



Exploring Sustainable Development: Focusing on Reducing Inequalities

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable Development and Literature are inseparably connected to each other. Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable Development talks about to finding a better way in doing thing which are unavoidable for present and future. Literature is the mirror of society and a way of life. Hunger, Poverty, Gender Equality, Education etc. are main goals of sustainable development which government want to attain. Literature is demonstrating it before from nineteenth century but during nineteenth century (which is called Romantic age) writer, poets and novelist emphasized about the environment and nature. They awaked people for their own health, nature, gender equality, economic growth. Literature has various names of writers and poets: William Wordsworth, Coleridge, Virginia Woolf, Katherine Mansfield, etc. Throughout the literature, you see many revolution, reformation and movements which are related to present sustainable development goals. In India, we have a lot of literature which create awareness among the people. It does not cover all the sustainable development but not less. Most of the areas can be covered in literature through various poems, novels, drama and short stories. Not only nineteenth century, we have seen revolution regarding hunger, education and poverty in almost every age of literature.

Key Words: Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, Reduce Inequalities

Introduction: Sustainable Development is a buzz word or term nowadays. Sustainable development means to sustain our resource for the utilization or further usage. Literature is considered the mirror of the society through this we can see the reality of society. Throughout the literature we see it emphasizes on nature, environment life below water and above land etc. which are also included in Sustainable Development Goals. Researcher is not going to discuss all goals, he/ she has taken some of them which will be majorly focused in this paper through literature. In this paper researcher will discuss No Poverty, Gender quality, Reduce

inequalities, Life below Water, Life on Land and Peace, Justice and strong Institution. First we have to understand the value of our resources. To understand the significance of our resources are mandate. It is not just for human to take benefits of all the things or resources but it is the right of all living things on earth.

The objective of this paper is to review the existing work on sustainable development through literature. The article accomplishes its goal by reviewing the existing research.

Review of Literature:

There is a dearth of literature on Sustainable development through literature. Though researcher has made a list of the works where he/ she the works which are related to literature. Literature reflects the value of sources and their undefined prices in human life. Researcher has got data from research gate, Google Scholar, Jstor, Shodhganga, and Taylor and Francis etc.

Methodology:

In this article researcher used a mix method of qualitative and quantitative approach. It is a way to create a bridge between past and present after using this approach. Through this approach, research will get this destination through literature and real thinking of human being towards valuable resources.

Reduce Inequalities:

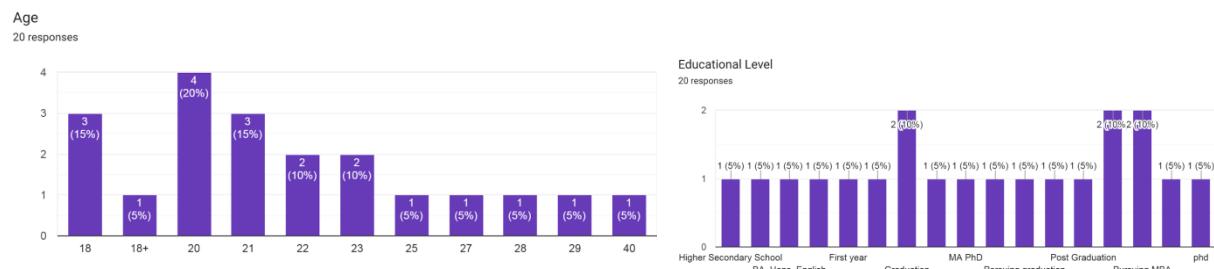
To reduce inequalities in India government has taken various ways so that they can maintain a ratio of equalities in country. It is just a national level step but inequalities can be seen at international levels. What are major causes of inequalities?

