

# A study on Gender discrimination with reference to women's households' duties

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**Abstract:** Women are the pioneers of nation. Indian culture attaches great importance to women, comprising half of world's population.

Women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family. The varieties of role the women assume in the family are those of wife, leader, administrator, manager of family income and last but not the least the mother.

Why there is gender discrimination in household duties? Why it is only the duty of women? When it comes to doing household duties, in the majority of Indian households the task still falls on the women folks. From Ancient Period We all know that all house chores done by women only. This practice is still following by women. In current scenario we are giving freedom of education, freedom of speech, freedom of attire, freedom of expression. Since women have freedom of everything but house chore is the activity of women only. We have removed illiteracy from women, we are giving all freedom to them but still they are suffering from so many problems as well as they play dual role in their life. Now they are also participating in economic activities in their family. Hence, they are doing all the activities whether it is house chores, giving birth to child and taking care of child as well teaching them good and bad things, norms, and values of the society. Even elders are also suggesting to their granddaughters that they have to learn household activities from their maternal houses because after marriage they have to look in to these activities. Why only girl has to learn house core activities? Why boy is not responsible for house core activities? So, by this study I want to aware people regarding gender discrimination in household activities. Only woman is not responsible for this. If both male and female work together and equally participate in all the activities then they can reach high and they can fulfill all their needs in better way. They also can scamp their life smoothly; they can spend time with their family.

**Keywords:** Woman, Household, Freedom, Gender discrimination.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Gender Discrimination has been a social issue in India for centuries. That in many parts of India, the birth of a girl child is not welcomed is a known fact. It is a known fact too, that discrimination starts from even before the girl child is born and sometimes she is killed as a fetus, and if she manages to see the light of day, she is killed as an infant, which makes up the highly skewed child sex ratio where for every 1000 boys in India, there are only 908 girls. In such a scenario, it is but obvious that for myriad reasons, many girls across the country are forced to drop out of school.

Patriarchal norms have marked women as inferior to men. A girl child is considered a burden and is often not even allowed to see the light of the world. It is hard to imagine this state of affairs in the 21st Century when women have proved to be strong leaders in every field possible. From wrestling to business, the world has been revolutionized by exceptional women leaders in fields that were until recently completely dominated by men.

This discrimination continues in every aspect. Be it education, health, protection or participation, the girl child is always treated unequally. Indian society still hasn't been awakened to the importance of empowering the women. This discrimination is starting from grass root level like House hold activities. There is a huge gap in between male and female for house core activities. Rather House core is one of the important responsibilities of each and every house hold because we are spending our qualitative time in our houses. House core is equal responsibility of each and every household but there we can show the gender discrimination only women are playing the role of house wife. Why male is nor responsible for house chores?

Modernization, Urbanization and liberalization play an important role in woman's life. Woman is now free to work outside of the house. She also can think about her career, her job and also about herself. Apart from all these things house hold responsibility is only on the head of woman. These things came from our ancestors. During their time man went outside to earn money and woman stay at home to take care of their house and their children. We have to change this system. The responsibility of household is equal for both.

### **Women's mobility and family honors:**

The formative research mentioned earlier points out how women's mobility is closely linked to their 'honor,' rather than their earning power or their ability to hold a position in a competitive work arena.

This view enables households and families to exercise greater control over women. For instance, respondents to the research said that because of this link to 'honor', they face a number of restrictions on how to behave, how to dress, whom to speak to and whom to not speak to, when they step outside the house.

As many respondents shared, their families feel that, "Once a woman starts working and earns money, she doesn't have to depend on her husband and will take her own decisions in a small way. Gradually, the man will start losing control over her".

Neighbors, too, ask questions—why is your daughter-in-law coming home so late? Who is the man she was talking to in the market? And families must constantly face such queries, steeped in the norms that the community follows. This neighborly interference becomes another form of control over women.

Women are facing issues at home and at work, women acknowledge that many instances of domestic violence are triggered by the idea that men are unable to accept their wife's newfound mobility. While domestic violence is common even among women who do not go to work, the increased mobility is an additional reason for the violence. In a patriarchal setup, roles are clearly demarcated. So, if a woman steps out of the home leaving her daily household duties behind, a disruption is bound to happen. For instance, women might ask their husbands to contribute, however little, in domestic chores. This is clearly viewed as not respecting the husband who is used to having his every whim and fancy catered to. The in-laws find it unacceptable too.

