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## **GRT** HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN'S STATUS

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**Abstract:-**Human development is assessed by Human Development Index (HDI) by every Human Development Report. HDI is comprehensive appraisal of human progress. It consists of Indicators that are based on three dimensions : life expectancy, educational attainment and command over the resources essential for a decent life. Other indicators are inequality, poverty and gender deficit. Equity is the vital component of human development. Inequality reduces the progress of human development. The impact of inequality can be measured by the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI). When inequality is zero, the IHDI is equal to HDI. The difference between the two represent inequality. Gender equality is the necessary component of human development and it has a deep concern to gender equality. Women are generally discriminated in providing education, health and employment. Gender Inequality Index (GII) evaluated the extent of discrimination against women. The result of human development report indicated that there is high gender disparities in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States. The most disturbing trend is the declining sex ratio at birth. Sex selective abortions and infanticides have been changing the demographic landscape in some countries which can be dangerous to democratic set up and social fabric of a country. Higher equity between male and female is not only important, but is necessary for increasing human development. Education is one of the powerful tool for enhancing equity and human development. Education develops women's capacities, develops their self confidence and prepares them for a public debate. It helps them to insist for better health care, social security and other benefits for women. Education has great impact on health and mortality rate of children. Gender inequality is dangerous not only because it obstructs some basic social opportunities but it reduces the prospects of future generations.

**Keywords:**Human development index, women development.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Economic and social progress of people was published in the first Human Development Report in 1990. Several developing countries are growing fastly and have progressed in human development aspects. There is substantial growth in some developing countries like China, Brazil and India. In this networked world, the slow down in the developed countries may reduce the progress of developing countries. The government of developed countries have started harsh austerity measure to cut expenditure on public services. In this way, there is a decline in living standard of the people in developed societies. However John Maynard Keynes said nearly 75 years ago that "The boom, not the slump, is the right time for austerity. Human progress is assessed by Human Development Index (HDI) by every Human Development Report. HDI is a comprehensive appraisal which is composed of indicators based on three dimensions : life expectancy, educational attainment and command over the resources needed for the a decent living. Other indicators are inequality, poverty and gender deficits.

### **EQUITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT :**

Equity is the necessary component of human development. People can rightfully live a satisfied life. No person can be subjected to live a miserable life due to nationality, region, race, ethnic group or gender.

### **INEQUALITY :**

Inequality decreases the progress of human development and it may be detrimental to the progress completely in some cases. Inequality may have adverse impact in health and education sectors. In a report on 132 countries (both advanced and poor), it was found that there is negative correlation between inequality and human development. This report is in conformity with the conclusion of many studies conducted by advanced countries. The impact of inequality can be measured by the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI). The index appraises the average level of human development and the impact on its indicators like life expectancy, educational attainment and command over the resources. When inequality is minimum, the IHDI is nearly equal to HDI. The gap between the two indicates inequality. In the last two decades, inequality in health and education have decline substantially at global level.