1. Class discrimination
2. Caste discrimination

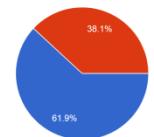
Class discrimination:

It is a topic of debate or discussion “Class Discrimination”. Class discrimination means social, financial status in the society. It is specially focused on individual’s social status where do you stand and what are you getting in monetary. Socio-economic discrimination can be seen in education, living standard, opportunities, wealth, income etc. A group of people can be made a society; a group of people will follow some particular norms, culture and regulation. In society, some people are growing but some of them are not growing because lack of opportunity and education. There is a circle of class someone is on top due to his/her opportunity. Wealth and including other factors whereas there are some people are in low condition. They are not getting even better food, health education and other basic facilities which separate a human being to animal.

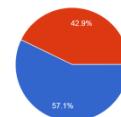
Classism such as upper class, lower class, middle class, upper middle class, lowers middle class etc.



Do you think there is any difference between your education and any other class education? (on the basis of class)
21 responses



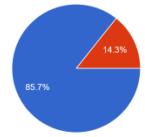
Do you think you get less opportunity than other classes (Educational, Job)?
21 responses



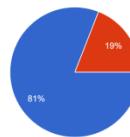
Have you faced any trouble or problem related to class discrimination? (if both, apply for both)
21 responses



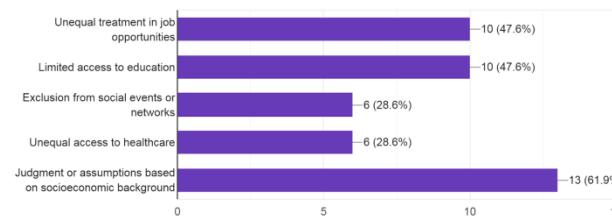
Do you think class discrimination is prevalent issue in the society
21 responses



Have you ever witnessed someone being discriminated against based on their social class?
21 responses



What are some ways in which you have personally experienced class discrimination? (If all, Kindly select all)
21 responses



Caste Discrimination:

“It involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Caste systems divide people into unequal and hierarchical social groups. Those at the bottom are considered 'lesser human beings', 'impure' and 'polluting' to other caste groups. They are known to be 'untouchable' and subjected to so-called 'untouchability practices' in both public and private spheres. 'Untouchables' – known in South Asia as Dalits – are often forcibly assigned the most dirty, menial and hazardous jobs, and many are subjected to forced and bonded labour. Due to exclusion practiced by both state and non-state actors, they have limited access to resources, services and development, keeping most Dalits in severe poverty.”¹

Except the data given below, researcher investigates many factors in textual analysis which showcases the discrimination on behalf of caste. Firstly, let's get to know reasons behind this discrimination through textual analysis and data which has been collected. In Hindu religion we see four varnas: Brahmin, Kshtariya, Vaishya and Shudra. This classification was on behalf of their karma but gradually and span over the time it changed its forms and came into us in the form of "Jatis". Not even only Hindu religion, Jatiwad (Caste Discrimination) can be seen everywhere and in every religion. There are two categories Muslim religion i.e. Sunni and Shiya. As Islam grows as we see many more caste in it. Muslim communities in South Asia apply a system of social stratification. The stratification that operates among Muslims arises from concerns other than in the concepts of pure and impure that are integral to the Indian caste system. It developed as a result of relations between the foreign conquerors and local upper caste Hindus who converted to Islam (Ashraf) (also known as tabqa-i ashrafiyya and the local lower caste converts (Ajlaf) as well as the continuation of the Indian caste system among local converts. Non-Ashrafs are backward caste converts. The neologism[clarification needed] "Pasmanda" includes Ajlaf and Arzal Muslims, and Ajlaf's statuses are defined by them being the descendants of converts to Islam and are also defined by their pesha (profession). These terms are not used in local, sociological vocabulary in places such as Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, and therefore tell us very little about the functioning of Muslim society."ⁱⁱ

In a multilingual country like India, Indian literature in English cannot be studied in isolation, as many Indian English authors are bilingual and influenced by both local and foreign literary traditions. There is also an urgent need to compare Indian National Literature with Indian English Literature in order to establish a broader trend of thoughts and feelings for the Indian community as a whole. Indian authors writing in English frequently express a great desire to grasp the culture and lifestyle of a certain region in connection to India as a whole.

