A Study on Gender Inequality and Women's Empowerment

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Abstract

Gender inequality refers to the disparities between individuals based on gender, often resulting in unequal opportunities, treatment, and outcomes. This issue persists throughout history and manifests in various forms across different societies. Gender inequality is a pervasive social issue that transcends geographical boundaries and cultural contexts. Despite significant progress in recent decades, disparities between genders persist, affecting individuals in various aspects of life.

Key Word: Gender inequality, women empowerment, social issue.

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Introduction

Historical Context-

The roots of gender inequality can be traced back to historical norms and societal structures that assign specific roles and expectations to individuals based on their gender. These norms often restricted women to domestic spheres, limiting their access to education, employment, and decision-making processes.

Economic Disparities-

One of the prominent manifestations of gender inequality is seen in economic spheres. Women, on average, earn less than men for the same work. The gender pay gap persists, reflecting systematic biases and discrimination in the workplace. Additionally, women are often concentrated in lower-paying professions and face challenges in career advancement.

Educational Disparities-

Access to education has improved globally, but gender disparities still exist. In many regions, girls may face obstacles such as limited access to schools, cultural biases against female education, or early marriages. These barriers perpetuate a cycle of inequality, as education is a critical factor in determining economic opportunities and social mobility.

Social and Cultural Factors-

Deep-seated cultural norms and stereotypes contribute significantly to gender inequality. Traditional expectations regarding gender roles can limit individual choices and opportunities.

Stereotypes that associate certain qualities with specific genders further perpetuate bias and discrimination, affecting not only women but also reinforcing harmful expectations for men.

Health Disparities-

Gender inequality also manifests in health outcomes. Women may face challenges in accessing healthcare, particularly reproductive healthcare. Maternal mortality rates remain high in some regions due to inadequate healthcare services and cultural practices that impact women's health negatively.

Consequences of Gender Inequality Women Empowerment

Women's empowerment is a multifaceted concept encompassing the enhancement of women's social, economic, and political status. Over the years; there has been a growing recognition of the importance of empowering women as a fundamental aspect of societal progress. It involves the creation of an environment where women can make choices, exercise their rights, and participate actively in various spheres of life. This concept goes beyond economic independence and encompasses broader aspects of personal development, education, and social equality.

Economic Empowerment-

Economic Empowerment is a central component of women's empowerment. It involves providing women with the tools, resources, and opportunities to achieve financial independence. This can be achieved through initiatives such as microfinance, skill development programs, and entrepreneurship support. When women have economic autonomy, it benefits them individually and contributes to the overall economic growth of communities.

Educational Empowerment-

Access to education is a cornerstone of women's empowerment. Ensuring that girls and women have equal education opportunities is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting social progress. Educated women are more likely to make informed decisions about their health and families. Education empowers women to pursue their goals and contribute meaningfully to society.

Social Empowerment-

Social empowerment involves challenging and changing societal norms and attitudes perpetuating gender inequality. This includes addressing harmful stereotypes, promoting gender- sensitive policies, and fostering a culture of respect and equality. Social Empowerment also entails ensuring women have a voice in decision-making processes at the family, community, and national levels.

Political Empowerment-

Political empowerment is about increasing the participation of women in political processes and decision-making. This can be achieved through affirmative action, quotas, and campaigns encouraging women to enter politics. When women are represented in political leadership, their perspectives and concerns are more likely to be considered in policy-making, leading to more inclusive and equitable societies.

Challenges to Women's Empowerment-

Despite the progress made in women's empowerment, there are still significant challenges; gender-based violence, discriminatory laws and practices, and cultural barriers can hinder women's progress. Economic disparities, limited access to education, and insufficient representation in leadership roles are persistent challenges that must be addressed for meaningful and sustainable empowerment.

Significance of Women's Empowerment-

Women's empowerment is not just a matter of social justice but also crucial for sustainable development. Empowered women contribute to the well-being of their families and communities, leading to positive ripple effects. When women are economically independent and educated, they invest in the education and health of their children, creating a cycle of positive development.

Transformative Impact-

The transformative impact of women's empowerment extends beyond individual lives

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to the broader community and nation. Studies show that societies with empowered women experience lower poverty rates, improved health outcomes, and increased economic productivity. Women's empowerment is, therefore, not only a moral imperative but also a pragmatic strategy for achieving sustainable development goals. Women empowerment is a dynamic and interconnected process that addresses economic, educational, social, and political dimensions.

In addition to education, economic, and political empowerment, addressing gender-based violence is crucial for women's empowerment. Many women around the world face various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Creating a safe and supportive environment where women are protected from violence is essential for their overall well-being and empowerment.

Cultural and societal attitudes play a significant role in shaping women's empowerment. Challenging stereotypes and promoting gender equality from a young age can create a society that values and respects both men and women. Efforts to eliminate gender biases in media, advertising, and popular culture are essential to changing harmful perceptions perpetuating inequality.

Women empowerment is not just a women's issue; it is a societal issue that requires the collective efforts of individuals, communities, governments, and organisations. Men can be powerful allies in this movement by advocating for gender equality, supporting women's rights, and working to break down barriers limiting women's opportunities.

Women empowerment is a multifaceted concept that involves education, economic independence, political participation, eliminating gender-based violence, and transforming cultural attitudes. By addressing these aspects, societies can create environments where women can thrive, contribute to their full potential, and participate as equals in all aspects of life. Empowering women benefits women and the entire society by fostering greater diversity, equality, and overall well-being.

