

## GENDER EQUALITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Amandeep Singh<sup>1</sup>

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The issue of gender equality took shape in 1975 with aim to address inequality between male and female in every aspects of human life and it also a process of promoting peaceful coexistence within any particular society. While sustainable development is a method of sustaining available resources without jeopardizing it and for the future generation use and it also serves as a tool of addressing environmental problems. In developing countries, the issue of gender equality becomes very vital because is one of the mechanism of reducing poverty, illiteracy as in case of Ethiopia, and in India the involvement of women in various socio economic activities indicate a great success interms equitable of the genders, while in Europe with respect of Serbia, it decrease sexual harassment face by the women. The major setback of gender equality is as a result of lack of government concern and resistance from some of the religious leaders such as Zimbabwe Archbishop Kunonga. The states with high gender equality have characterized with high development as well as effective sustainable development as in reference of developed nations, and the developing states with less gender equality and ineffective sustainable development.

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of gender equality means equality of both of the sex (Male and Female) in all aspect of human life (Juru 2002 in Wadesango 2011). The article (27) of the universal human right (UDHR) 1948, UNICEP 2007 in Wadesango 20011. The international covenant on economic in article (15) 1966, article 17 of the Africa charter on human and peoples right 1981 SADC 2005 in Wadesango 2011 emphasized the right of all individual to rejoice and share ideas together. In 2001, the united nation republished the right of each and every person to benefits from new technological advancement in any given society or state with equal chance (Wadesango, 2011), as in case of British which achieved a successful development, (Thatcher 1993 in Wadesango 2011).

The idea of gender equality between the two sexes (men and women) took shaped in 1975-1985 at the international level (Bulbeck 1988 in Connell 2014). The involvement of women in various societal institutions is recognised as gender equality (Holter, 1997; Walby, 1977; Connell, 2002 in Connell, 2014). The equitable of gender does not refers to equal chance or same opportunity or there is no difference between male and female, the equality of gender signifies equal right to have access on any societal resources both physical and human and to enjoy in any given nation or society (UN, UNICEP, WHO in Wall, 2014).

Gender equitable refers to justice and fairness within the state or society by the political institution that can transform social justice between the two genders

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, School of Arts and Languages, Lovely Professional University Punjab, India, E-mail: amandeep.11500@lpu.co.in

(men and women) that may yield positive development in the state (World Health Organisation, 2009). The absence of discrimination between male and female in any human endeavour is considered as gender equality (Subrahmanian, 2005). It also denotes as right of women to participate same as men in all spheres of human life (Baden and Reeves, 2005).

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

In 1987, the word sustainable development was propagated by the world commission on environment and development with a view to maintain ecological balance (UNESCO, 2010). It is a method of encouraging environmental balance and economic growth, since sustainable development deal with every phenomena on earth surface that associate with human life (WCFD). Sustainable development refers to a balance between society, environment and their available resources (GDRC).

The concept of sustainable development refers to a process of utilizing available resources for the present use and for the future use without degraded of resources (ECE, 2015). The qualitative life of individuals now and for the future that can cooperate environment and socio-economic aspects into a comprehensive path of human development called sustainable development (ECE, 2015). Sustainable development is not a policies or law, it's a method of how a society sustain and reserve its resource (ECE, 2015). It also a tool of addressing environmental problem i.e. global warming, soil erosion, deforestation, desertification and other social related issues (ECE, 2015).

In the year 2000, world leaders introduced new programme known as millennium development goals with aim to achieved effective development (GFSD, 2015), in which they stated that, good governance leads a society or state free from crime, violence, fear, corruption and to promote harmony, justice among gender (women and men) and also yield to a comprehensive development of a nation revealed by the United Nation convention against corruption in GFSD 2015.

The effective, sound environmental management and social justice result into a state or nation development, which regards as sustainable development (Morelli, 2013). Sustainable development is a way of fulfil the demands of the haves not or peasant, that can enhance state economic growth (IISD, 2015). Gender equality also serves as a path of sustaining environmental resources that can generate a comprehensive state development.

### **GENDER EQUALITY TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WORLD)**

The millennium development goals have acknowledged women empowerment and gender equality as a driven factor of achieving a sustainable development (NDHS). In El-Salvador, women movement association have promotes female

literacy rate and improve their participation in political affairs, which can assist to achieve sustainable development (Eijk, 2010).

While in Philippines, the special programme in collaboration between higher education institution and gender responsive budgeting initiative in order to provide a special package that can escalate gender equality for the purpose of sustainable development (Eijk, 2010). In Bangladesh, the women participation in the upper chamber shows a great success in promoting gender equality and encourages female literacy which is an essential for sustainable development (Eijk, 2010).

In India, there was a great achievement interms of promoting gender equality in every human aspect such as education as well as political participation which contribute in maintaining sustainable development (Eijk, 2010). There was increased of women workers in India after the policy on free trade zone in 1991 (Sequino, 2009) and rapid increase of gender equality, that is participation of women in different industries (Menon and Rodges, 2009 in Sequino, 2009). Sustainable development is also serving as a hub of society by checking out of social violence as in case of Japan (WHO 2009).