JOOTHAN: A PORTRAIT OF DALIT-SOCIETY

Joothan tells Valmiki's tale from an untouchable newborn to an affluent Dalit activist in the form of a Bildungsroman. The text's non-linear storyline is based on his memories of a "excruciatingly unpleasant childhood, charmed by encounters." The paper, true to its Protestant approach to current social ideas, takes the form of a questionnaire. Twenty-five topics raised in the essay have seasonal sociopolitical relevance and tremendous revolutionary potential.

"According to Mukherjee, one of the distinctive facets of Joothan, which characterizes him as a Dalit text, is his challenging discourse. The text is full of questions that ask for a response.' It reveals how the author's caste, i.e., Chuhra used to act as a gigantic hindrance at any stage in his evolutionary journey. The detailed summary of his miserable life in the Chuhra group in Barla, a suburb of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, illustrates the degree to which the caste system conducts its oppressive policies in this democratic state. Valmiki chronicles the insalubrious and barbaric environment of the tribal population of Chuhra on the outskirts of the Tyagi-dominated village of Barla. Joothan is also a recorded Dalit past that veraciously destabilizes the racist Gandhian philosophy that has underpinned the caste structure to maintain the social order intact since the dawn of civilization. Valmiki connotes the axiomatic Gandhi-Ambedkar controversy about 'caste' when he says: 'Pigs roaming in narrow lanes, nude girls, dogs, every day battling this was the world of my childhood.'

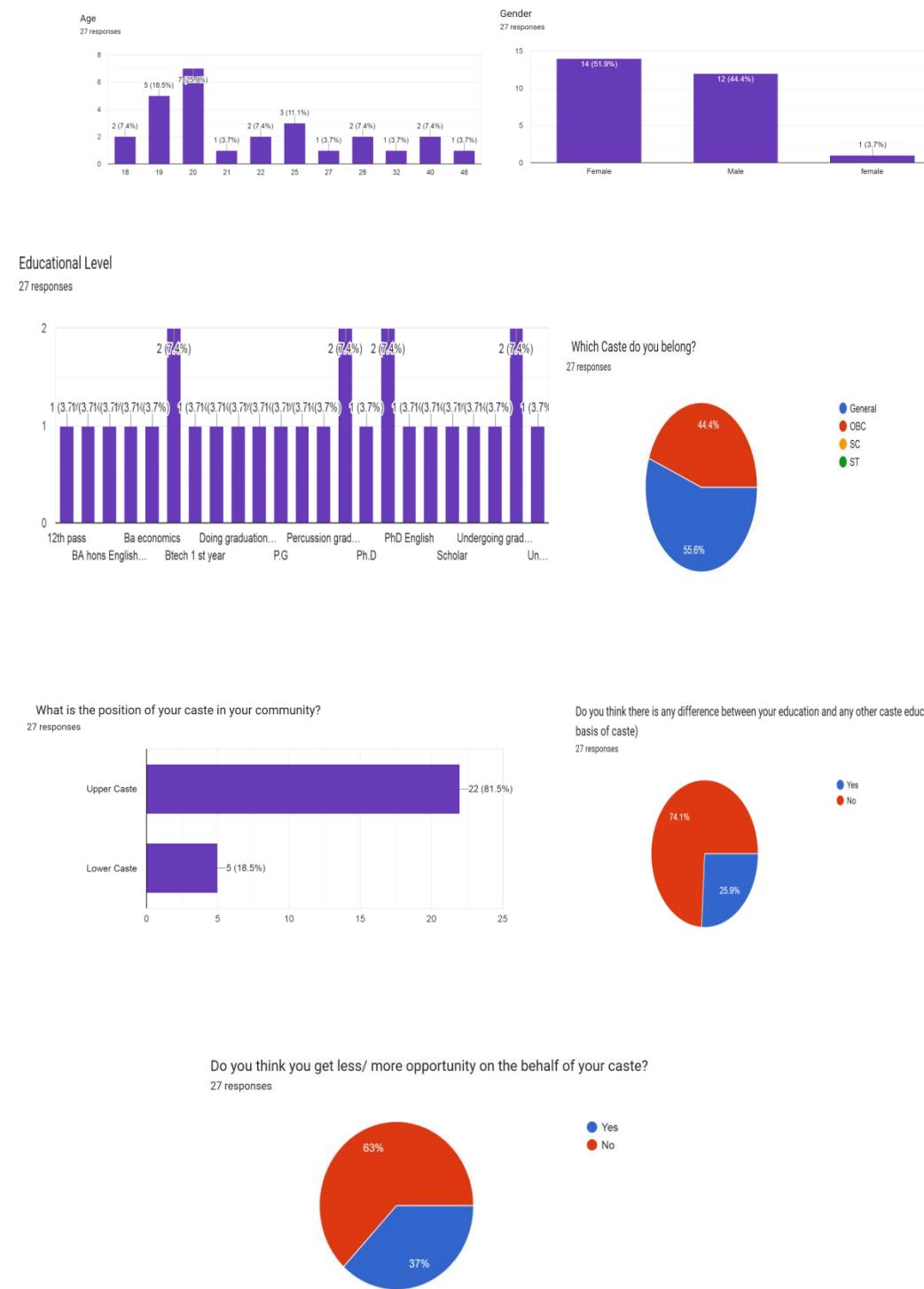
If the people who consider the caste structure a perfect social organization had to stay in this world for a day or two, they would change their minds.”ⁱⁱⁱ

