

WOMEN OF INDIA

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Premise

Work to improve women's overall position in India has been done on a governmental level for quite some time, most notably since the 1990's. **Legislation wise women and children have equal rights and position within the society. Legislative right to equality unfortunately doesn't realize itself on a practical scale as it should.**

Realization of equality specially in agricultural communities still has large shortages even after decades of work.

Half of the women living within these communities still get forcefully married underaged, and their knowledge about periods and other topics of sexuality and gender is non existing. These are still considered overall taboo topics around India. For this reason woman with poor social status still remain as socially excluded part of the society.



Woman's position in agricultural communities hasn't gotten much better though the years, while some improvement has been made in more developed areas.



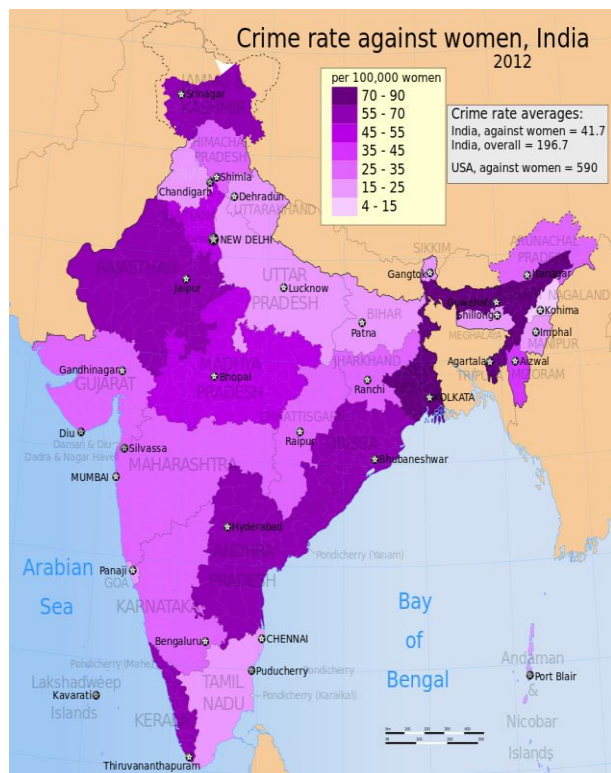
Women marching across India as part of the Women's march for equal rights on April 4th 2019

What has been done?

To improve woman's position within the poorer parts of the society, various measures have been done and programs are being created to support them. **Women within the poorer parts of the society suffer from extreme poverty, are living within very difficult circumstances and in less developed areas, possibly also living under natural phenomenon's. They are disabled widows, elderly people, people living by themselves in difficult circumstances, heads of the housekeeping, people isolated from work, migrants, people suffering from marital abuse, abandoned, prostitutes and so on.** Special attention is being paid on woman and children that are **victims of human trafficking.**



Nepali mother who traveled to Mumbai, in hopes of saving her daughter (pictured) from an Indian brothel.



Crime rate indicator against woman in 2012

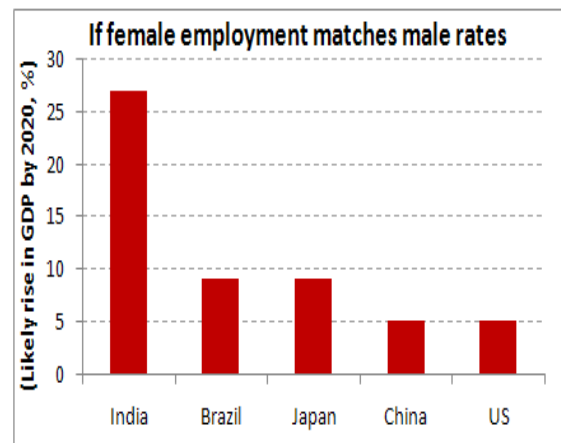
Purpose of the legislations is to include and improve woman's position on a political, economic, social, cultural and civil level. This also includes equality on the health care sector. Goal is also to prevent discrimination woman experience on a governmental level. Bare change on a governmental level is not enough, attitudes amongst people also need to be changed. Government needs to interact and have sensitivity to pay attention on women's needs, especially when it comes fighting against violent crimes woman experience.