*" We need to change attitudes towards it. We need to set our girls free. "*

*- Ali Mohamed Abdi speaks against the practice of female genital mutilation, Somalia. None of his six daughters has undergone the practice, and he says neither they nor his granddaughters will.*

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Following are a different related review which shows gender discrimination on house core activities.

### **A Study by Javier Cerrato and Eva Cifre (Gender Inequality in Household Chores and Work-Family Conflict).**

This study shows that unequal involvement in house cores between men and women is associated with increase work family conflicts in women and men. As expected, results firstly show unequal involvement in household chores by women and men as it is higher in women that in men, and the perception of partner involvement is lower in women that in men. Results show that traditional gender roles still affect the way men and women manage the work and family interaction, although the increased work family conflicts due to involvement in housework is not exclusive to women, but also occurs in men.

**A study by Fulcher and Scott 2007 (Gender inequality in house core activities)**

This study shows that a person's gender is not simply an aspect of what one is but more fundamentally, it is something that one does, and does recurrently in interaction with others. Dominant gender roles leads to many forms of differentiation between men and women for example, most Africans, the woman is usually in charge of the physical care of the children, although with the influence of society, some of the gender roles and inequalities are gradually being erased, this is still prevalent in some African homes and families. Both sexes are physically capable of learning to cook and sew, yet most societies determine that women should perform those task, also, both men and women are capable of learning to weld and fly air plane, but those functions are generally assigned to men.

**A study by Andrea Douset Volume 18 May-June 1995 (Gender equality and gender differences in household work and parenting)**

This study describes the issues relates to gender differences and gender inequality between men and women in house hold activities and parenting. In most of the families women are doing house hold work and with this also they are taking care of their children. They are spending most of their time in these activities so that they cannot able to grow themselves and they also can not aware about so many things like society, their rights, politics etc. Because of busy schedule woman also cannot spend time for their own and the result is they are suffering from so many problems.

**A Study by Samidha Pokharel 2008 Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies (Gender Discrimination: Women Perspectives)**

The study documents the perception of women in discrimination in various aspects in a male dominated society. The study findings show that there is a discrimination against women in various aspects. Women are aware of discrimination in the societal and household levels. They

Perceive more discrimination in the societal level comparing to household level. Married women perceive more discrimination in mobility, property, occupation, and education. Similarly, unmarried women perceive more discrimination in mobility and way of behaving. They consider gender and customary practices as major factors responsible for discrimination.

**A Study by James W. Gentry (University of Nebraska – Lincoln), Suraj Commuri(University of Missouri – Columbia), Sunkyun Jun(Hongik University)- Gender in house hold.**

This study shows that Sex is differentiated from gender in terms of its biological determinism. In other words, while some (sexual) differences between men and women appear to be biologically inevitable, others (gendered) are clearly social constructions that have been knit together to serve various purposes at various periods in time. However, in commentaries on how men and women differ, there is frequently a lack of attention to distinguishing differences that are biologically inevitable from those that do not bear any such biological determinism. The purpose of this paper is to document extant research to date on differences between men and women in the context of household. In documenting the extant research, it is hoped that the reader's attention may be drawn to the fact that many differences observed in such research do not appear to be biologically inevitable and therefore must be qualified in terms of the gendered lens that has been used to both document and interpret such differences.

**3. METHODOLOGY****OBJECTIVES:**

Following are the objectives for this paper.

- To explore the current scenario on gender discrimination in households' activities.
- Try to trim down gap between male and female for household activities.
- To suggest different government schemes works on woman empowerment which can reduce gender gap.

**METHODS:**

This study is based on secondary data. It reviews different literature and articles based on gender discrimination.

#### 4. FINDINGS

From this study it is viewed that still 50% female are facing the problem of gender discrimination in household activities. This is mostly happening in rural areas where literacy rate is lower than normal and women are not empowered. This is also happening in urban areas but as compare to rural the ration is low. The reason behind the difference between urban and rural areas gender discrimination is education. So, we can say that education plays an important role in each and every aspect.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

People in rural areas are still not aware about different government schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which provide free and compulsory education, UJJAWALA: A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Mahila Shakti Kendra, Mahils E haat etc. So, it needs to increase awareness regarding all these schemes which empower women and by this we can also reduce the gap between gender discrimination in house core activities. We also start evening or nights classes for women in their areas so that they can take basic knowledge.

#### 6. CONCLUSION

From this study we can say that still ninety percent women are facing the problem of gender discrimination in house hold activities. As a member of house, each and every person have to participate in each and every activity of house whether it is inside of the house or outside of the house. If we are following this pattern, we can somehow break the stereotype.

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