India is a country of diversity. Indian Constitution respects every religion, every caste and every creed etc but when people live in this larger society, they face number of problem. Constitution can change the rules and make amendments but can not change the mentality or different perspectives of the people. People divided caste in upper and lower caste but not declared any reason in what manner they are upper or lower for eg: financially, socially, culturally what make them upper or lower. If we talk about great personalities, they are divided on the basis of their caste but these are not bound, they are heritage of our country not particular caste or community. Numbers of our writers, poets raised their voice against caste discrimination. Caste discrimination is one of the major problems in India. It is the reason of rising or emerging “Dalit Literature” in India through this literature they depicts the reality and suffering of particular communities. Researcher took some examples from renowned text which are representing the exploitation of society and mentality of upper caste. There are some examples of some books which play a pivotal role to the of bitter reality of Indian society. For “Untouchable” by Mulk Raj Anand, “The God of Small Things” by Arundhati Roy, “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson, “Annihilation of Caste” by B.R. Ambedkar and “Jhoothan” by Omprakash Valmiki. These books depict the reality of caste discrimination in India. It exists till the day.

It is a descriptive study on behalf of caste discrimination. It is the data of 27 people.

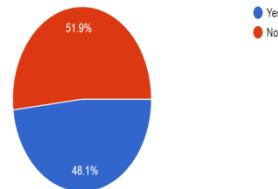
Variables	No. of respondents	%Age
Age		
18-25	20	74.07
26-40	6	22.22
40-60	1	3.71
Total	27	100
Gender		
Male	12	55.6
Female	15	3.7
Total	27	100
Educational Level		
Caste Classification		
General	15	55.6
Obc	12	44.4
Sc	0	0
St	0	0
Total	27	100

Through this study we came to know people hide their caste in the society because they feel that they are being judged. Researcher has studied many points in this paper such as: Age, Gender, Education level, Caste Classification etc. There are 12 male out of 27 and fifteen are female. 15 variables are from general category and 12 are from OBC. No other caste (as per their constitution/ cultural/societal norms) didn't fill this data. This data has been taken from various age groups and their education level is also differing from each other. They have shared their views on the particular issue as you can see below attached data:



Here above you can see a data as though it is the opinion of a group/population wherein easily can be seen that according to 37% people they get more/less opportunity in every sector whichever they wanted to get. Rest of 63% population thinks they have faced any trouble in any sector on behalf of the caste system or caste.

