
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH

**PUBLIC OPINION ON RESERVATION ON THE BASIS OF GENDER
PREJUDICE IN PARLIAMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA**- Vishnu Dharshini M.¹**ABSTRACT**

Gender prejudice, the entrenched practice of unfair and detrimental treatment based on gender or sex, permeates various facets of life, including the realms of economy, education, occupation, health, politics, and society. This form of discrimination is deeply ingrained in cultural norms and gender relations that subordinate women. This research aims to delve into the root causes, effects, and damages wrought by gender prejudice within parliamentary settings, with a concurrent focus on identifying potential remedies. A sample size of 200 respondents participated in the study, providing insights through the administration of questionnaires. The research employed a convenient sampling method, selecting participants based on accessibility and ease. Despite a certain level of awareness across diverse demographics regarding the causes, effects, and solutions for gender discrimination, a significant portion of the population remains uninformed about the profound impact of gender prejudice on inherent rights. It is imperative to disseminate information widely and devise strategies to curtail gender prejudice within parliamentary contexts. This research seeks to canvass the opinions and perspectives of the general public, offering recommendations to address the reasons behind gender prejudice and proposing effective remedies to foster inclusivity and equality within parliamentary systems.

KEYWORDS

Gender prejudice, Gender Relations, Parliament, Remedies and Root Causes.

INTRODUCTION

Gender prejudice is the practice of unequal or disadvantageous treatment of a group or individual based on their gender or sex in various aspects of life. The society in which we live is patriarchal

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where men are always privileged. The prolonged gender prejudice not only causes an injustice but also creates a wrong impact on further generations. Everywhere in the world where people face gender discrimination, the government has come up with some acts, rules and also movements. In the USA the government has passed many acts like The equal pay act(1963), The pregnancy discrimination act, and The civil rights Act were made into action to help various genders in various aspects in general. The research employed a convenient sampling method, selecting participants based on accessibility and ease. Despite a certain level of awareness across diverse demographics regarding the causes, effects, and solutions for gender discrimination, a significant portion of the population remains uninformed about the profound impact of gender prejudice on inherent rights. It is imperative to disseminate information widely and devise strategies to curtail gender prejudice within parliamentary contexts. This research seeks to canvass the opinions and perspectives of the general public, offering recommendations to address the reasons behind gender prejudice and proposing effective remedies to foster inclusivity and equality within parliamentary systems.

Ruby Dhar's (2018) research revealed that while India is poorer than the USA in many socioeconomic aspects, women's political participation is significantly lower in both countries. The World Population Review lists Iceland, Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Namibia, Rwanda, Lithuania, Ireland, and Switzerland among the top ten nations with the highest levels of gender equality. India is ranked 135th out of all countries in the world for gender parity, according to the WEF report. India came in at number 140 out of 156 nations on the gender equality index in 2021. Only when the gender-based reservation system is eliminated and skill-based reservation is chosen can this state of affairs in India be altered. This study contributes to the understanding of public opinion regarding various options for eliminating the prevalent prejudice in the Indian Parliament. Women who pursue careers in politics have an impact on society at large in addition to their families. The primary goal of this study is to raise awareness of the need for women, men, and other groups to be free from discrimination in India.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the association between the satisfactory scale of high reservation for men in parliament and age of the respondents.

- To examine the difference between the agreeability towards gender backwardness of women in all other fields and the gender.
- To determine the difference between the level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in parliament among educational qualifications of the respondents.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Yifei Li(2022) et.al., have carried out a study to look into and evaluate the status and important factors that determine and impact gender equality. 284 valid questionnaires were collected from 323 school-aged boys and girls as part of the research using questionnaires. The study came to the conclusion that children should receive mental health education that is equitable and grounded in their individual psychological traits.**Paula Chatterjee(2021)et.al.**,carried out a study to determine whether or not the articles written by men and women received different citations. The study was cross-sectional, looking at articles published between July 2020 and April 2021. The amount of citations for every article was discovered using the web of science. The study came to the conclusion that articles authored by women received fewer citations than articles authored by men.

Yuriy Bilan(2020)et.al., carried out a study to find the connections between gender discrimination and benefits and pay in a company. A survey was carried out with 526 participants, comprising 170 business owners and 356 employees once more. The study found that because achieving gender equality is a challenging goal, there hasn't been any notable progress in any area.**Paula Chatterjee(2021)et.al.**, made an effort to research the proportion of gender inequality and develop a curriculum for internal medicine residents that addresses gender bias. 53.5% of the 114 residents who were used as samples in the survey completed for the research were surveyed. The study recommended a scalable gender bias training curriculum in addition to concluding that gender inequality was widely prevalent.

