Cycle of Female Marginalization and Degradation Driven By Value of Women

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The marginalization and degradation of women especially in American, Indian, and Chinese communities have been able to persist despite government and non-governmental organizations seeking to end these practices (Davis, 2018). The basis of women's marginalization and degradation is socially and culturally instigated and promoted by the patriarchal societies in many cultures. This type of influence practically ensures men's superiority within social, political, and economic realms. The marginalization of women takes different shapes in different cultures. The economic marginalization of women in American, Indian and Chinese cultures is associated with the notion that men are supposed to provide for women and women are too stay home (Kite, Togans, & Schultz, 2019), thus reinforcing these masculine ideals within society (Ye, Wu, Rao, Ding, & Zhang, 2016). This white paper will assess the lack of representation of females in India, the United States, and China and seek to establish different measures that can end the vicious cycle of the marginalization and degradation of women.

Representation of Female Marginalization and Degradation in Different Countries

Women in India are exposed to different forms of violence, which has been detrimental to the advancement of women in society (Desai, 2016). Persistent violence against women in India, primarily due to the patriarchy cultural perspectives, has led to its normalization. In the Indian patriarchal order, gender power positions women as subordinate to men, due to social norms that allow men to invoke control, respect and command on women, some even resort to using brutal force (Desai, 2016). Recent news reports on women rape and marginalization due to a masculine society where women are

expected to submit to men. Women are undervalued and not seen as equal to men. Even from birth, girls are in danger, and this affects the countries population and gender ratio, among other things.

Female infanticide and foeticide practices in India have led to a decline in the number of women (Agnivesh et al., 2005). The 1991 census shows that India has 25 million more males than females, which is due to high female infant foeticide and selective cases of abortions (Agnivesh, Mani, & Lossack, 2005). According to India's 2001 census, 40 million children were killed just for being a girl (Agnivesh et al., 2005). The gap between men and women population in India continues to enlarge, and it is expected to grow further.

Even if their families keep girls alive, they must face the continued preference to educate men, offer men better job opportunities, increased social status and thus continually increase overall dependence on men in society (Desai, 2016). As a result, women have been left behind economically and have low social empowerment, which affects the overall potential of the Indian economy. The 2001 Indian census showed that 48% of India's population is women. This section of the population has been undervalued because of the norms. There is not an easy fix because a country like India has these norms engraved in its tradition and culture. It is difficult to change a countries behavior and tradition without complete re-haul to encourage men to respect women and the society to give them equal opportunity accorded to men, economically and educationally (Desai, 2016). Because of this, women do not get the opportunity to have the proper education or acquire the skills and respect to work and make their income. They are dependent on men and are locked into marriages or other potentially dangerous familial

relationships, thereby contributing to the marginalization of women in their generations and the future ones.

Women's marginalization and degradation are also prevalent in other areas of the world apart from India, such as the US and China. Specifically, Sexism in the US is exhibited in a much similar manner as in China. Although, in the US, sexism has been progressively minimized since the early 1990s, and does not always resort to violence against women, like in the case of India, it is still present (Dixon, 2011). However, female oppression results in higher representations of men in academic performance, political representations, and in employment. Some of the significant inequalities undermining women self-worth in the United States include subversion in households, where women's opinion bears less weight than the men's in decision-making, and discriminated in legal entitlements such as land ownership, despite it being outlawed by the constitution (Dixon, 2011). Women take the lower stand in economic activities with men dominating most of the regular jobs while women major on non-standard jobs resulting in a gender pay gap. They are discriminated in the domestic sector, where they must undertake most of the household responsibilities, such as washing and caring for the children; men, however, can focus on productive employments (Dixon, 2011). This behavior is associated with male patriarchy, where men are considered more eligible for opportunities and superior to women on gender basis. Although there has been a tangible improvement in gender equity over time, especially in critical areas such as schooling and healthcare, women are subject to marginalization in other fields. This subjugation of women persists, regardless of its constitutional criminalization and the country's subscription to the United Nation's charter of gender equality (Attane, 2012).