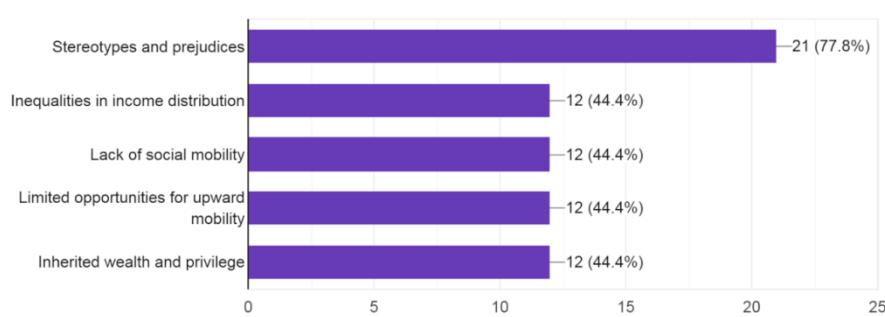
Have you ever witnessed someone being discriminated against based on your caste in your community?
27 responses



In above chart 48.1% population/ variables faced caste discrimination somewhere in the community/society and 51.9% never faced this type of experience. It can be said that there is

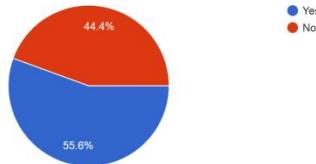
a gap among people. Still, they are believing in caste system but if we see other hand or in a positive side they are changing (on behalf of particular data which mentioned in above given chart)

In your opinion, which factors contribute to the perpetuation of caste discrimination?(If All, Select all)
27 responses



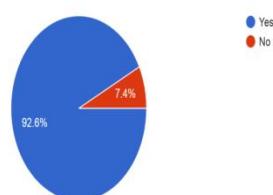
In Questionnaire, researcher suggested some perpetuation of caste discrimination. People of every sector/caste agreed on this.

Do you feel that your Caste has influenced your employment opportunities?
27 responses



Through above given chart, it can be assumed that caste influenced the employment opportunity as well as career of population.

Do you believe that caste discrimination affects mental health?
27 responses

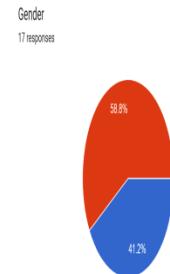
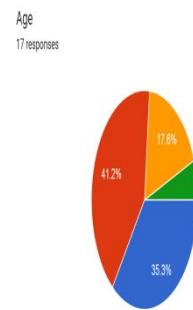


From the point of psychology, caste discrimination affects mental health. 92.6 % considers it merely 7.4% thinks it does affect mental health.

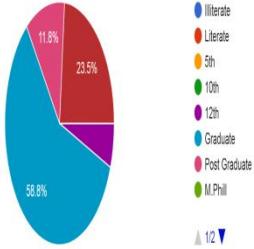
On behalf of given study, it can be said caste discrimination affects people by many ways.

Gender equality:

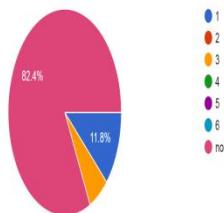
“Gender discrimination is when someone is treated unequally or disadvantageously based on their gender but not necessarily in a sexual nature. This includes harassment/discrimination based on sex, gender identity, or gender expression. Gender discrimination is often rooted in preconceived, false societal and personal notions about what gender is, how gender "should" look, or how gender is performed. For example, many people inaccurately believe that someone's biological sex always determines their gender and therefore their attitudes and behaviors.”^{iv} (<https://share.stanford.edu/education-and-outreach/learn-topics/gender-discrimination#:~:text=What%20is%20gender%20discrimination%3F,gender%20identity%2C%20or%20gender%20expression.>)