Statement of the problem-

Identifying the research problem is a crucial first step and the primary goal of every study. Thus, the researcher would pinpoint the issue of women's standing and rights in society in this study. The empowerment of women is crucial to our culture. Empowered women can positively impact both our society and their own lives. But regrettably, women face discrimination in our culture in all spheres of life, particularly in rural areas where women are often unaware of their legal rights. These forms of ignorance severely hamper women's quality of life. For this reason,

the current research, "A Study on Gender Discrimination and Women Empowerment."

Objectives of the Study-

- To know the awareness of women's empowerment and its impact on the quality of a woman's life through gender discrimination.
- To study the lifestyle of a discriminated woman.

Review of Literature-

A review of literature in a thesis, often referred to as a literature review, is a critical analysis and synthesis of existing research and scholarly articles relevant to the thesis topic. This section is a crucial component of the overall thesis structure, providing a foundation for the study by presenting the current state of knowledge in the chosen field. The literature review sets the stage for the thesis by placing the research topic within the broader context of existing scholarship. It helps readers understand the current state of knowledge, critical debates, and gaps in the field.

Rama Devi (2017) found that "Gender equality is a human right which entitles all persons irrespective of their gender to live with dignity and freedom. Gender equality is also a precondition for all-around development and poverty reduction. Empowered women make invaluable contributions to improving health conditions, educational status and productivity of whole families and communities, improving prospects for the next generation. The Millennium Development Goal also emphasises gender equality and empowerment of women. It is now

widely accepted that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental cornerstones for achieving development results. Keeping the status of women empowerment and its determinants in India, in this paper, an attempt is made to present some of the key determinants of inequalities that exist in our country to have an idea about to what extent the women are empowered".

Rajeshwari M. Shettar (2015)- in her paper entitled "A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India", attempts to analyse the "status of Women's Empowerment in India and highlights the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment. Today, women's empowerment has become one of the most important concerns of the 21st century. But practically, women's empowerment is still an illusion of reality. We observe in our day-to-day lives how women become victimised by various social evils. Women's empowerment is vital to expand women's ability to have resources and make strategic life choices. Women's Empowerment is essentially

uplifting the economic, social, and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. The study is based purely on secondary sources. The study reveals that women of India are relatively disempowered, and they enjoy a somewhat lower status than men despite many efforts undertaken by the Government. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by women still prevails in society. The study concludes with an observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors for Women's Empowerment".

Mukherjee & Rakhi (2015) researched Gender inequality in rural areas—a study of Chakdah and Haringhata community development blocks in Nadia district, West Bengal. The concept of gender discrimination or inequality is based on profitable and generative roles of male and female, where gender relations shape this discrimination in many orders. The metaphysics of gender discrimination often entangle a higher degree of social change that is not free of a specific culture. In this study, gender discrimination has been analysed in the spatio–temporal range in the thesis of rural society.

Md. Faisal & Kartik Joshi (2015) describe gender inequalities worldwide as among the most pervasive forms of inequality. The research studies unique constitutional guarantees and other legislations with respect to crimes against women in the form of child marriage, rape, dowry, the practice of sati, trafficking of the girl child, prostitution, domestic violence and sexual harassment. The research paper tries to foreground the different aspects of crimes against women and analyse the exhaustive guidelines of the judiciary in its various decisions to realise the concept of 'gender justice' and 'gender equality'.

Dr. A. Guravaiah (2016) stresses the need for girls' education. Today's educated girl child is an empowered woman of tomorrow. Our country has made some significant strides in universalising primary education. The Right To Education Act 2010 provides free and

compulsory education to children below 14. In India, some schools do not have playgrounds or toilets.

The Population and the Sample-

The term population refers to the total number of data points collected. The researcher chose the people from the Pharenda area of Maharajganj District (U.P.) for this study.

A sample is a subset of a population that must be presented for some purpose at work. It represents the entire population of the chosen research region. In this study, the researcher sought roughly 100 women as a sample, and 70 participated in the study after receiving a questionnaire.

Tools used-

The researcher used the questionnaire tool to collect data for the present study.

Analysis and data interpretation-

Analysis and data interpretation involve examining collected data to derive meaningful insights. In the analysis phase, statistical and qualitative methods are applied to identify data patterns, trends, and relationships. Data interpretation goes further, providing context to the findings and drawing conclusions that contribute to a broader understanding of the research questions or objectives. Both processes are integral to research and decision-making, allowing researchers and stakeholders to make informed judgments and derive actionable conclusions from the gathered information. The present study deals with the following analysis and interpretation of tabulated data.

Table– 1 Awareness Programme related to women empowerment

Every awareness initiative has the potential to educate every woman and girl. Every woman is aware of her empowerment and legal rights. Any awareness activity can help a woman understand her rights and obligations. The awareness initiative is part of encouraging women to believe that they can join and perform any work they wish. It eliminates domestic abuse and raises awareness among women through various awareness programmes.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	18	25.7%
No	47	67.1%
Maybe	5	7.1%
Total	70	100%

According to Table– 1, Considering the data provided above, it is evident that only a fraction of the surveyed population, comprising approximately 25.7%, expressed affirmative views regarding their participation in awareness programs tailored towards women's empowerment.

