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## AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN MORAYUR PANCHAYATH OF KERALA

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### ABSTRACT

*During 2000, there are many studies conducted in the area of human development. The indicators of human development are per capita income, the standard of living, wealth, education and gender equality. Lack of industries, exploitation of natural resources, gender disparities, lack of nutrition food, ill-health are obstacles to economic development. Gender inequality is the idea and situation that women and men are not equal. The major objectives of the study are to find out reasons for gender discrimination and to suggest remedial measures for the problem. The present study*

*reveals gender inequality existing in Kerala.*

**Keywords :** *Gender Inequality, Gender Inequality refers to Unequal Treatment or Perceptions of Individuals Wholly or Partly due to their Gender.*

### INTRODUCTION

The term inequality is frequently used in the twenty-first century. Inequality has tangible and intangible as well as negative and positive impacts. It arises from differences in gender roles. Gender systems are often dichotomous and hierarchical. Gender binary systems may reflect the inequalities that manifest in numerous dimensions of daily life. Gender inequality stems from distinctions whether empirically grounded or socially constructed. The studies of

still there existing Gender disparity. HDI values also revealing inequality is exist all over the country. There are many reasons for inequality in underdeveloped countries. During 2016 October TIMES OF INDIA conducted a survey about gender inequality. Their studies were conducted among town areas of our country, India. Their report reveals that Coimbatore city has the first position in the case of Gender empowerment. The district of Malappuram has the tenth position in gender empowerment. Morayur panchayath is one of the Panchayath among Malappuram District of Kerala. An empirical study on the topic has not been done so far. Hence the present study has much significance in the present.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The human development concept was developed by economist Mahabub-al-Haq. Dr.Haq argued that existing measures of human progress failed to account for the true purpose of development to improve people's lives. In particular, he believed that the commonly used measure of the gross domestic product failed to adequately measure wellbeing. Working with Nobel laureate Amartya Kumar Sen and other gifted economists, in 1990 Dr.Huq published the first human development reports, which was commissioned by the United Nations development program. Central to the human development approach is the concept of capabilities. Capabilities - what people can do and what they can become are the equipment one has to pursue

developing economies show, | a life of value. Basic capabilities valued by virtually every one include good health, access to knowledge and a decent material standard of living. Inequality is a negative factor in human development.

India ranking remains low in Gender disparity measures by the world economic forum, although the rank components that contribute the rank, India performs well on political empowerment, India also scores poorly on overall female to male literacy and health rankings.

Gender inequalities impact on India's sex ratio, women's health over their lifetimes, their educational attainment, and economic conditions. It is a multifaceted issue that concerns men and women alike. The labor force participation rate of women was 49% in 2018. Different states and union territories of India, in co-operation with the central government, have initiated a number of region-specific programs targeted at women to help reduce gender inequality over the 1989-2013 periods. Some of these programs include Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, Awareness Generation Projects for Rural and Kishori Shakti Yojana.

Renu Batra, Thomas G. Reio, Jr. from their research article Gender disparity issues in India(2016) published India struggle with Gender disparity issues beyond just equal economic growth and access to educational resource opportunities. Gender disparity exists in the form of socially constructed, predefined gender roles firmly anchored in India's socio-cultural fabric that has deep cultural and historical roots. Socio-cultural influences have spillover effects across all domains, including the organizational workforce, and social and political contexts. This unquestionable influence is still accepted as the norm within the societal and familial periphery.

An article entitled 'the state of gender inequality in India' by Singh Sumanjeet (2017) despite a high growth rate and plentiful government measures to encourage gender equality; the gender gap still exists in India. Lack of gender equality not only limits women's access to resources and opportunities but also imperils the life prospects of the future generation. In the present article, an attempt has been made to examine the problem of gender inequality in India. In this process, the article discusses not only the extent, causes and consequences of the problem, but also suggests policy measures to reduce gender disparity in India.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out whether there is any gender differences in the aspects of education and employment.
- To find out if there is any gender discrimination exists with respect to wage in Morayur grama panchayath.
- To find out the major reasons for gender inequality.
- To suggest a solution to the problem.

### HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no inequality existing in the provision of education at Kerala.

### METHODOLOGY

For the study, the empirical research method is followed by the investigator. For collecting data various sources were adopted. Samples were taken from 500 persons from different wards of Morayur Panchayath by random sampling. For the study, a structured interview schedule and questionnaire were used. The collected data were analyzed with simple statistical techniques only.

### ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

Morayur panchayath is one of the Panchayath among Malappuram District of Kerala. Among the respondent's 50% were female and 50% were male. Both categories are of different age levels. They are as follows. The age level of respondents is in three classifications as Below 30, 30-40 and Above 40. Among the male category, 35% are coming under age below 30, 50% have 30-40 years and 15 % having above 40 years old. Among the female category, 45 % are coming under age below 30, 35% having 30-

40 years and 20% having above 40 years old. Among men, 85% were married and women were 75% were married. Their educational qualifications are given in Table-1.

**Table 1: Educational Status**

Qualification	% Of Men	% Of Women
Primary	5	25
Secondary	15	40
Higher Secondary	25	20
Degree	35	7
Professional/Diploma	20	5
Illiterate	0	3
Total	100	100

Table-1 shows there is gender inequality in acquiring educational qualifications. The study also reveals there is inequality between gender in case of employment status. Most of the women are unemployed and 15% were working in the agriculture sector. Only 5% of men were unemployed and 50% of them were engaged in self-employment activities. Their employment status is given in Table-2.

**Table 2: Employment Status**

Status	% of Men	% of Women
Agricultural Sector	6	15
Govt. Employee	9	5
Semi/Non-Skilled Labor	30	10
Self-Employed	50	10
Unemployed	5	60
Total	100	100

Table-3 reveals there is income disparity between genders. Male's wage is higher than the female. It's a tabular presentation given under.

**Table 3: Monthly Wages of Respondents**

Wage in Rupees	Men	Women
Below 1000	1	4
1000-5000	2	21
5000-10000	21	7
10000-15000	33	2
15000-20000	28	1
Above 20000	10	5

Major reasons for inequality between men and women at Morayur Panchayath are as follows. It is shown in Table-4.

**Table 4: Reasons for Backwardness among Women Respondents**

Reasons	% Of Female Respondents
No awareness about educational opportunity	20
Family control	30
Religious control	20
No awareness about woman empowerment	10
No job opportunity	10
Feeling insecurity	7

Social control	3
Total	100

### FINDINGS

The major findings of the study are; the percentage of illiterates among women is higher than men. Qualification of secondary only among women is more but the percentage of degree holders is higher among males than females. 60% of women were unemployed and most of them were working under the insecurity field and farming sector. These points indicating that women suffering much from society. When they were doing any salaried job, they got less from employers than males. Hence the study reveals there is inequality in the distribution of income among respondents at Morayur panchayath of Kerala. Major reasons for these problems are:

- Family control towards female
- Social control towards female
- Insecurity among society
- Religious control
- Lack of awareness about schemes for women and education.

### SUGGESTIONS

This study shows gender inequality exists in Morayur grama panchayath. The study recommends some suggestions as follows:

- Panchayath should conduct the women empowerment program inadequate manner
- Panchayath should conduct awareness programs for women
- Authority should give attention to women's education
- Authority should motivate women for doing self employment
- Authority should take remedial measures to reduce gender inequality
- Authority should try to improve socio-economic conditions of women
- Authority should implement all programs for women recommended by the state government and the central government in a transparent manner
- The government should assure policies for women's protection from society

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