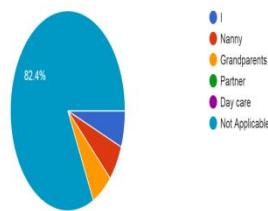
Education Level
17 responses



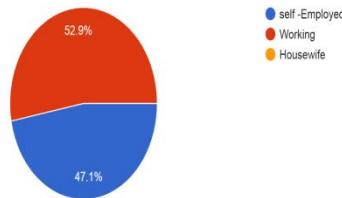
Are you married? If yes how many children do you have?
17 responses



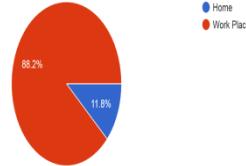
Who take care of your child/ children?
17 responses



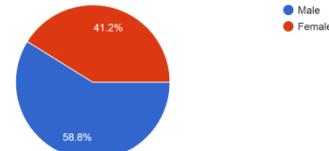
Are you self employed/ working/Housewife?
17 responses



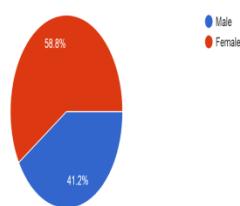
Have you ever faced gender discrimination at home/ work place?
17 responses



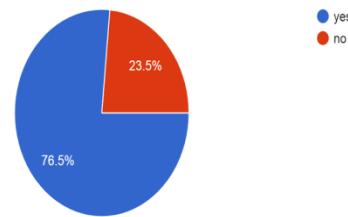
Being a male/ female what do you think whom get more opportunity in society?
17 responses



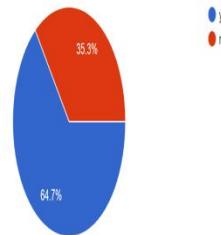
Being a male/ female what do you think whom get more support at home/ workplace?
17 responses



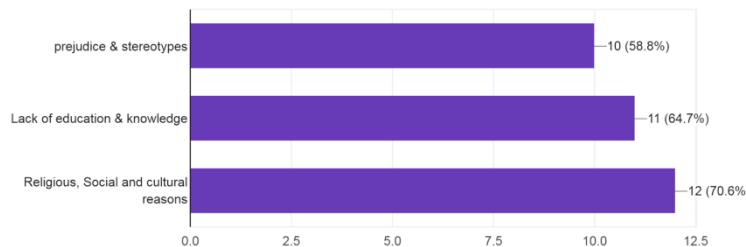
Have you ever seen anyone is being discriminated on the basis of gender at home/ workplace?
17 responses



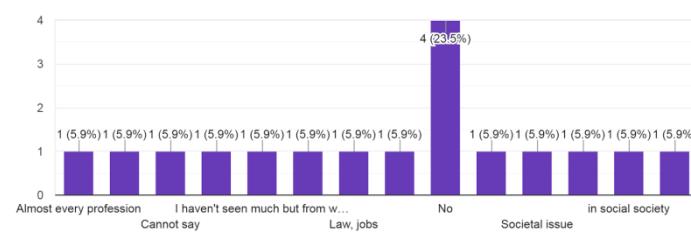
At workplace, do you get same salary like other gender?
17 responses



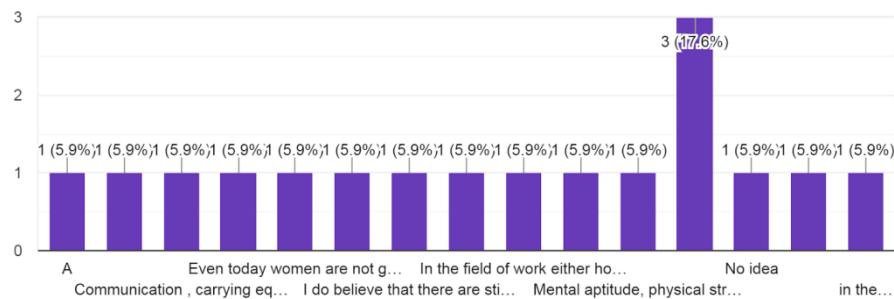
What are the reasons of gender inequality in society? (if all, select all)
17 responses



