

Gender inequality: major hurdle of socio-economic development in emerging economies- comparative study of India and China

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Key Words

Gender Related Development Index, Female Development Index, Female Work Participation and Gender Inequality Index etc.

Abstract

Gender Inequality limits socio-economic development as well as human development. It is one of the most common serious problem in modern societies as well as it is primitive problem. Gender inequality is much less in advanced countries i.e. Norway, Australia, Switzerland, United States, Canada and U. K. etc. On the other hand, gender in inequality is much higher in emerging economies, i.e. India and China. In case of Gender Related Development Index, Female Development Index, Female Work Participation and Gender Inequality Index in India was 0.828, 0.519, 0.355 and 0.587 and in case of China it was 0.939, 0.696, 0.819 and 0.202 respectively. It shows that female development in India is very less with compare to China and gender equality is very low in India with compare to China. For gender equality and female development Government should focus on education and society should improve its attitude towards female. This paper purely depends on secondary data. In this paper researcher tries to focus on various index of gender inequality, causes and remedial measures of Gender Inequality.

Introduction

Gender Inequality is the discrimination between gender, i.e. male or female. It is one of the most common serious problem in modern societies as well as it is primitive problem. During the history of human being, women had no rights. But today is the modern era and situation is changing rapidly in urban area. But 70 % people of India are living in rural area and intensity of Gender Inequality is high in rural area. Although, we have been achieving socio-economic development, our constitution has granted equal rights for men and women, gender disparity still remained.

Gender Inequality limits socio-economic development as well as human development. Male and female are two aspects of human being and imbalanced development of any one gender limit the development of society. The researcher has selected this topic for presentation, because it is directly related with Equity and social justice. In this paper researcher tries to focus on various index of gender inequality, causes and remedial measures of Gender Inequality.

Research Methodology

This paper purely depends on secondary data. To collect the statistical data researchers have used various sources like HDI report of United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Indian Population Census, 2011, statistical reports of UNESCO Institute for Statistics, WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank, research articles from e-journals, reference books, research articles from newspapers and off-line journals and sources from Internet etc.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the present status of Gender Inequality on basis various Index of Gender Inequality in India and China and advanced countries.
2. To study the causes of Gender Inequality in India and China.
3. To suggest the remedial measures to remove Gender Inequality in India and China.

Index of Gender Equality/Discrimination

Gender Development Index (Female to Male Ratio of HDI)

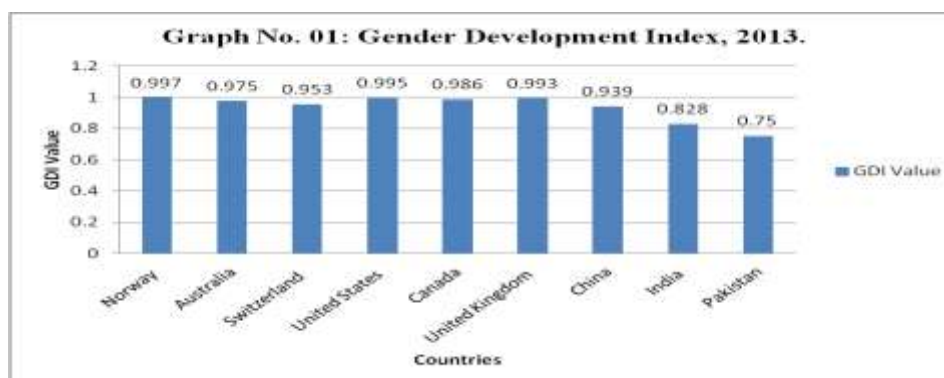
GDI is a composite measure reflecting disparity in (Gender) human development achievements between women and men in three dimensions—health, education and living standards. The United Nations HDI (Gender Related) report has shown in table no 01. This table shows that Gender Related Development Index in advanced nations is usually steady (Around 0.95 %) and same in the India and China is much less (0.828 and 0.939). There is much difference of % of HDI and GDI among all countries. Above data shows that there is less disparity in (Gender) human development achievements between women and men in advanced countries, but still there much disparity in (Gender) human development achievements between women in India and Medium Human Development inching. The United Nations report has also concluded that economic development is closely related to the advancement of women. In nations where women have advanced, economic growth has usually been steady. By contrast, in countries where women have been restricted, the economy has been stagnant.

Table No.01: Gender Development Index, 2013.