Conversely, a staggering 67.1% of respondents reported their lack of engagement in such initiatives. Additionally, a smaller cohort, representing 7.1% of the total, expressed uncertainty regarding their involvement in these programs. This highlights a concerning trend wherein most women remain uninformed or disengaged from women empowerment initiatives. Such findings underscore the urgent need for targeted awareness campaigns to educate and empower women from all walks of life, particularly those in rural areas who may lack access to such opportunities.

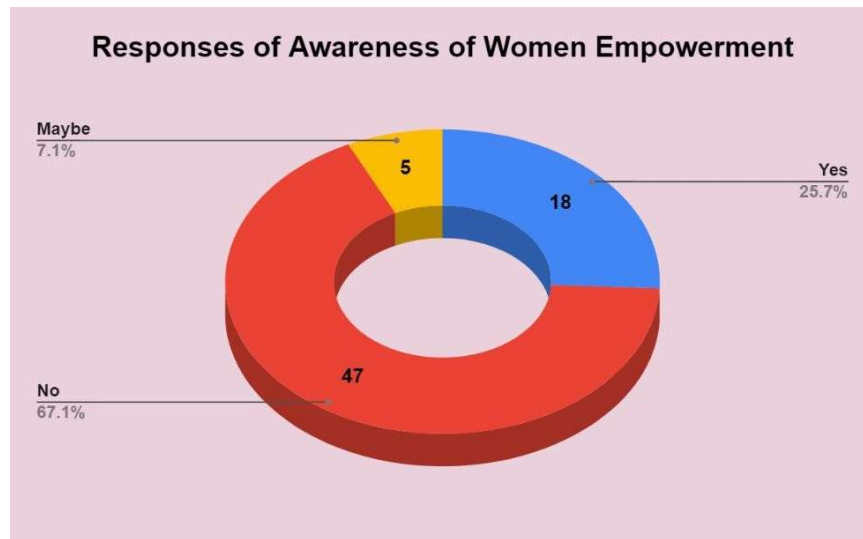

Responses of Awareness of Women Empowerment

Table – 2: Inequality because of gender

In many regions, girls are dominated because of their gender. Inequality has an impact on girls' lives. Gender prejudice prevents individuals from achieving their goals.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	55	78.6%
No	10	14.3%
Maybe	5	7.1%
Total	70	100

According to Table 2, As per the classification based on responses, a significant majority, comprising 78.6% of respondents, acknowledged the existence of gender domination and its detrimental effects on girls' lives. However, a smaller percentage, accounting for 14.3% of respondents, expressed scepticism or denial regarding the prevalence of gender-based discrimination. Additionally, a minor proportion,

representing 7.1% of respondents, remained uncertain or ambivalent about the issue. Overall, these findings underscore the importance of addressing gender inequality and promoting initiatives aimed at empowering girls and mitigating the adverse impacts of gender bias.
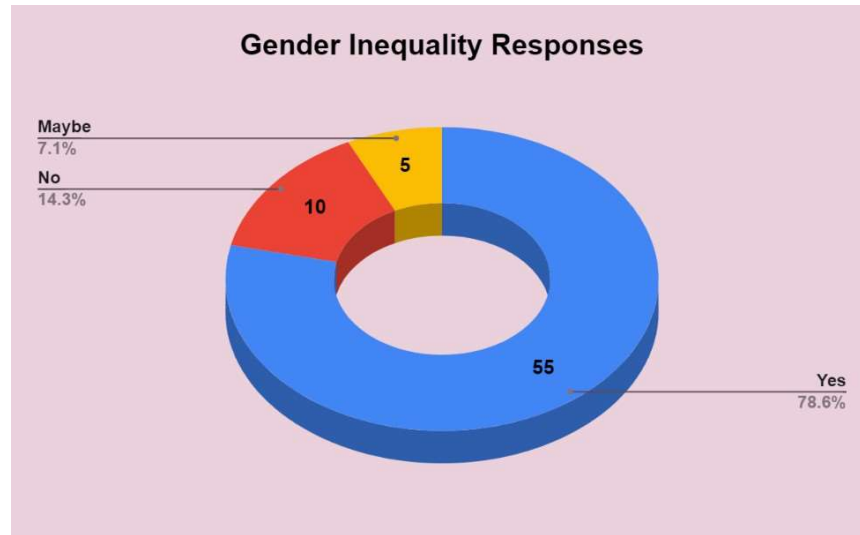
Gender Inequality Responses

Maybe
7.1%

No
14.3%

5

10

55

Yes
78.6%

Table – 3: Women have gained status more than earlier

There have indeed been many changes for women. Historically, women were often restricted to their homes. Women are now free to pursue their desires due to increased awareness of their rights and duties. It's a fantastic victory for all women.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	58	82.8%
No	5	7.1%
Maybe	7	10%
Total	70	100

