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GENDER SENSITIZATION - AWARENESS AND TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

Gender encompasses socially constructed and culturally based roles of woman and men with a view to understand how unequal power relations between them are shaped and operate; Gender and its accompanying power relations are built in all institutions of Society be it family, educational institutions, workplace, religious systems beliefs norms etc., so we need rethinking the teaching learning process in Indian Classrooms and Gender Sensitization is one basic requirement for the normal development of any individual. The need for this sensitivity has been felt and realized through times immemorial and in almost all kinds of human existence, across the globe.

Keywords: Gender, Gender Sensitization, Classroom Education.

INTRODUCTION

The word gender comes from the Latin word genus which meant "kind" or "type". Now gender is used to describe the characteristics of women and men that are socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes. While sex refer to those that are biologically determined. People are born female and male, but gender is how they identify internally and express this externally. People may use clothing appearances and behaviors to express themselves as wholly masculine or wholly feminine or they may present themselves somewhere in between or non-binary.

Gender sensitization may be seen as "the awareness informed propensity to behave in a manner which is sensitive to gender justice and gender equality issues."

Gender Sensitization is a basic requirement to understand the sensitive needs of a particular gender.

The root of discrimination starts at childhood, when family members treat genders separately, boys are supposed to behave in a particular way and girls are supposed to behave in a different way. Boys are taught to not cry like girls, not indulge in household works, and be brave and not like girls. Girls are taught to stay at home and not go out like boys, and are not supposed to participate in outdoor games and speak in a loud manner like boys, girls are not encouraged to have higher education or do jobs like boys.

All these restrictions are imposed on girls by the family in particular and society in general, and kept girls / women restricted to their houses and do household works only, thus inequality in gender amplified.

In schools' teachers will inject discriminatory thought by making boys and girls sit separately and by asking girls in particular to behave politely, and not talk to boys or not do friendship with boys.

This is happening from the ages in the name of protection and security of the female by the society, and is still prevalent in many places- inequality in work, position, placement, finance. Status and like. For name's sake we will say that ours is a karma bhoomi and we are God minded people, but we haven't learned from our puranas and ithihasas where in all our gods' gives respect, equal status, and importance to their wives (goddesses). Lord Vishnu had an avatara of Mohini by which he depicted the empathic approach towards women, Lord Shiva has given equal status to his wife goddess Parvathi by stating himself ARDHA NARISWARA, and King Arjun transformed himself in transgender, to show all genders are equal.

Now at present the Constitution provides for Gender Equity, Opportunity and Empowerment by creating special provisions to overcome the gaps. Economic empowerment → Educational empowerment → Political empowerment → Women's Work and Economic Empowerment → Intergenerational gender gaps → Empowering Women through Education → Legal Issues like Domestic Violence Act 2005, Sexual Harassment → Prevention) Act 2013 → Police Response to Women's Issues → Women Issues dealt by Supreme Court of India.



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But from BC to AD still inequality of gender is continuing and only one gender is dominating the world, which is ridiculous and unbearable, all are equal in the eyes of the God, had same way of birth and leave this world in the same way, then why all these discriminations for power, education, profession, status and like.

Women have served the nation in various positions in very effective way from prime minister, chief ministers, finance minister, pilots, IPS officers, entrepreneurs, sports personalities, to cultural personalities and many more so, it is not capability or efficiency but inequality and discrimination which has suppressed the other genders.

Gender sensitization refers to the modification of behaviour by raising awareness of gender equality concerns. Gender sensitization theories claim that modification of the behaviour of teachers and parents towards children can have a causal effect on gender equality. Gender sensitizing "is about changing behaviour and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other gender. It helps people in "examining their personal attitudes and beliefs and questioning the 'realities' they thought they know. "Gender sensitization is a weapon towards Gender Equity, Equal Opportunity and Women Empowerment which is essential for creating sustainable development as enshrined in our Constitution.

The aim of gender sensitization is to make people aware of the power relations between men and women in the society and to understand the importance of affording women and men equal opportunities and treatment.