On a practical level this happens by valuating and newly setting existing laws and

regulations, so that appropriate punishments are being executed within appropriate time period. Changes need to happen both individual and on a social level as well. Changes on the legislation are being done with a special notice on woman's position and its shortcomings.

Women's employment and education

Attempts to improve woman's position within field of employment are also being executed, by offering and improving existing possibilities to employ woman to work within fields of agriculture and technology, since these fields are very man employed. For example, women can't currently work evening or nightshifts in factories because of high security risks. Improvements to change this are being made by enhancing circumstances around security and transfer.



India would have the highest raise of its GDP (Gross Domestic Product) if women would be equally employed compared to men

Improving women's social status happens already mainly by educating them. Woman and children are being offered equal opportunity for education, and so discrimination is being avoided by offering tools for a lifelong learning. Special attention is being paid to balance the gender division on lower and higher education.

Empowering women means giving them control over their own bodies and becoming economically independent, giving them possibility to control resources like land and property. Vital is also to reduce their burden of work. Constitutional equality among male and female within educational systems is absolute, but that doesn't change the overall cultural submission affecting woman in the classroom as well as in society overall. Women hardly raise their voices to speak and usually sit on the back of the classroom, making themselves not heard and not to be seen as much as possible.

The Education 2030 agenda recognizes that gender equality requires an approach that 'ensures that girls and boys, women and men not only gain access to and complete education cycles, but are empowered equally in and through education.' – United Nations



The rate of crimes against women in India stands at 53.9 percent in India. In Delhi, the capital city, 92 percent of women reported having experienced sexual or physical violence in public spaces. – United Nations

For better equality amongst both men and woman, **both genders need to be better educated about gender and sexuality related issues.** That way men learn to see woman as individuals and as important, vital part of the sociality, and woman get courage to let their voices to be heard, without demonizing the male gender as a whole. Men wouldn't be seen just as these ruthless, almost animal like beings with their lusts, and they would be able to channel their frustrations through better self-knowledge and understanding.

Woman's health

Within the healthcare field, attention is being paid to prevent women-and girl child's premature death rate. **Women should have access to affordable quality healthcare.** With health education, women would acknowledge their own rights when it comes to, for example questions about sexuality and gender, have better understanding of their bodies, and are also able to prevent different types of infectious diseases, like malaria. Work to improve nutrition for women and children is also being executed. **Women need better nutrition at the different parts of development, and also for example during pregnancy.** Lack of nutrition unfortunately is very common on different levels. Attention should be focused to provide good nutrition through lifespan, focusing on the expecting and nursing mothers, them being extremely vulnerable to different types of diseases.



Conclusion

Women do have constitutional right for equality in life's every sector. The realization of this is unfortunately far from reality. Through education and wealth, woman that are part of the financially better off part of the population do enjoy their constitutional right for equality. This doesn't adapt to the disadvantaged part of the population, who do not have the means and knowledge trough education for better life.

Because of this, women are still being brutalized, commodified, materialized and subjected to inhuman exploitation and discrimination. On article “Empowerment of Indian Women: A Challenge of 21st Century”, Dr Dasarathi Bhuyan mentions these as the key factors of why equality towards woman hasn’t realized: Lack of awareness, lack of social and economic empowerment, lack of political will, feebleness of accountability mechanisms, lack of enforcement by the police force and lack of gender culture

In many of the fields mentioned above, being considered as the solution is that **women should take more active part within the society.** This is both the matter of circumstances and lack of courage as well. Woman need to be given more concrete power and security to function without fear. This way they become more conscious and through education, aware of their own rights and courageous to stand on their constitutional right as meaningful part of the society.

Unfortunately, this is not the reality. **Disturbing amount of people in India ends up daily victims of some crime that violates their human rights.** Progress has been made during the years. Compared to the early 1990’s level of girl child’s education and literacy compared to boys has decreased, but with a very slow pace. Same applies when it comes to girl child’s death rate either before or after birth. **Such serious matters are in question, that fast enough development cannot be made.**



EVERY WOMAN IS FIRST A HUMAN BEING, THEN SHE IS A WOMAN

So they have the ‘**RIGHTS OF ANY HUMAN BEING**’

the civil, political, social & cultural rights ~

inherent in the dignity of a person

All human beings are born free and equal

In dignity and rights.

Women’s & Children’s rights are an integral part of human rights & it is We as Fellow Human Beings who should guarantee that.