Paula England (2020) et.al., tried to investigate the US's sluggish or stagnant progress toward gender equality. The data was collected between 1970 and 2018. Women in the sample ranged in age from 24 to 54 (n = 3,371,391). The study came to the conclusion that the advancement of gender equality has stalled in recent decades, and the author offered some suggestions for how to completely eradicate gender inequality in society.**Dr S.Venkatesan (2019)** carried out a study to

comprehend the problems caused by gender inequality in India. Data from secondary data sources, such as books, journals, and articles, was already used in the study. He came to the conclusion that India still has a long way to go before all of its women enjoy equality.

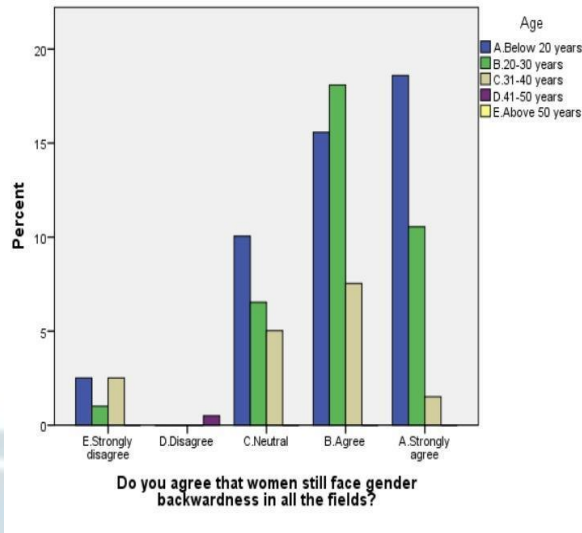
Zulfiqar Ashraf Wani (2018) et.al., attempted to study the issue of gender inequality to know its causes and also to give some suggestions to eliminate it from society. The research is a descriptive analysis where secondary data sources were used. The research finalized the fact that gender inequality still exists in various aspects of one's life. **Javier Cerrato (2018) et.al.**, conducted a study to check the unequal involvement of men and women in household chores which leads to high Work-Family Conflict(WFC). It is a correlational study. The research concluded that there was unequal involvement of men and women in household chores where women had more involvement than men and also that the relation of it with the WFC was different concerning both men and women.

METHODOLOGY

This Research on Public opinion on Reservation on the basis of gender prejudice in parliament with special reference to India. A convenient sampling method was adopted where the samples were chosen based on convenience and ease of access. The sample size was 200 and the sample frame was Chennai. The independent variables collected from the people were age, gender, educational qualification and employment status for a better and brief approach to the research. The dependent variables used were agreeability of gender backwardness for women in all fields, people's satisfactory statement on high reservation for men, awareness about women reservation in parliament, level of importance for skill based reservation, solution for solving prevailing prejudice in Indian parliament. Some of the tools for analysis in the research are complex charts, correlation, chi-square test, independent sample t-test.

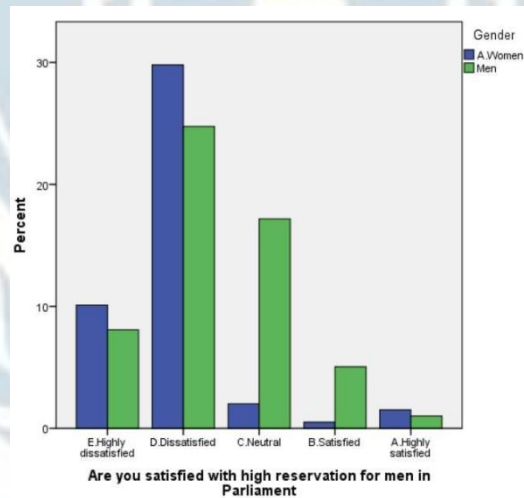
ANALYSIS

FIGURE 1



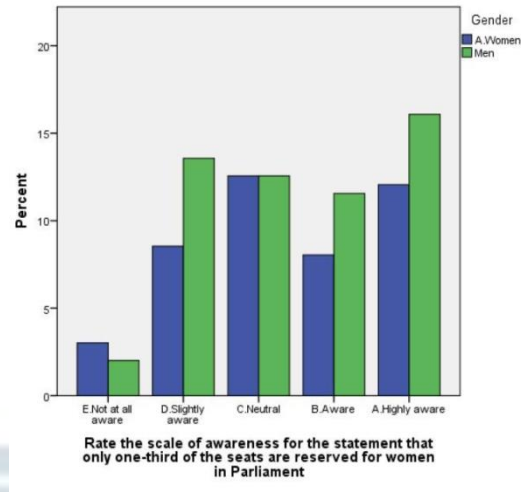
Legend: Figure 1 shows the age distribution of the sample population in Chennai and their agreeability that women still face gender backwardness in all the fields.