Sr. No.	Country	GDI Value	GDI Rank	HDI Rank
1.	Norway	0.997	5 th	1 st
2.	Australia	0.975	40 th	2 nd
3.	Switzerland	0.953	76 th	3 rd
4.	United States	0.995	7 th	5 th
5.	Canada	0.986	24 th	8 th
6.	United Kingdom	0.993	13 th	14 th
7.	China	0.939	88 th	91 th
8.	India	0.828	132 th	135 th
9.	Pakistan	0.750	145 th	146 th

Source: Source: Human Development Index, 2013, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013).

- Very high human development 0.975
- High human development 0.946
- Medium human development 0.875
- Low human development 0.834



Female Human Development Index, 2013

Female Human Development Index (HDI): A composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of female human development – a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. Table no.02 shows that developed countries i.e. Norway, US, UK, Australia, Switzerland etc., have achieved very high development (>0.874) of female and China has achieved medium (0.696) development of female.

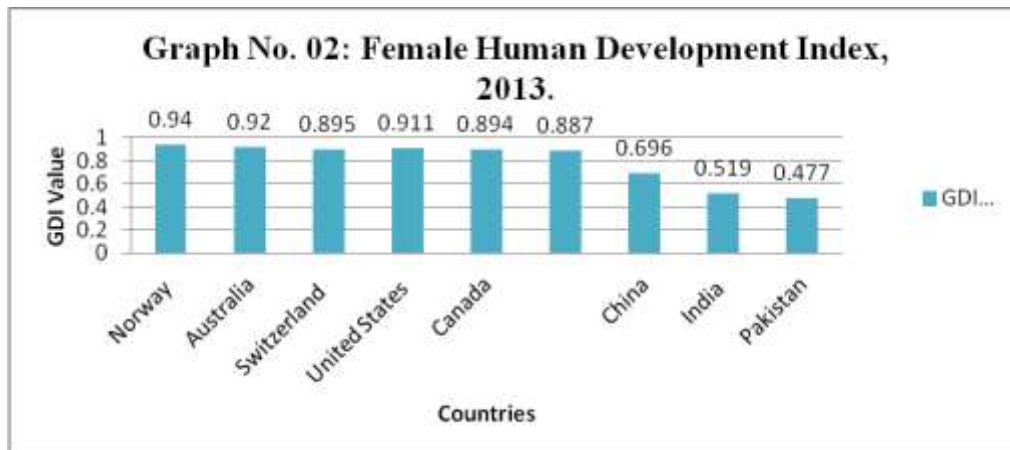
On the other hand, India has achieved (0.519) low human (Female) development. It shows that still Indian woman is deprived from a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

Table No.02: Female Human Development Index, 2013.

Sr. No.	Country	GDI Value	HDI Rank
1.	Norway	0.940	1 st
2.	Australia	0.920	2 nd
3.	Switzerland	0.895	3 rd
4.	United States	0.911	5 th
5.	Canada	0.894	8 th
6.	United Kingdom	0.887	14 th
7.	China	0.696	91 th
8.	India	0.519	135 th
9.	Pakistan	0.477	146 th

Source: Human Development Index, 2013.

Note:	Very high human development	0.874
	High human development	0.710
	Medium human development	0.565
	Low human development	0.446



Labour Force Participation Rate, (Female-Male Ratio)

This index shows participation of female in labour (work) force as compare to male. Table no.03 shows that female from developed nations are participating in high proportion in work force as compare to male. (> 0.800), but this index shows that female participation in outside work by Indian women is very less (0.355) as compare to Chinese women (0.819) as well

as advanced countries. Because social system of India is Patriarchal, and men do not allow to women for outside work.

Table No.03: Labour Force Participation Rate, (Female-male ratio), 2012

Sr. No.	Country	LFPR Value	HDI Rank
1.	Norway	0.886	1 st
2.	Australia	0.815	2 nd
3.	Switzerland	0.807	3 rd
4.	United States	0.823	5 th
5.	Canada	0.865	8 th
6.	United Kingdom	0.809	14 th
7.	China	0.819	91 th
8.	India	0.355	135 th
9.	Pakistan	0.291	146 th

Source: Human Development Index, 2012, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013) and ILO (2013a).