### **GENDER AND WOMEN'S STATUS:**

Gender equality is the necessary component of human development and it has a deep concern to gender equality. Generally, women are discriminated in providing education, health, employment. This creates restriction in her free life. Gender Inequality Index (GII) enables the degree of discrimination against women. It covers three dimensions: reproductive health, employment and labour market participation. The higher value of GII indicates higher discrimination the result show that there are high gender disparities in South Asia, Sub-Sahara Africa and the Arab States. There is low representation of females in parliaments (18.5%) of South Asian countries. Gender disparities persist in educational achievement also (Just 28% female students complete their secondary education as compared to 50% male students. There is low participation of female (31.1%) in labour force as compared to male (81%) of male labour force. GII has reduced between 2000 and 2012 however it has reduced to a greater extent in some countries (High human development group) as compared to others. This report is based on 78 countries for which the GII is available. However in high human development group also, many developed economies indicated greater sex disparities in parliamentary representation. For instance, Italy has just 20% women representation in their parliament. Ireland has less than 20% female representation. However Rwanda female representation is 52% as compared to 48% male representation in their parliament. Although several developing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa have improved their GII value between 2000 and 2012, they still are far behind from countries in other regions. It is due to greater maternal mortality ratio and high teenage pregnancies rates. There is high disparity in educational attainment between male and female students in these countries. The most disturbing trend in some fast growing countries is the declining sex ratio at birth due to sex selective abortions and female infanticide tendencies of the people in these countries. In the age group of 0-4 years, the natural ratio between male and female ratio is 1.05 (i.e. 105 boys to 100 girls). However the data from 175 countries in 2012 show that this ratio is 1.07 on an average level, but in 13 countries, this ratio range from 1.08 to 1.18. China (1.18), Azerbaijan (1.15), Armenia (1.14), Georgia (1.11), Republic of Korea (1.10), Solomon Island (1.09), India (1.08), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1.08), Montenegro (1.08), Papua New Guinea (1.08), Samoa (1.08), Serbia (1.08) and Surinam (1.08).

Sex-selective abortion and infanticide has been changing the demographic landscape in some countries. Such activities lead to shortage of females and may have dire consequences for democratic set up and social fabric of that country. This is gross violation of right to live. It leads to gender injustice and inequality between male and female. The high gender ratio in favour of male indicates male superiority and dominance in society. This reflects patriarchy and discrimination against women indicating towards deep-rooted sociocultural belief. Further causes behind such prejudices are dowry system and changing aspirations of urban and rural societies in some countries.

In order to remove this prejudice, there is need to change several social norms and beliefs : 1) ending the economic incentives associated with male rather than female. It will reduce the status of boys in society and effectively end the dowry system 2) providing higher economic opportunities for female which will make the women financially sound 3) providing more favourable conditions to female so that they can have better control on their lives 4) increasing the participation of females in decision making in their home and providing more opportunities for political participation.

It has been established that women education has improved their health and nutrition level and help in decline in fertility rate. Education has assisted the women in expansion of their choice. It has helped in the improvement of health and fertility outcomes of female & children. It has been found that sex imbalance persisted in uneducated population in High and very High HDI nations between 1970 and 2010. However, there was more gender balance in educated population in these countries.

Job creation is equally important for women. There is need to increase the income of females. In fact, standard policies formed for job creation do not take into account burden of unpaid work on women and allocation of specific task to male and female according to norms of regional culture and customs. Such division of work overburdens the females with additional unpaid household task. Such policies which are based on economic theory may have adverse impact on female although these policies create economic prosperity to the family. Thus, there is a need of political and social reforms for enhancing the sex-equity and protecting the human rights of women. These

human rights includes freedom, dignity as a women, participation in household decision making and autonomy.

**ENHANCING EQUITY:**

Higher equity between male and female is not only important, but is necessary for increasing human development. Education is one of the powerful tool for enhancing equity and human development. It develops women's capacities and provides more choice for their employment. It develops their self confidence and open the new ways for better jobs. Education helps the women to move forward in public debate and insist on better health care, social security and other benefits for women. Education has great impact on health and mortality. Facts around the globe show that better education of women enhances child survival and reduce the mortality rate. More educated women tend to raise small family with fewer children. More educated female bring up more healthier children which have high survival rate. Thus it reduces the fear of mortality and raises a big family with more children. Access to more contraception and their effective use was also found prevalent among educated females.

This negative relationship between education of mothers and morality rate of their children is further substantiated by data from African countries (Mali and Niger) which indicates high mortality of under five age children. However in countries with better female education rate, the mortality rate of their children is low. Thus we can conclude that emphasis in advancement of education of females would continuously help in reduction of child mortality rate in all regions and nations. The data reflects that highly qualified females having fewer children and further reducing the death rate among these fewer children.

These results indicate towards the value of decreasing the gender inequality in education in low Human Development Index (HDI) countries. Gender inequality is dangerous not only because it prevents the females from availing some basic social opportunities, but it is critically endangering the better life prospects of future generations.

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