According to Table 3, According to the classification based on responses, a substantial majority, 82.8% of respondents, affirmed the positive changes and

advancements in women's status. Conversely, a minority, accounting for 7.1% of respondents, expressed scepticism or disbelief regarding these advancements. Additionally, a small proportion, representing 10% of respondents, remained uncertain or ambivalent about the topic. These findings underscore the ongoing need for continued efforts to promote gender equality and empower women across all spheres of society.
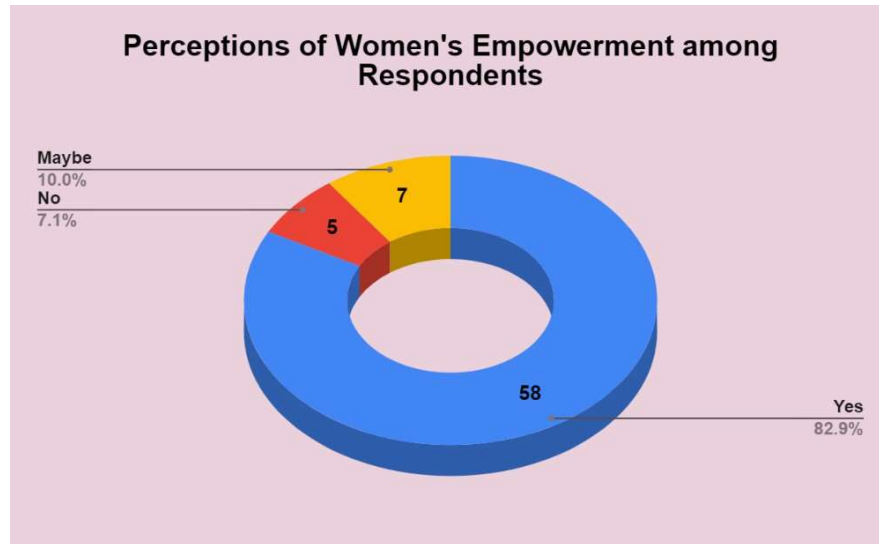

Table – 4: Empowerment is essential for women's rights or self–esteem

Empowering girls is crucial for their rights and self-esteem, as losing their rights hinders their success in life. Empowerment is critical for all women and girls.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	70	100%
No	Nil	Nil
Maybe	Nil	Nil
Total	70	100

According to Table-4, The data in the table reflects responses concerning the importance of empowering girls among respondents. It indicates that all 70 respondents, constituting 100% of the total sample, affirmed the significance of empowering girls. This unanimous agreement underscores the widespread acknowledgement of empowerment's critical role in ensuring girls' rights and self-esteem. The absence of negative or uncertain responses signifies a strong consensus on empowering girls for their holistic development and societal progress.

Table –5: Empowerment helps to determine different choices

Women's empowerment enables every woman to make their own decisions in life. They can readily make decisions about their own life.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	63	90%
No	4	5.7%
Maybe	3	4.2%
Total	70	100

According to Table -5, The data presented in the table highlights respondents' perspectives on women's empowerment and its implications. Of the total 70 respondents, 63 individuals, constituting 90% of the sample, affirmed the importance of women's empowerment, acknowledging its role in enabling women to make autonomous decisions. Conversely, 4 respondents, comprising 5.7% of the sample, expressed an opposing view, suggesting scepticism or disagreement regarding the significance of women's empowerment. Additionally, three respondents, representing 4.2% of the total, provided a neutral stance by selecting 'Maybe.' This data underscores the prevailing recognition of women's empowerment as a facilitator of personal agency and autonomy and the existence of differing perspectives on this issue within the surveyed population.

Own decisions vs Women's Empowerment among Respondents

Maybe
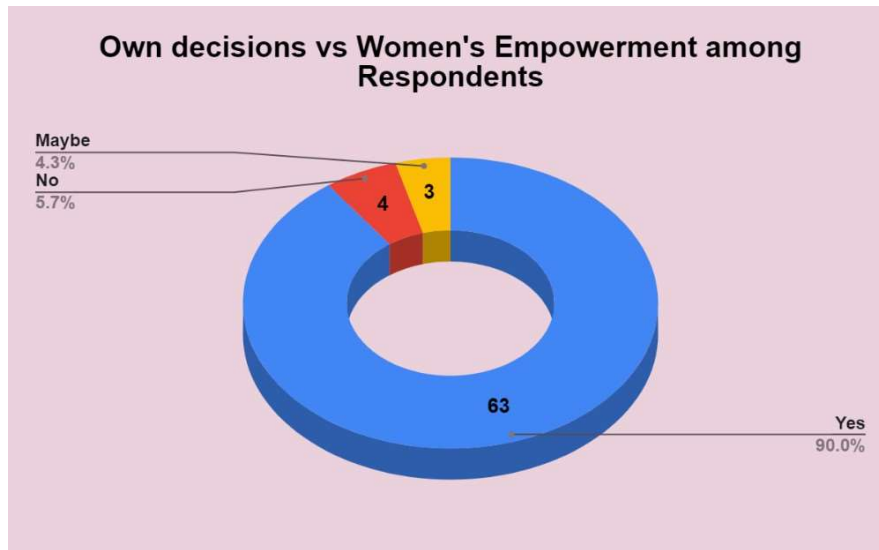4.3%
No
5.7%

4

3

63

Yes
90.0%

Table –6: Are women represented in a sexist manner in the media

Yes, women are consistently portrayed in a sexist manner. For example, posting elegant photographs on social media can convey intelligence, beauty, and attractiveness.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	13	18.6%
No	12	17.1%
Maybe	45	64.2%
Total	70	100

