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India, Factor 15: Human Rights

India: Women's Rights

Gender equality is an issue that the county of India has taken into consideration; they have begun taking action in many ways. A few examples would be fast-track courts, the Indian Penal Code, and a zero tolerance plan for violence against women. The governance of India is realizing the problems of their society and trying to come back on the road to reform. Women's rights are important in India because they are trying to help stop torture and inhuman degradation of women.

Family Living:

Ideal family consists of three or four patrilineally related generations, all living under one roof, working, eating, worshipping, and cooperating together in mutually beneficial social and economic activities. Patrilineal joint families include men related through the male line, along with their wives and children. Most young women expect to live with their husband's relatives after marriage, but they retain important bonds with their natal families. In India life is not easy. Most families don't even have safe drinking water. Diseases are very common, some of the most common would be Malaria, Filaria, Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever, Tuberculosis, Japanese Encephalitis, Kala-Azar, and Chikungunya. Medicines are very expensive and in short supply, so that is why diseases are very common. The main food Indians eat is called a Punjabi dish. A Punjabi dish is a butter-based lentil gravy dish served over rice. They also typically eat it with a flatbread, wafers, or vegetables. They mostly drink tea or a yogurt based drink. A high value is placed on education. Most parents want their children to attend the best school, but places are limited due to the admission process being highly competitive. Education in India is provided by public and private sectors with control and funding coming from three levels. Under many articles of the Indian Constitution, free and compulsory education is provided as a fundamental right for the children between the ages of 6 and 14. Studies have shown that 74% of India is literate. In India there is about 487 million workers in 2012 which is the second largest after China. For employment, women mainly do farming, tobacco products and clothes manufacturing, construction, schools, housework, personal services, health care, and bureaucracy, but they are often working in poorly paid jobs with no security or benefits and in many cases getting below minimum daily wage. Then the men do jobs including building and construction workers, leather workers, salt workers, weavers, workers in oil mills and saw mills, share croppers, landless agricultural laborers, animal husbandry, and more, but get paid more and usually get the benefits that the women do not get. There are many different types of hobbies in India right from the traditional ones like stamp and coin collections to art work, reading and craft making, listening to music, dancing, singing, or some sport. While, women in rural areas in the North embroider, crochet and knit. Women in the South find time to create 'kolam' that is making designs outside their homes with rice powder. Similar designs are called 'Rangoli' in other parts of India. Learning different kinds of doll-making (Rajasthan has puppets while Karnataka has wooden or clay dolls), pottery, traditional painting, weaving, music or dancing are also hobbies still in practice, and what's amazing is each state in India has its own unique style of creativity. In India, religion is mostly classified as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, but there are other religions to such as Islam and Christianity.

Access to Healthcare:

India is one of the worst countries when it comes to gender inequalities. Gender is one of the many social determinants of health which would include social, economic, and political factors. Those are some of the many things that play a role on the health outcomes of women in India. Since, the high level of gender inequality in India negatively affects the health of women. Gender discrimination begins before birth because the most aborted sex of babies would be females in India. When a woman is having a female and

it is not aborted, the mother's pregnancy can be a very stressful experience. This will be stressful because of her family's preference to have a son. Once she is born, daughters are prone to being fed less, especially where there are multiple girls already in the household. As women mature into adulthood, many of the barriers preventing from achieving equitable levels of health stem from the low status of women and girls in India's society. Men use greater privileges and superior rights to create an unequal society that leaves women with little to no power. Women have very low participation. Women are then seen to be less valuable to a family due to marriage obligations. With lower involvement in the public and the stigma of being less valuable with a family, women face a unique form of gender discrimination. Gender inequalities are directly related to poor health outcomes for women. Many studies have found that the rates of admission to hospitals vary dramatically with gender. Men that visit hospitals are more frequently helped than women. There is different access to healthcare that occurs because women typically are entitled to a lower share of household resources and therefore use healthcare resources to a lesser degree than men. Furthermore, it has also been found that India's women usually underreport illnesses. The underreporting of illness may contribute to these cultural norms and gender expectations within the household. Gender also dramatically influences the use of immunizations. A study in 2006 found that boys are more likely to receive immunizations than girls in rural areas. This finding has led researchers to believe that the sex of a child determines what level of healthcare that will be administered in the rural areas, but they also think that some effect on this could be the fact the gender component associated with mobility, since, women are more likely to have difficulties traveling in public spaces than men do.