Gender Inequality Index

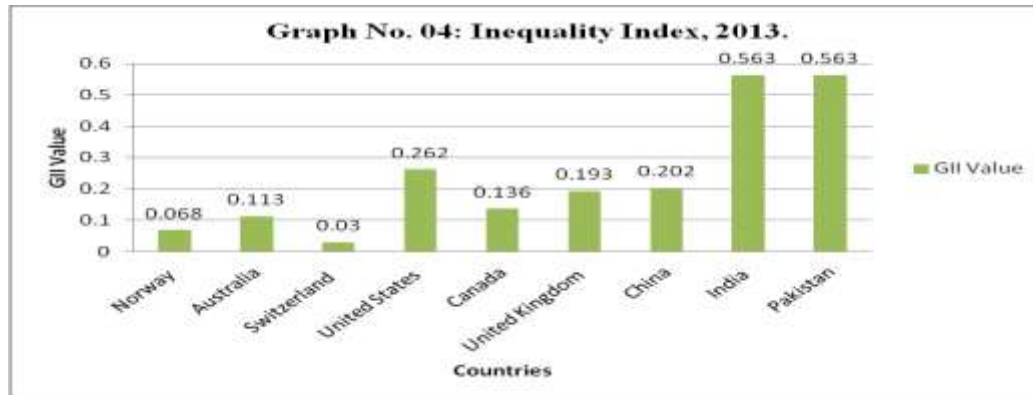
It is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. Table no.03 shows that the value of this index of all advanced countries is less than 0.197, except U. S. (0.262). It means there is very less inequality between male and female in advanced countries. The value of GII of China is (0.202) less than 0.315. It shows High Medium Human Development. On the other hand the value of this index of India is 0.563 less than 0.587. It means the human development is very low and inequality between male and female is highest. It shows lack of social development.

Table No.04: Gender Inequality Index, 2013.

Sr. No.	Country	GII Value	GII Rank	HDI Rank
1.	Norway	0.068	9 th	1 st
2.	Australia	0.113	19 th	2 nd
3.	Switzerland	0.030	2 nd	3 rd
4.	United States	0.262	47 th	5 th
5.	Canada	0.136	23 rd	8 th
6.	United Kingdom	0.193	35 th	14 th
7.	China	0.202	37 th	91 th
8.	India	0.563	127 th	135 th
9.	Pakistan	0.563	127 th	146 th

Source: Human Development Index, 2013, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013).

Note:	Very high human development	0.197
	High human development	0.315
	Medium human development	0.513
	Low human development	0.587.



Causes of Gender Discrimination in Emerging Economies (India and China)

1. Patriarchal society
2. Historical Causes
3. Social (Customs)
4. Economic Causes
5. Religious Causes
6. Dowry System
7. Domestic Violence
8. Sexual Abuse
9. Preference for Son
10. Attitude/Mentality of Society

Major Findings

1. Gender Related Development Index in advanced nations is usually steady (Around 0.95 %) and same in the India and China is much less (0.828 and 0.939).
2. Developed countries have achieved very high development (>0.874) of female and China has achieved medium (0.696) development of female. On the other hand, India has achieved (0.519) low human (Female) development.
3. Female participation in outside work by Indian women is very less (0.355) as compare to Chinese women (0.819) as well as advanced countries.
4. The value of GII of China is (0.202) less than 0.315 (High Medium Human Development). On the other hand the value of this index of India is less than 0.587 (Low human development).
5. Human development is very low and inequality between male and female is highest in India. Because social system of India is Patriarchal.

Suggestions

1. Female literacy should be rise by Government in emerging economies, i.e. India and China.
2. Moral education should be given by Government in emerging economies, i.e. India and China.

3. Preference for son and daughter should be given on equal base.
4. Equal opportunities for job participation, education, and political participation should give by society for female.
5. Equal weightage should give to the Patriarchal and Matriarchal nature of society by the society.
6. Economic freedom should be given to the female in emerging economies, i.e. India and China.
7. Dowry system should remove from society.
8. Equal health facilities should provide to the females in emerging economies.
9. Equal social status for female should be given to the female.
10. Attitude/Mentality of Society towards female should be improved.

Conclusion

On basis of above analysis researcher come to conclude that gender inequality is much less in advanced countries i.e. Norway, Australia, Switzerland, United States, Canada and U. K. etc. On the other hand, gender inequality is much higher in emerging economies, i.e. India and China. In case of Gender Related Development Index, Female Development Index, Female participation and Gender Inequality Index in India was 0.828, 0.519, 0.355 and 0.587 and in case of China it was 0.939, 0.696, 0.819 and 0.202 respectively. It shows that female development in India is very less with compare to China and gender equality is very low in India with compare to China. India and China are emerging economies in today's global environment. But social economic development in China is better than India. Because less female development and gender inequality in India.

Gender Inequality influences on socio-economic development of economy. Socio - economic development is closely related to the advancement of women. In nations where women have developed, socio - economic growth has usually been steady. By contrast, in countries where women have been restricted like in India, the economy has been stagnant. For gender equality and female development Government should focus on education and society should improve its attitude towards female. Generalization of these things will lead gender equality.

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