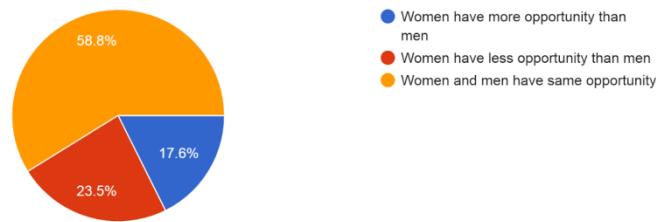
Are there any specific fields in which you feel that men and women are not treated equally?
17 responses



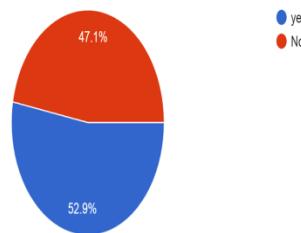
If no or sometimes, give an example of how men and women have not been treated equally?
17 responses



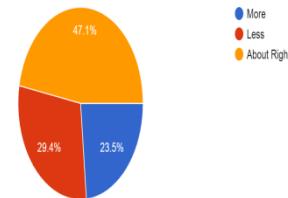
In your organization, do you think that women have more, fewer or the same opportunities to advance as men?
17 responses



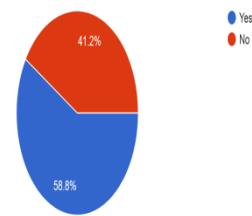
Have you ever thought your gender has played a role in your missing out on a raise, promotion, key assignment, or chance to get ahead?
17 responses



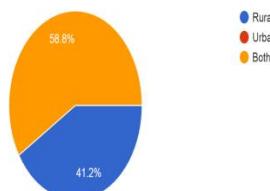
Do you think your organization should be doing more to increase gender diversity at your workplace, doing less, or is the amount of effort c...ng used to increase gender diversity about correct?
17 responses



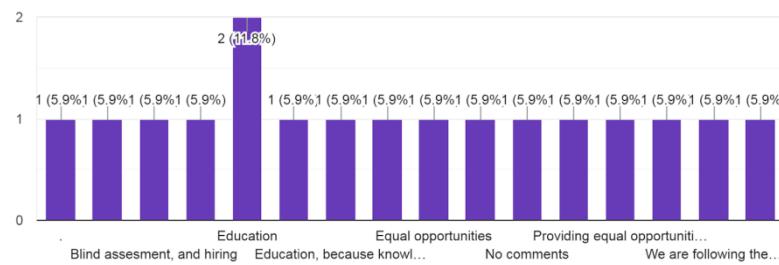
Will you be financially secure to retire at 67 years of age?(If No, Please explain)
17 responses



Where is gender inequality mostly prevalent issue?
17 responses



What ways can be reduced gender inequalities? kindly suggest.
17 responses



Except this when readers read book from literature after they know how literature play an important role to prevent the gender inequalities in societies. For eg, "A Room of One's Own" by Virginia Woolf, "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Second Sex" by Simone de Beauvoir, "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. All these works are related to gender discrimination which shows how a particular society oppresses a woman and snatches her right in the name of religion or patriarchy.

Conclusion: Through above studies, it can be said that inequalities exist in this society till now. It can be removed by improving & promoting education for everyone. Education should be in right & proper way. Without equality, a society cannot be progressive. Every entity of society is responsible for its progress. Caste, class and gender discrimination can be seen everywhere or in every society. Except this, Government should take strict action against it and make some new rules. A child should be growing in a healthy atmosphere which is free from these types of discrimination so that he can show the empathy for everyone. For a happy nation, it is necessary to reduce inequalities following right methods & steps.

Work Cited

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