Changing Attitudes and Perception towards Women in India, the USA, and China

In India, gender violence towards women continues to be a significant problem mainly due to the patriarchal order of the society and the empowerment of men to seek women's subordination and dependency (Dutt, 2018). Despite the existence of a legal framework for women to seek justice from gender violence, they lack courage due to the inherent recognition of patriarchy in most cases where women are expected to suffer violence (Dutt, 2018). In India today, the most recognized forms of gender-related violence towards women include rape and domestic abuse. The economic dependence of women and their cultural isolation forces many women to condone violence and continue to live with abusive partners. This form of entrapment within abusive marriages that can be considered as economic subjugation as well. In the 20th century, there has been a significant advancement in the perception of women and the participation of women in society. During the Jiangxi, Soviet regulations and laws were passed in China, which created the beginning of a culture and practices that supported women's rights and equality (Cheng, 1988). The rules marked an essential break from the tradition of women's marginalization and degradation (Cheng, 1988). In the United States and the West, there has been a significant growth of campaigns aimed at encouraging respect and also the emancipation of women in all levels of society (Cruea, 2005). The 19th-century movement for feminist has been instrumental in changing the fortunes of women in Europe and America. Women during the 19th century became socially and economically empowered, which has changed the internal dependency on women (Cruea, 2005).

Today, there is a greater call for equal gender pay with gender pay discrimination being one of the persisting gender-related problems in society today (Cruea, 2005).

Measures to Increase Gender Equality and Eradicate Female Marginalization

One of the most effective approaches to eliminating the patriarchal traditions that encourage women submission is by helping women to acquire entrepreneurial skills and create a network that can support women and encourage them to start their own businesses. Having higher women literacy rates is vital towards changing the discriminatory culture in India and encouraging greater recognition and representation of women in society at all levels (Dutt, 2018). Education focused on skills, and entrepreneurship affects change in the younger generation, making them less dependent on men and economically stronger. This approach eliminates the need to ask men to change behavior or try to change cultural norms built over centuries. The world is slowly transforming towards equality of the sexes through women's suffrage campaigns in which women voiced against their precarious situations and roles in society. In India where there is high female infanticide and violence towards women such as rape and reservation of women to only domestic chores, there is a need for education so that the economics change instead of trying to change the people's behavior. Community education and campaign against female infanticide can be instrumental in ending the negative perception towards female children and will encourage more parents to keep and educate their daughters. Parents should be encouraged to take their girls to schools and protect them from early marriages and sexual abuses; this will be instrumental towards the economic and social empowerment of women. Teaching women entrepreneurial skills

can be an effective avenue that can empower them and reduce dependence on men which is a significant cause of degradation in women's value. The governmental and non-governmental organization everywhere should create awareness in the community on the importance of letting women acquire entrepreneurial skills and also broaden the consideration of women in business-oriented courses within government institutions. It would help to create network and support groups to assist women in achieving these objectives. Such an approach will be vital in eradicating women's marginalization and degradation all over the world and will establish a more empowered women population, the ending the perception that they are an unwanted burden in society. Empowering women will help to end the cyclical nature of women marginalization by ensuring women in business and entrepreneurs set rules that will create a balance with the existing pro men rules set by male entrepreneurs that seek to exclude women. While also increasing the value of women set by society.

Conclusion

Female infanticide and infoeticide are one of the most shameful practices in history of humanity. These occur only as a result of cultural norms that have identified women as a burden, which significantly discouraged women from competing for economic and political equality with men. Women are undervalued, encouraged to serve and depend on men, diminishing the need to be educated. This vicious cycle needs to be broken, by addressing this problem primarily as an economic issue.

Introducing women entrepreneurship education and skills based training at an early age is an integrated approach that can be used to empower women and increasing

their perceived value in society. In economic terms, early marriages and female infanticide are primarily as result of women being considered a liability. If women are breadwinners or financially contribute to the household, then this notion is turned on its head and she becomes as asset to the family. Economic freedom of women can also help save the girls from abusive marriages, as the dependence on men decreases.

These efforts will increase women's value in a patriarchal society and will shift the balance to equality and changing norms to address the needs of women. Women's marginalization and degradation can be stopped and reversed, if the society sees education of women is focused on increasing economic standard of the household and not to deprive men's of status. Skill-based empowerment of women will enable them to independently plan their future and earn an equal social, political, and economic status as those of men.

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