FIGURE 2



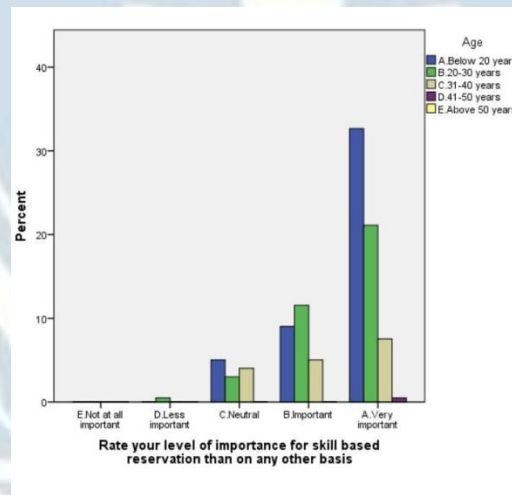
Legend: Figure 2 shows the gender distribution of the sample population in Chennai and their satisfactory scale for high reservation for men in the Parliament.

FIGURE 3



Legend: Figure 3 shows the gender distribution of the sample population in Chennai and their awareness of the statement that only one-third of the seats are reserved for women in Parliament.

FIGURE 4



Legend: Figure 4 shows the age distribution of the sample population in Chennai and their level of importance for skill-based reservation than on any other basis.

TABLE 1

ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Rate your level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in Parliament [Reservation purely based on the skills]	Between Groups	.896	3	.299	.809	.490
	Within Groups	71.938	195	.369		
	Total	72.834	198			
Rate your level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in Parliament [Speaking up problems regarding gender bias and solving the issues]	Between Groups	1.835	3	.612	1.668	.175
	Within Groups	71.532	195	.367		
	Total	73.367	198			
Rate your level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in Parliament [Representing strong female role models in available platforms]	Between Groups	2.023	3	.674	2.519	.059
	Within Groups	52.198	195	.268		
	Total	54.221	198			
Rate your level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in Parliament [Spreading awareness on prevailing inequalities]	Between Groups	3.565	3	1.188	1.993	.116
	Within Groups	116.254	195	.596		
	Total	119.819	198			

Legend: Table 1 uses the ANOVA to find the difference between the level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in parliament among educational qualifications of the respondents.

TABLE 2

Null hypothesis: There is significant difference between opinion on agreeability towards gender backwardness of women and the gender.

Alternate hypothesis: There is no significant difference between opinion on agreeability towards gender backwardness of women and the gender.

Group Statistics

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Do you agree that women still face gender backwardness in all the fields?	A.Women	88	4.30	.886	.094
	Men	111	3.59	1.049	.100

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means								
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Do you agree that women still face gender backwardness in all the fields?	Equal variances assumed	3.172	.076	5.074	197	.000	.710	.140	.434	.986
	Equal variances not assumed			5.173	196.169	.000	.710	.137	.439	.980

Legend:Table 2 uses an independent sample t-test to show the difference to examine the difference between the agreeability towards gender backwardness of women and the gender.

TABLE 3

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Null hypothesis: There is no significant association between the satisfactory scale of high reservation for men in parliament and age of the respondents.

Alternate hypothesis: There is significant association between the satisfactory scale of high reservation for men in parliament and age of the respondents

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Are you satisfied with high reservation for men in Parliament * Age	198	99.0%	2	1.0%	200	100.0%

Are you satisfied with high reservation for men in Parliament ^ Age Crosstabulation

Count		Age				Total
		A.Below 20 years	B.20-30 years	C.31-40 years	D.41-50 years	
Are you satisfied with high reservation for men in Parliament	E.Highly dissatisfied	19	5	12	0	36
	D.Dissatisfied	46	42	20	0	108
	C.Neutral	22	16	0	0	38
	B.Satisfied	3	7	1	0	11
	A.Highly satisfied	2	2	0	1	5
Total		92	72	33	1	198

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	62.813 ^a	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	38.635	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.681	1	.409
N of Valid Cases	198		

a. 10 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.