According to Table 6, a significant majority of respondents, comprising 64.2%, expressed uncertainty ("Maybe") regarding whether women are represented in a sexist manner in the media. This uncertainty suggests a lack of clear consensus among the surveyed individuals. Additionally, 18.6% of respondents answered affirmatively ("Yes"), indicating that they perceive women to be consistently portrayed in a sexist manner. Conversely, 17.1% of respondents responded negatively ("No"), suggesting that they do not perceive women to be represented in a

sexist manner in the media. This diversity of opinions highlights the complexity of the issue and the varied perspectives individuals hold regarding the portrayal of women in media.
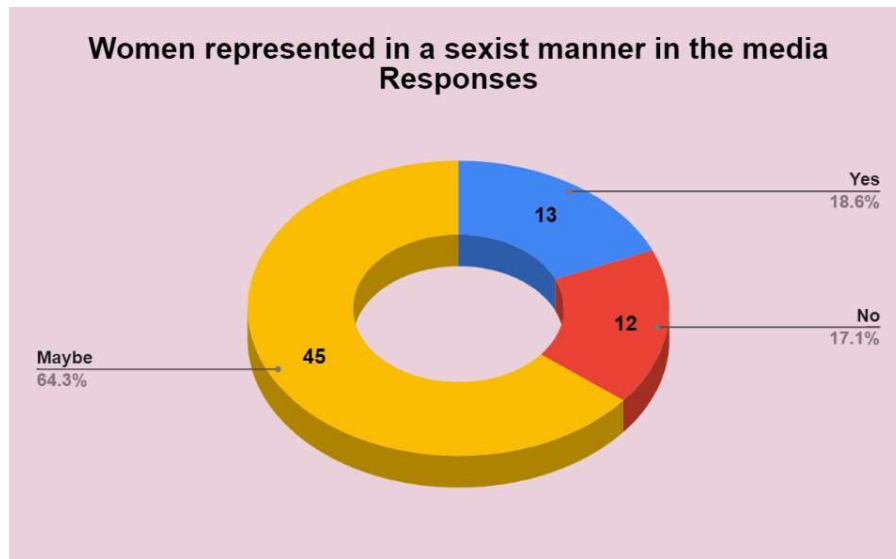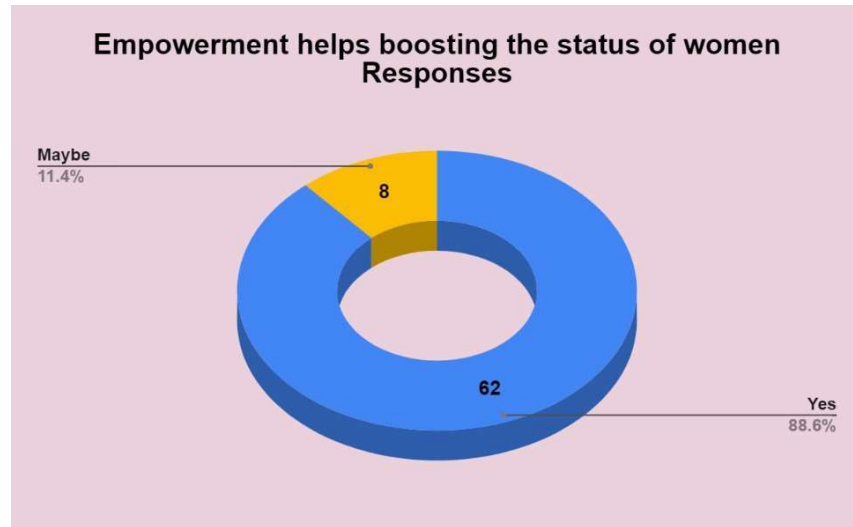
Table -7: Empowerment helps to boost the status of women

Women's empowerment helps to elevate women's status and position through education. Education can change human behaviour. Education empowers women to improve their lifestyle and status.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	62	88.57%
No	Nil	Nil
Maybe	8	11.42%
Total	70	100

Table 7 presents insights into respondents' perceptions regarding empowerment's role in elevating women's status. The majority of respondents, constituting 88.57%, expressed agreement ("Yes") with the notion that empowerment contributes to boosting the status of women. This indicates a widespread belief in the transformative power of empowerment initiatives, mainly through education. Education is highlighted as a critical factor in this process, as it can catalyse behavioural change and equip women with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance their lifestyle and social standing. Conversely, no respondents outrightly disagreed with the idea ("No"), suggesting a general alignment with the notion of empowerment as a positive force for women. However, a small % of respondents, comprising 11.42%, remained uncertain ("Maybe") about the relationship between empowerment and women's status, indicating the need for further exploration or clarification on this topic. Overall, the data underscores the perceived importance of empowerment in fostering positive changes in women's lives, mainly through

educational avenues.

Table–8: When empowerment is a positive step towards the development of any society Empowering women raises awareness of their rights and self-esteem, a beneficial step towards societal growth. Empowering women creates a distinct society.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	68	97.14%
No	Nil	Nil
Maybe	2	2.85%
Total	70	100

Table 8 presents insights into respondents' perspectives on the role of empowerment in fostering societal development. The overwhelming majority of respondents, accounting for 97.14%, agreed ("Yes") that empowerment represents a positive step towards societal development. This viewpoint underscores the belief that empowering women raises awareness of their rights and enhances their self-esteem, both of which are crucial elements for societal progress. Empowerment is perceived as a transformative force that can contribute to building a more informed and empowered society. Interestingly, no respondents disagreed ("No") with this notion, indicating a widespread consensus on the positive impact of empowerment. However, a small fraction of respondents, comprising 2.85%, remained undecided ("Maybe") on whether empowerment directly correlates with societal development, suggesting a need for further exploration or clarification. Overall, the data strongly endorse empowerment as a key driver for fostering positive societal changes and underscores its significance in shaping a more inclusive and progressive society.

