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PROBLEMS OF WOMEN IN 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

A question arises in the minds of every girl that being a girl is a boon or a curse. From an infant girl child to married young women, she faces struggle in every phases of her life. Even a girl is not safe in the womb of her mother. As soon as the family members come to know that the unborn child in the mother's womb is a girl, they try each and every measure to kill the girl child. The reasons behind hatred towards girls are that generally parents think that the girl is a liability or a burden on them. One of the essential reason behind female feoticide is "Dowry". Every parent want that their daughter to get married in a good family having a better status. There's a big pressure on the minds of a family member that after their daughter crosses her teenage, how will they be able to meet the demands asked by the bridegroom's family. So, ultimately they kill the girl child in the womb or terminate the pregnancy so that they will not have a pressure in the future for marrying their girl child. It is a harsh reality that women have been ill-treated in every society for ages and India is no exception. The irony lies in fact that in our country where women are worshipped as the Supreme Lord, still there are many crimes faced by the women in the society. The society sees the girl mere as a slave and a product that she is not a human and had no feelings. The girls are treated as an object that provide sexual pleasures to the male community and merely meant for begetting the children.

KEY WORDS- Domestic Violence, Feoticide, Rape, Gender Discrimination, Dowry Death

1. INTRODUCTION

Our country has developed a lot and women have shown their talent in each and every field. For instance, a girl is a auto-rickshaw driver, pilot, home maker, driver, lawyer, air-hostess, chef, fashion-designer, business women, doctor, etc.A girl has approxed covered all the profession. So we cannot say that a girl is not as talented as a boy. Still, she faces discrimination in majority portions of our society. There are few families who do not discriminate between their girl and boy child. Those parents should be appreciated and deserve high respect in our society. But a strange thing being observed is that the parents who treats their daughters as princess and want their daughters to be educated, employed and be independent. Same parents never give their daughter-in-law same love,care, affection and freedom. Why they became so sensitive for their own daughter? Why they became so rude for their daughter-in-law? Why they forget that their daughter-in-law is also someone's daughter.

A girl is been always been maltreated and she cannot raise her voice, and if a girl raises her voice against wrongs acts faced by her, society declares to be slut or manner less. The society instead of supporting her starts blaming the girl and raise a question on her dressing. I personally have a question to those members of our society who point the girl for wearing shorts, or roaming at night at after 8 pm, that why an infant child is raped whois just 3 years. What is the fault of that girl, Should we keep that 3 years girl in Suit, or a girl who goes to school who wears suit, why is she raped. It's not about the dressing of a girl; it's about the mindset and evil intentions of a boy who thinks a girl as a product and not a human. A girl is not been provided proper education. She is not allowed to study and if she is allowed, she is only sent for primary education after the schemes provided by the Government. A girl always faces gender discrimination issues. A girl has to face the struggle of child marriage, at the age when she needs to be educated. A Girl if did not accept the proposal of a male, or hurts male ego, then a new problem arised, that an acid is been thrown on a girl and she becomes a victim of acid attack which directly destroys her life affecting her mental, social and physical health.

OBJECTIVES

To specify the problems faced by the women in the current era

- To analyse the conditions and prevent female feoticide, acid attack, domestic violence, etc.
- To bring a solution and help in leading women empowerment

2. FEMALE FEOTICIDE

Female feoticide is basically to recognize the sex of a child in the mother's womb. It is been aborted if parents found the sex to be a baby girl. The sex of an infant is been detected with the help of ultrasound machines. Detecting a child in the mother's womb is illegal in India, still this act is been practiced at many places.

2.1CAUSES OF FEMALE FEOTICIDE

The practice of female feoticide is increasing day by day. It is generally demanded by parents who prefer a male child rather than a female child. The reasons for female feoticide are as follows:-

- ✓ One of the essential reason behind female feoticide is "Dowry". There is a high pressure on the parents that the amount and demand of dowry will be so high that the parents will be unable to fulfill the requirements of bridegroom and his family. So they think female feoticide is a best solution to run away from future problems.
- ✓ Another reason for female feoticide is lack of financial stability. The parents generally think a boy is a boon and a girl is a curse. They always think that a boy will be earning member of a family and will be able to provide a good standard of living to the whole family. But a girl can only do household work, and she will not be able earn and be declared as a liability on the whole family.
- ✓ Many girls, especially in rural areas are uneducated, so they cannot raise voice even if they are right. After marriage they are been forced to abort the child if the child is a girl child. People generally think that only a boy will carry forward the dynasty of his family, but a girl will marry and move to her husband's family, so she will not be able to take forward the name of her father's family.
- ✓ In our society, there is a large number of people who do not have sufficient amount of money to rear and nourish their child. So ultimately, they abort their child.