Legend: Table 3 uses chi-square test to show the association between the satisfactory scale of high reservation for men in parliament and age of the respondents.

RESULTS

From the graph, it can be seen that 18 percent of the population who are below 20 years strongly agrees that women still face gender backwardness in all fields (**fig 1**). According to the chart 25 percent of the population who are men are dissatisfied with high reservation for men in the

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Parliament (**fig 2**). From the chart it can be noted that more than 27 percent of the population is highly aware of the statement that only one-third of the seats are reserved for women in the Parliament (**fig 3**). From the chart it can be noted that 62 percent of the people say that it is very important reservation should be given only based on the skills, and not even one of the respondents denies it (**fig 4**).

This table shows the difference between the level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in parliament among educational qualifications of the respondents, the sig. value for all the ways is greater than 0.05 i.e., for reservation purely based on the skills 0.490, speaking up problems regarding gender bias 0.175, representing strong female role models and available platforms 0.059, spreading awareness in prevailing inequalities 0.116. So the null hypothesis is accepted in all the mentioned ways. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in parliament among educational qualifications of the respondents (**Table 1**).

This table shows us the difference between the agreeability of the statement that women still face gender backwardness and all the fields and the gender groups where the significant value is 0.076 which is greater than 0.05 so the null hypothesis is accepted therefore there is no significant difference between the agreeability on the statement that women still face gender backwardness and the gender groups (**Table 2**).

This table shows the association between the people's opinion on the level of importance for skill-based reservation than on any other basis and their employment status. Pearson Chi square value for a symptomatic significance is 0.128 which is greater than 0.05 so the null hypothesis is accepted therefore there is no significant association between people's opinion on level of importance for skill-based reservation and their employment status (**Table 3**).

DISCUSSION

The reason for people's thinking that women still face gender based backwardness in all field because we live in a patriarchal society, this can be only changed when both men and women self realise about gender equality they themselves. Also, this type of discrimination affects a person's mindset and his/her intellect which drastically and can even lead to depression. So this aspect of thinking should be changed (**fig 1**). The possible reason for the people's thinking that it is very important to ensure the rights given to the genders may be that the genders would be able to raise

voice against the discriminations with the aid of these rights so that it improves their condition in the society and protect them from the exploitation through discrimination(**fig 2**).The possible reason for people thinking either it is important or very important to give powerful platforms to genders to prevent gender discrimination may be that if some of these genders are given appropriate powers, it may either save others from exploitation or may boost their esteem to come up and fight and prove themselves(**fig 3**).Even though urban areas are considered to be more developed and forward than the other areas of residence, we can see that still many people here face gender discrimination. This can be because there can still be people living here with an old mindset of prejudice which is subjected to the male gender,this can be changed only when reservation can be only given on the personal skills whereas not on any other basis(**fig 4**).

The table shows the difference between the level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in parliament among educational qualifications of the respondents, the sig. value for all the ways is greater than 0.05 i.e, for reservation purely based on the skills 0.490, speaking up problems regarding gender bias 0.175, representing strong female role models and available platforms in all the mentioned ways. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the level of agreeability towards solving the prevailing prejudice on the basis of gender in parliament among educational qualifications of the respondents.Gender discrimination among age groups is that irrespective of people's age group, they all think that all these ways mentioned are important to stop gender prejudice which prevails in our society from a long time(**Table 1**).

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that all these ways mentioned are important to stop gender discrimination which prevails in our society from a long time(**Table 3**).

LIMITATIONS

This research was conducted with a limited time constraint. Even the funding for this research was limited with the sampling frame being only a small area.

CONCLUSION

The practice of treating a group or individual unfairly or disadvantageously in various spheres of life because of their gender or sex is known as gender prejudice. With a focus on India, the research's main goal is to learn what people think about the causes, effects, and solutions to gender discrimination, which has been pervasive throughout most of the world. Some significant findings emerged from this study, including the overwhelming consensus among respondents that women continue to face gender discrimination in the legislature. Gender discrimination could be completely eradicated if people are willing to accept gender equality. This would eliminate prejudice not just in Parliament but also in the general public. But getting people to change their minds and hearts is a very tough task and a very slow process. The research concludes that in India Gender prejudice still exists by seeing the Indian Parliament itself. Even by seeing all the causes and effects and the people's reviews and opinion about them also it can be clearly seen that gender prejudice exists. It is also necessary to find and work out some methods to stop this discrimination in various fields for India to touch heights in terms of developments among the various cities they countries.

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