Responses vs Empowerment is a positive step towards the development of any society
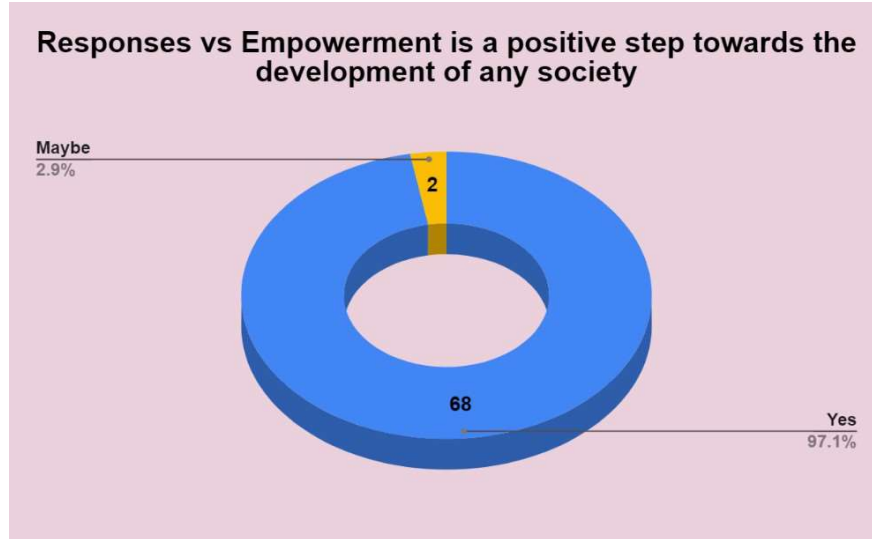
Maybe 2.9%
2
68
Yes 97.1%

Table-9: Victim of Gender Discrimination

Sometimes, women are victims of their gender. Historically, many women lost their lives due to their gender, and some were denied access to education.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	49	70%
No	18	25.71%
Maybe	3	4.28%
Total	70	100

Table 9 sheds light on the prevalence of gender discrimination experienced by women, as perceived by the respondents. A substantial majority, comprising 70% of respondents, acknowledged ("Yes") the existence of gender discrimination, indicating that women have often been subjected to discriminatory treatment solely because of their gender. This acknowledgement underscores the historical reality where women have faced various forms of oppression, including denial of rights and access to education and, in extreme cases, loss of life due to their gender. Additionally, 25.71% of respondents refuted ("No") the notion of women being victims of gender discrimination, suggesting a divergence of opinions on this issue. Meanwhile, a small fraction of respondents, accounting for 4.28%, remained uncertain ("Maybe") about whether gender discrimination affects women, reflecting a need for further examination or clarification. Overall, the data highlights the pervasive nature of gender discrimination faced by women, prompting a critical assessment of societal attitudes and practices to foster greater gender equality and inclusivity.
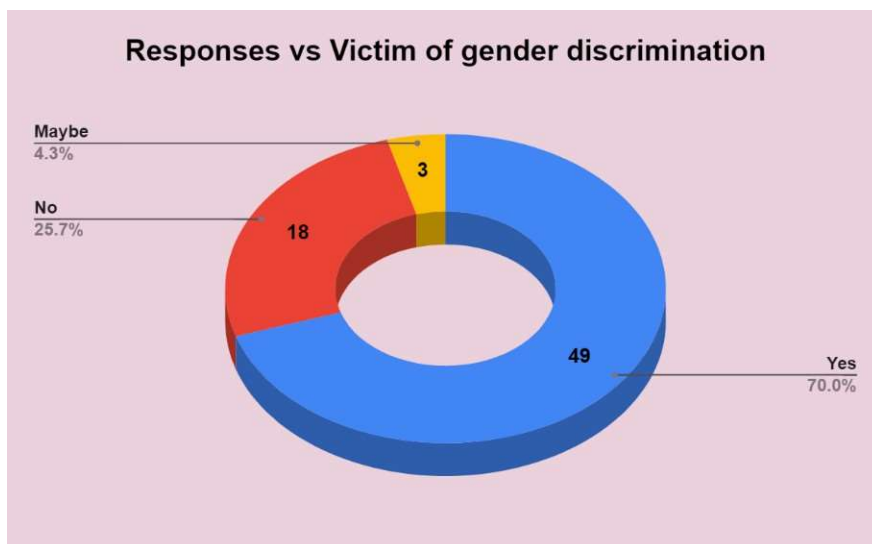
Table -10: Discrimination of any type still exists

Indeed, despite how much the world has changed in recent years, discrimination of any kind still occurs in our society.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	61	87.14%
No	4	5.71%
Maybe	5	7.14%
Total	70	100

The data from Table 10 sheds light on the prevailing perception of societal discrimination. It illustrates that a substantial majority, constituting 87.14% of respondents, acknowledge the presence of discrimination in various forms. This recognition highlights the ongoing struggle for equality and the need for concerted efforts to address underlying biases and prejudices. However, it is noteworthy that a minority, accounting for 5.71% of respondents, refutes discrimination, while a smaller fraction, 7.14%, expresses uncertainty. This data underscores the complex and multifaceted nature of societal attitudes towards discrimination, emphasising the importance of continued advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives to foster inclusivity and equality for all.