2.2CONSEQUENCES OF FEMALE FEOTICIDE

Female feoticide throws negative impact on our society. It degrades a social, mental and physical health of women. It further results in higher

rate of suicidal cases of women because she thinks that she is a mere slave and have no right to share her opinion.

3. NO ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Girls are also in majority and if a girl remains educated, it thinks that the whole family remains uneducated. If the homemaker is not aware about the societal rules, problems, then it is assumed that she will not be able to train her child the way he/she needs to be nourished. The girls are not been provided with the basic education. There are certain schemes launched by the Government which provides primary education and meals for the child, but still many families did not allow their girl child to go to school and study because they think that a girl is mere meant for household works.

3.1 CAUSES FOR LACK OF EDUCATION

The few reasons which play a vital role that a girl is unable to access education and be knowledgeable are as follows:-

- The marriages of girls are performed at a very early age.
- The get soon pregnant after their marriage.
- The girls are been sent to work in factory or different houses to perform the household work.
- Girls generally face discrimination, taunts and violence when they go to school.
- Parents do not have a large sum of money, so they are incapable to pay the fee of the institution. Thus girls lacks behind in educational field.

4. CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage refers to the marriage who has not attained the age of majority i.e. the child has not completed 18 years of age. Previously, it was a very common phenomenon but in current times, this practice has decreased a lot. This practice is more in girls as compared to the boys. Child marriage robs the girls in their childhood and threatens their health and lives. The girls who get married before 18 years of age are generally facing the issue of domestic violence. Child brides often become pregnant immediately after the marriage and face high level of complications to give birth to a child, because the mothers themselves are of very small age and it degrades their physical health. A child marriage impacts the health of a girl, her family and future life because directly and indirectly it affects the physical and mental health of a girl.

4.1 REASONS FOR EARLY / CHILD MARRIAGES

- Low level of education of girls
- Lower status given to the girls and considering them as financial liabilty
- Customs accepted by the society

- Child brides
- Poverty

5. GENDER DISCRIMINATION

The discrimination between the man and woman is a very old phenomenon and is been faced by the female since a long time period. Our country has been developed a lot. Girls have proved that they are not less than boys as they have shown their talent in every field. But still there are some places where a girl is been not given the respect she deserves and she faces discrimination at every stage. For instances, bride has to pay dowry to bridegroom because she is a girl, a girl is not allowed to go to office still at many place because she is a girl, only a girl is been meant to do household work because she is girl. On one hand, our society worship Goddess Lakshmi and many other Goddesses, and on the other hand they maltreated girls and the women in the society. A girl is been raped because she is a girl.

6. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Majority of the girls are the victim of domestic violence. They have to face the taunts, abuse and maltreatment of their husband. The husband sometimes hit his wife if he feels that she has committed any mistake or she raised her voice against the malpractices happening with her. Physical abuse itself is not domestic violence. Domestic violence includes emotional and physical abuse.

7. DOWRY DEATH

There are many women who are been tortured and maltreated due to less dowry which further result in the death of a woman. The girls are been taunted that they have not brought sufficient amount of money of dowry as demanded by the bridegroom's family.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A girl is facing lots of problem in the journey from her infant life to the journey of being an adult. The basic reason behind female feoticide, child marriage, gender discrimination, domestic violence, dowry death is financial instability of women and their dependence on their family. The society is developing day by day but still the mentalities of the society members are not modern for the girls as it was before in the ancient times.

Still there is been drastic change when there is a practice of sati performed after the death of the husband to the current era, where a divorced woman is been also acceptable now. Everyone in the society thinks a girl as a liability because they have an opinion that the girls are a liability on us because we have pay for the survival of a girl .Generally, a girl is been nourished by her father and mother before marriage and after marriage the responsibility of a girl is been handed over to her husband for her survival. Directly or indirectly a girl have to be quiet and be in limits because she is not earning and she did not get the respect she deserves. A woman being a home maker just becomes a slave for the whole family and is been maltreated. But now there are many laws which help in the upliftment of a woman and which also provide them the rights to raise their voice against the wrongs conducted against her.

The practices like female feoticide should be stopped because God is the creator and we as a human has no right to destroy God's creation. A child whether a girl or a boy is a gift of the God. We should not discriminate between a girl and a boy child and give equal respect to both of them as in current era, girl is not less than a boy as there is no profession which only a boy can profess not a girl. And the ultimate problem was dowry, so the girls are independent these days and can earn their living, and are not further dependent on their parents or the husband.

A girl should not be married prior to 18 as she is not even mature and has no knowledge about the society. The practice of child marriage should be stopped. The girls should be provided with proper education so that she can gain the knowledge and can earn the income for her survival and not be dependent on any other person. A married woman if employed and earns an amount for herself and her family will lead to respect given to the lady for being a good house lady and being a supporting hand to her husband. This will thus prevent dowry death and domestic violence.

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