



# Gender Equality

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The United Nations defines gender equality as a human right and demands that both genders should be treated equally in both public and private sectors of life.

From my point of view, men and women can never be physically equal but they should absolutely share the same rights because they both play a vital role in families in particular and in society in general. Feminist movements have been struggling for legal gender equality for centuries; yet the fight continues. Since time immemorial, women in India and some Middle East countries have been suffering from oppression and their rights are very often neglected. Even to this day, rape and domestic violence seems to be the norm in some societies. During the national struggle for independence, Mahatma Gandhi gave a speech regarding the liberalization of women. He said, "I am uncompromising in the matter of woman's rights. The difference in sex and physical form denotes no difference in status. Woman is a complement to man, and not inferior."

About a hundred years ago, women were seen as men's property. They had no right to vote and were deprived of opportunities to receive higher education in universities, not to mention being an astronaut or a president. It is noteworthy that the society in which we live has been historically and traditionally dominated by males. According to recent studies, Europe

has the highest representation of women in Parliament, and yet only 20.6% are females. The lowest is recorded in Oceania, where merely 7.5% of parliamentarians are women. The consistency of males playing the role of policy-makers reflects bias as a result of male domination.

It is undeniable truth that women can always do as well as, if not better than, men, should they be given the same opportunity. However, despite all the effort a woman makes to achieve her targets, she is denied the kind of recognition she deserves. It seems legitimate that all a woman should do is to manage household chores and raise kids. In fact, a lot of talents, especially in the fields of politics and science, are wasted due to our prejudice against the ability of women. Imagine how many more Hillary Clintons and Madam Curies would be created if we could discard our long-held twisted bias?

Men and women are created in their own unique way. Males certainly have greater physical strength and females are, no doubt, more patient, gentle and compassionate. As Gandhi has said, they are complementary to each other; women are not subordinate to men. Should we, therefore, forget our stereotyped perception and respect both genders? I am confident that if we join hands, we can make this world a fair and pleasant place for every boy and girl, man and woman.