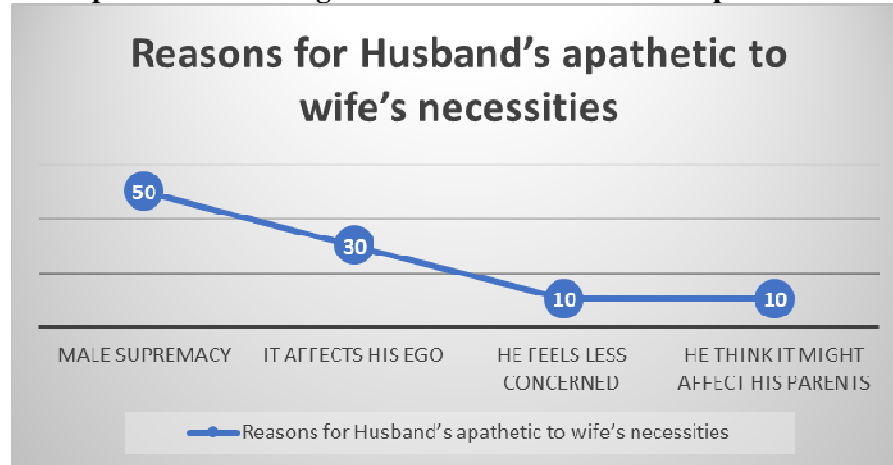
Analysis:

Women perception on financial independence a prelude to respect in society



The above **Figure** reveals that 80% of lady respondents said that financial independence gives them more respect in the society where as only 20% of the lady responded did not agree to this. They felt that a perception of a sound character is also required to get respect. During the survey it was found that if you are a woman, being financially independent is very essential. It gives in woman a superior reputation and independence in the society. This means money matters. It is the money that makes a lady teacher well dressed, and posse's better articles and support systems in terms of mobility and approach to life since people live in the eyes of others. The very outside look harvest images in the onlooker's mind.

Distribution of Respondent according to the reason for husband's apathetic to wife's necessities



The above **Fig.** reveals the reasons for Husband's apathetic to wife's necessities. 50% respondent thought that due to male supremacy husbands are apathetic to wife's necessities. 30% of the respondents thought due to ego of their partner they are apathetic. 10% each of the respondent thought their partner feels less concerned about them and it might affect his parents respectively.

70% of the respondents have the opinion that male members of the family are challenge acceptor where as 30% of the respondent have the opinion that women are the challenge acceptor. The result is obvious due to we are staying in a male dominated society

Our study shows that 50% of the respondent are more responsible and getting lesser freedom after their marriage. 20% of the respondents are getting more freedom and lesser responsibility after their marriage. 12% and 10% of the respondents are more responsible and more freedom and no responsibility and no freedom respectively in their marital life. 8% of the respondent did not give any comment.

In society everyone wanted to secure social prestige, so that one can attract others. It is human nature. It has been observed in our study that 100% of women doing the job to be independent, they do not want to depend on others. They must be economically strong while 80% of the women are doing the job to earn money. 70% wanted to utilize their leisure time, while 55% of women are doing the job to fulfill their parent's desire.

Conclusion:

Women need to be "empowered" in order to narrow the "gender gap" and to create an equal playing field between women and men before, then gender equality can be reached and maintained. The sustainable development goals are an inclusive agenda. They tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us together to make a positive change for both people and planet. "Supporting the 2030 Agenda is a top priority for UNDP", said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. The contribution of women in all fields needs to be enhanced by ensuring their full economic growth. Gender bias is still deeply embedded in cultures, economies, political and social institution around the world. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals will collectively help to achieve gender equality through

women empowerment and only the achievement of SDG-5 alone will not create a gender equal world. From a gender perspective, it is particularly important not to consider gender equality as a socio-cultural issue alone but to give it due consideration in economic and environmental realms as well-treating gender equality as across cutting objective to attain sustainable development.

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