Education is central to the achievement of greater equality in society, including between men and women. Investment in education for both boys and girls has been shown consistently to be one of the most important determinants of development, with positive implications for all other measures of progress. It is no wonder that education of the both boy and girl child with a gender-based framework is widely acknowledged as being a single and most powerful vehicle of self-advancement and fulfillment of developmental outcomes for present and future generations of children. In a more specific way, education of the girl child is widely acknowledged as the foundation of national development and plays an important role in ensuring a safer, healthier, more environmentally sound world.

The nations are well aware of the situation arising out of Gender inequalities and discrimination. The Civil Societies are making efforts by pressing the Governments in power to address these issues. But the magnitude of the problem is so high we cannot wait for the situation to take its course as the danger due to neglected issues related to Gender is so phenomenal and colossal. The proactive initiation towards Gender sensitization is to ensure adoption of Gender Budgeting at all levels in letter & spirit. Participation of Women in the processes of Governance is very strongly felt to fulfill the above aspirations.

How To Achieve the Gender Sensitization? THROUGH HOME

Any change should come from the home as rightly said, change should come from our own family, parents are first guru of the children should treat girl and boy child equally, provide equal opportunities to both of them. Share your knowledge and wealth equally to them irrespective of their genders, forget the concept of girl is minus and boys is plus both are equal, up bring them in non-binary way by providing freedom to choose their own way of life.

THROUGH SCHOOL

Change should also come from the school, which is the most significant place of socialization for children, teachers and parents. It plays crucial role in the lives of children. Teacher can play important role in removing discriminations and inequalities of genders from the children and impart merely transfer of knowledge.

Classrooms are bridge between students and teachers wherein students open up freely and share their views and ideas with the teacher and teacher has to inculcate the ideology of equality to them. Thus, the students should be sensitized towards respecting each other in the class rooms by giving them group presentations. Apart from this teacher should make boys to participate in cooking, knitting, crafting, embroidering and like along with the girls and make girls to participate in sports and cultural activities with boys, so as to break the conventional and stereotypical trends.

THROUGH SOCIETY

Society is a large social grouping sharing the same geographical or social territory, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations. Training and awareness-raising in educational set-up, at workplace and in society



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can **eliminate gender-based prejudice** and thereby change stereotyped working cultures as regards to the roles and abilities of women and men, including attitude towards women in leadership positions. Society has to eradicate sexual harassment.

Gender sensitization should pervade all levels, from top to down at household level. All the persons at top level of management and policy making should become more and more sensitized on the issue, the system and large segment of our population should be sensitive to gender Importance of Gender Sensitization.

THROUGH ART AND CULTURE

Gender sensitization will be done through art and culture

Performing arts is a form of creative activity that is performed in front of an audience, which includes drama, music, and **dance**.

Through performance

we can promote the gender equality through performing arts like dance which will have both seeing and hearing (audio visual) the message or content will directly reach the audience and will have more impact because they are captive. We can present both the inequalities in the society and can present how the world should be with gender equality, through dance and music with expressions and emotions.

The dance drama / ballet or group dance or sole dance will have direct contact with the audience and people will involve in to the content because of visually colorful background (designed sets) or back drop and colorful costumes and beautiful audio with songs, dialogues, and music and with effective performances of the artists and excellent choreography, audience will involve themselves and transform.

By performing

By performing also, the artist will come know what is the gender equality and respect by male performing the female character and female performing the male characters like a sole male dancer will perform all characters both male and female and sole female dancer will perform both male and female characters., so that they will know the characteristics of both genders

CONCLUSION

Gender equality or gender sensitization is a continuous process evolving women and men more and more equal. Equality in work place is where we are lacking it has to solved. Another major issue is sexual harassment is widely spread in working place and similar in colleges and universities. Women are paid still less in the work place than the men, even though they have the same amount education as men. Constitution has provided certain acts to protect and empower the women but still more is needed and implementation has to be improved.