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Responses vs Any type of Discrimination
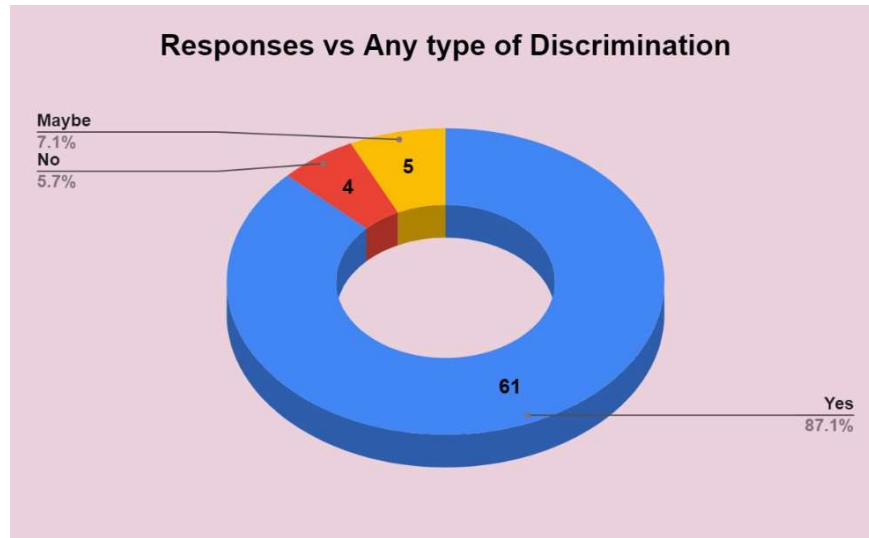
Maybe
7.1%
No
5.7%

4

5

61

Yes
87.1%

Table-11: Gender should be treated equally
Every gender should be treated equally in our nation. However, gender discrimination still occurs in some areas.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	60	85.71%
No	4	5.71%
Maybe	6	8.57%
Total	70	100

The data presented in Table 11 underscores the persistent issue of gender discrimination within our society despite ongoing efforts towards gender equality. A significant majority, comprising 85.71% of respondents, acknowledge the existence of gender discrimination in various spheres of life. This acknowledgement reflects the need for continued advocacy and policy interventions to address systemic biases and promote gender equity. However, it is notable that a small fraction, representing 5.71% of respondents, deny the prevalence of gender discrimination, while another 8.57% express uncertainty. These divergent perspectives highlight the complexity of addressing gender-related challenges and emphasise fostering dialogue and awareness to effect meaningful change.

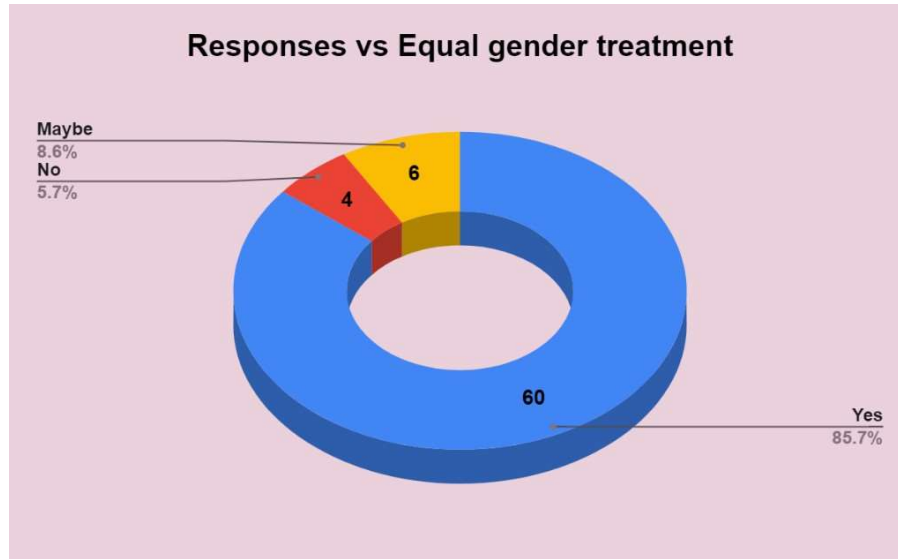**Responses vs Equal gender treatment**

Table-12: Inequality in gender at school, home, workplace, etc.

Schools and homes are recognised as social agencies. There is no distinction made between boys and girls in schools. However, occasionally, we may generally observe in some workplaces that there is gender discrimination based on any specific work.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	47	67.1%
No	7	10.0%
Maybe	16	22.9%
Total	70	100

The findings presented in Table 12 shed light on the perceived inequality in gender dynamics across various spheres, including schools, homes, and workplaces. A substantial majority, comprising 67.1% of respondents, acknowledge the presence of gender-based disparities in these social contexts. This recognition underscores the need for concerted efforts to address systemic biases and promote gender equity, particularly in educational and domestic settings where societal norms often shape perceptions and behaviours. However, noting that a smaller proportion, representing 10.0% of respondents, refutes such disparities, suggesting potential variations in lived experiences or perceptions are encouraging. Additionally, 22.9% of respondents express uncertainty, indicating the complexity of navigating gender dynamics within different social environments. These findings underscore the importance of fostering inclusive and equitable spaces where individuals of all genders can thrive and contribute meaningfully.

