

Is Gender Equality Really Prevailing in Today's Society?

Gender bias is attracting renewed attention of the world. Women everywhere are protesting against gender inequality through protests and social-media campaigns. Even though some social-media campaigns like the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements have been successful in raising public awareness of the issue, the struggle for women still remains. Gender discrimination has been seen in all aspects of life. From the preference for baby boy over girl to gender bias at workplace, women have faced gender discrimination and have fought and are still fighting for their equal rights.

Many countries like the UK, China, and India have put a ban on finding out the gender of the fetus. This is because many people still follow the tradition of having at least one boy in their family. Parents find out the gender of the fetus and opt for termination if they find out that the baby is a girl. In India, [it is common for families to prefer male child over female child](#) as they believe that male child will carry on their family and are viewed as an asset, while a female child is considered expensive because of dowry and lack of financial return in future. This shows that many families in India still see girls as burden. This bias decreases the opportunities for girls to get an education.

In many countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, girls have far fewer opportunities for schooling than boys, and there are [deficiencies in the basic facilities available to women](#) varying from encouragement to cultivate one's natural talents to fair participation in social functions of the community. The families think that they would be wasting money on their girl child as eventually she will be married and would not help them financially in the future while a son would go on to take care of the family financially. "Worldwide, nearly one in four girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are neither employed nor in education or training compared to one in 10 boys," [according to a UNICEF report](#). Talking about the participation in social functions of the community, many traditional people still think that it is unethical for women to go out and give opinions on matters of the society. They think that women are made to take care of homes and that is what they should do.

Another most common field where gender discrimination is mostly seen is workplace. Many women have suffered from sexual harassment due to the gender bias that prevails in the society. There are eight specific forms in which women face gender discrimination at workplace. They include discrimination in income, getting treated as incompetent, experiencing slights at work, receiving less support from superiors, getting passed over for important assignments, feeling isolated, being denied promotion, and getting rejected for job because of gender bias. The biggest gender gap is in the area of income. One-in-four working women [say that they earn less as compared to their male peers](#), while one-in-twenty working men say that they earn less as compared to their female peers. There are differences by race and ethnicity as well.

[22% of black women say that they have been passed over for important assignments](#) as compared to 8% of whites and 9% of Hispanics. Black women and other non-white females seem to face more discrimination. They have to face both, gender discrimination as well as racial discrimination. This creates lots of problems for working women of color. They do not get the opportunity to showcase their talents in the workplace and then are called incompetent.

Similar type of gender bias is seen in the field of politics. One should ask, "How many women presidents have we had in the past?" The answer to this questions speaks volumes. There have been female candidates for president in the past, but people do not vote for them as they think that women do not have the ability to run a country. "For 20 years, we've had participants in our focus group say that they would vote for a woman, just not that woman," [said Amanda Hunter](#), research and communications director at Barbara Lee Family Foundation, which supports women in politics. People like to believe that they do not cause gender bias, but their actions speak louder than words. Harvard researchers found in 2010 that voters [regarded power-seeking women with anger](#) but saw power-seeking men as strong and competent. Men have grown up seeing that men have more power in the society as compared to women. Men have always had more say in the matters that were important whether it be related to house or society. This drills in the minds of young men and women that men are more capable and competent than women.

Gender discrimination can be reduced by raising voices to spread awareness among the public. The social media campaigns have had great results in terms of raising awareness among the public. Women need to continue raising their voices to get the equality that they deserve in the society and men need to understand that women are equally capable and competent as men. In 1972, teenage feminists formed an alliance with youth liberation and adult feminist groups dedicated to ending racism, imperialism, classism, homophobia, and ageism within and beyond schools and [helped situate gender discrimination](#) in schools as a microcosm of structural oppression. Women back then believed that change can be introduced into the society. Women today need to have the same belief and motivation to speak up for their rights. The society's view will not change today itself, but it will someday. Rome was not built in a day! If we keep raising awareness among the public, there will be a day when men and women will have equal opportunities and gender discrimination will be at its lowest.