Arranged Marriage:

An arranged marriage is a marriage that is established before a long relationship. So in a sense, it is the opposite to a love marriage, where marriage would be considered the final step of the relationship. Arranged marriages have been a huge part of India's society. Factors when it comes to an arranged marriage would be reputation of the family, vocation, wealth, appearance, values, Religion, medical, and etc. In a forced marriage, the parents do not allow the future newlyweds to have any say in their choice of spouse. This form of arranged marriage is rare, but in some parts of the world, such as the Middle East, and parts of Africa and Asia, it does exist. If he or she refuses to marry their chosen person, they will be punished, or sometimes, even killed. In most cases, their objection is simply ignored, and the marriage takes place anyway. Arranged marriages in India are made by parents, matchmaking agents, sites, or a trusted third party, and they are carried out by priests, religious leaders, trusted relatives, and family friends. In earlier times, the bride and groom were neither asked for their consent, and weren't informed about their own partner. However, over time the society has also changed a lot. Nowadays, the bride and groom are asked for consent. In a traditional marriage, the parents choose their son or daughter's future spouse with only a little input from the soon to be newly-weds. If either the son or daughter refuses the choice, the parents tend to respect their wishes, and will find someone else. The main motivation factor in such marriages is the happiness of the son or daughter, but the standpoint is that "Parents know best." That being said, the parents will often exert considerable pressure on their child to marry the person they have chosen because they do strongly believe that they know best. After everything is ensured a suitable date for the wedding is decided.

Dowry:

In India, Dowry refers to the durable goods, cash, and real or movable property that the bride's family gives to the bridegroom, his parent, or his relatives as a condition of the marriage, according to Wikipedia. Dowry in this way is used as a conditional gift that is supposed to be restored to the wife or her family if the husband divorces, abuses, or commits other grave offenses against her. Dowry originated in upper families as the wedding gift to the bride from her family, but the Dowry was later given to help with marriage expenses and became a form of insurance in the case that her in-laws mistreated her. Although the Dowry was legally prohibited in 1961, it continues to be highly institutionalized. The groom often demands a Dowry consisting of a large sum of money, farm animals, furniture, and electronics. The

practice of Dowry abuse is rising in India including harassed, abused, and made miserable. The most severe is “bride burning” which is the burning of women who’s Dowries were not considered to be enough. Most of these incidents are reported as accidental burns in the kitchen or are disguised as suicide. It’s evident that there exist deep rooted prejudices against women in India, and cultural practices such as the payment of Dowry tend to subordinate women in India’s society. Unfortunately, the number of Dowry murders is increasing, and about every 12 hours a woman is burned to death. A definition of Dowry deaths would be deaths of young women who are murdered or driven to suicide by continuous harassment and torture by husbands and in-laws in an effort to extort and increased Dowry, according to Wikipedia.

Solutions:

A way we could solve this could be by having the women from somewhere else such as the United States start a campaign, so that we can help out the women. The campaign could help show support for them, help them with their needs, and help change the culture of what happens to them. I would start a nonprofit corporation to start this campaign to fundraise money for the women of India for their expenses and money for healthcare. The women then could have more money to pay for their needs, and then the women would have more support.

To conclude India is a country with conditions and beliefs that make it difficult for the women in India. The way their traditions are will make it hard, but we can make a change in their life. It is very important for the safety of the women. Although it will be difficult, I do believe we could help the women of India earn the same amount of respect as men.

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