Table – 13: Gender discrimination affects a woman's life

Indeed, discrimination based on gender has an impact on a woman's life. Gender discrimination prevents women and girls from receiving adequate nutritional nourishment, which causes them to get distracted beyond a certain age.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	68	97.1%
No	Nil	Nil
Maybe	2	2.9%
Total	70	100

The data presented in Table 13 underscores the pervasive impact of gender discrimination on the lives of women. A striking majority of respondents, constituting 97.1%, affirm that gender-based discrimination significantly influences various aspects of a woman's life. This acknowledgement highlights the systemic barriers and inequalities that women face, particularly concerning access to essential resources such as adequate nutrition and healthcare. The detrimental effects of gender discrimination extend beyond immediate challenges, potentially hindering women's overall well-being and development. Despite the unequivocal recognition of these challenges, a negligible percentage of respondents, representing 2.9%, express uncertainty regarding the direct impact of gender discrimination on women's lives. This discrepancy underscores the urgency of addressing gender-based inequalities and implementing comprehensive measures to empower women and promote gender equity. Overall, the data underscores the imperative of fostering inclusive and equitable societies where all individuals, regardless of gender, can thrive and fulfil

their potential.

Table – 14: Women have lack of legal rights in today's generation

Today's women are entitled to all rights. Women who are empowered obtain their rights and can educate other women about the importance of their rights.

Classification on the basis of responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	49	70%
No	13	18.6%
Maybe	8	11.4%
Total	70	100

The data presented in Table 14 reflects perceptions regarding women's legal rights in contemporary society. A significant proportion of respondents, comprising 70%, assert that women continue to face limitations in accessing legal rights. This finding underscores challenges and inequalities in ensuring gender equality and justice within legal frameworks. Conversely, 18.6% of respondents disagree that women lack legal rights in today's generation. This perspective may reflect a belief in the progress made towards gender equality in recent years. Additionally, 11.4% of respondents indicate uncertainty regarding women's legal rights, suggesting a need for greater awareness and understanding of women's rights issues. Overall, the data highlights the complexity of addressing gender-based disparities in legal systems and the importance of ongoing efforts to advance women's rights and empowerment in contemporary society.

Table – 15: Gender discrimination impacts a girl's primary education

Indeed, discrimination has always had a significant negative influence on all people, but it significantly affects girls who lose them.

Classification based on responses	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	65	92.9%
No	2	2.9%
Maybe	3	4.3%
Total	70	100

The data provided in Table 15 sheds light on the pervasive impact of gender discrimination on girls' primary education. A substantial majority of respondents, comprising 92.9%, acknowledge that gender discrimination significantly hampers

girls' access to education. This finding underscores the systemic barriers and biases that impede girls' educational opportunities, limiting their potential for personal and professional growth. Only a negligible proportion of respondents, constituting 2.9%, deny the existence of such barriers, suggesting a possible underestimation of the challenges girls face in accessing quality education. Additionally, 4.3% of respondents express uncertainty about the impact of gender discrimination on girls' education, indicating a need for further awareness and advocacy efforts to address this critical issue. Overall, the data underscores the urgency of combatting gender discrimination to ensure equal access to education for all children, regardless of gender.

Findings of the Study

Data gathering from sources served as the foundation for this study's conclusions. It has demonstrated the need for women's awareness programs. One hundred per cent of women have endorsed this kind of program and taken action to plan similar programs for women's empowerment.

- ❖ The study's findings reveal that 82% of respondents acknowledged the persistence of gender discrimination in some regions of our nation.
- ❖ Increasing awareness among women has led to the recognition that they can face gender discrimination at times.
- ❖ Inequality continues to plague women and girls in rural regions, severely impacting their access to primary education. 92% of women advocate for reform and empowerment to address this issue.
- ❖ The survey findings indicate that gender-based inequality remains prevalent, with 72% of women reporting experiences of discrimination based on their gender.
- ❖ The consensus among the majority of women underscores the crucial nature of empowerment, with almost all endorsing its significance.
- ❖ The study revealed unanimous agreement among women regarding the importance of women's empowerment, recognising its ability to unlock numerous opportunities.
- ❖ In conclusion, 100% of women expressed unwavering support for women's empowerment and a collective determination to eliminate discrimination from our society

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Suggestions-

The current study allows us to propose the following ideas for more investigation-

➢ It is necessary to conduct additional research to determine the reasons behind the gender discrimination in Maharajganj rural areas and how it affects women's empowerment.

➢ It's important to research how discrimination affects communities and how to lessen it.

Conclusion-

In our society, discrimination against women persists. Because of their gender, women in our nation continue to experience inequality. Most women are aware of their equal rights and authority thanks to various awareness campaigns. Furthermore, because many women continue to be the targets of gender discrimination, women wish to hold additional awareness campaigns about their empowerment in the future. With the help of this work, we can all learn the truth about gender discrimination and how it affects women's empowerment, status, and right to a primary education. If women are unaware of these issues, their rights will become less valuable. Women and girls continue to experience discrimination, domestic abuse, problems with their rights, etc., particularly in rural areas. As a result, this study demonstrated that women wish to fight against gender discrimination, a prominent worldwide issue.

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