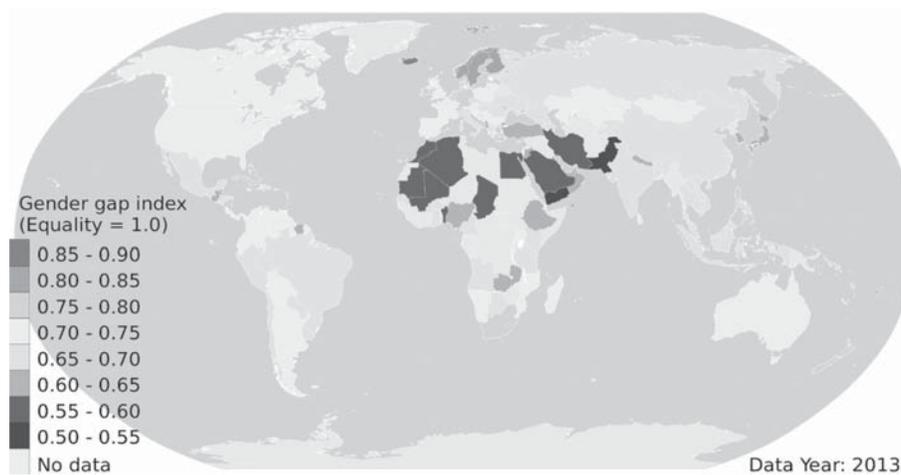
In Tanzania, the children dignity forum (CDF) also enhanced the number of female's teachers, health workers as well as political participation with a view to have a sustainable development (Eijk, 2010). The Ethiopian government has adopted gender equality in reducing poverty, improve literacy level in order to meet a sound sustainable development (UN, 2002; Kabeer, 2005 in Ogato, 2013).

The women empowerment enhanced gender equality and also a simple way of lifting a society into advance stage revealed at the united nation fourth world conference on women (Baden and Oxaal, 1997 in Ogato, 2013). This immensely aid the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to marked positives in achieving millennium development goals (Ogato, 2013), and recorded a successful management of environmental ecosystem, which is the core of sustainable development (Saito and Spurling, 1992; World Bank, 2007; Torkelesson, 2003; Upadhyay, 2005; Wahaz and Harti, 2007 in Ogato, 2013).

The women empowerment is one of the essential ingredient which increase a gender equitable (NDAS, 2013). According to recent survey by the Nigerian demographic and health survey 2013 shows fastest increased of gender equality, that can assist to attain sustainable development.

In Central America, the propagation of women engagement in administration and other activities is done under the women movement in central America with a view to encouraged sustainable development (Eijk, 2010). In United State and Canada, education was adopted as a key factor of meeting a sustainable development by given equal opportunity to its all citizens (WHO, 2009). In Europe, the gender equality has played a vital role in decreases sexual harassment face by women as in case of Serbia (WHO, 2009).

According to the gender equality index report 2013, shows that, the higher the number the higher the equality, the lower the number the lesser the equality. This report also indicates that, Anglo America, Western Europe, Scandinavians states, Venezuela, Columbia, Argentina, Australia, some part of Asia and Africa with minimum score of 0.70 and maximum score of 0.90. While, the Middle East, North Africa, sub Saharan Africa and almost the entire Asia with minimum score of 0.55 and maximum score of 0.65. Below is world map showing areas with high gender equality and areas with low gender equality.



### REASONS OF HIGH OR LOW GENDER EQUALITY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The issue of the gender equality has recorded a major setback, when the Zimbabwe Archbishop Kunonga, stated that “I will never appoint women as a Archbishop or a Priest” this also lead to low gender equality not only in Zimbabwe and even in the southern African region, which immensely affect sustainable development (Mayo, 2005 in Wadesango, 2011).

During the Beijing day, all the South African development countries agreed to place women empowerment in shape, but is yet to surfaced, this also discouraged the process of sustainable development (Semafuma, 2005 in Wadesango, 2011). In most of the developing states, the insufficient fund lead to the failure of promoting gender equality towards the attainment of sustainable development (Dollar and Gatti in Wadesango, 2011), and absence of political conscious (Saddique, 1998 in Wadesango, 2011).

Globalization have enhanced gender equality by setting a social services which pave a way to uncountable number of women to participate in various forms of

telecommunication service sector, banking trade and many more, which delineate a great success in terms of gender equality particularly in developed nations (Morrel, 1998 in Connell, 2014).

The issue of gender equality is not much successful in the southern African, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and the entire Arab world. This signifies unsuccessful sustainable development in the African region (Ghoussoub, 2000 in Connell, 2014) the absence of dominance of women in socio economic activities and its likes is a sign of imbalance between male and females, that negatively affect sustainable development (WHO, 2011 in Wall, 2014). In order to integrate gender equality in the various state, the world policy forum organisation have introduced a policies via nation constitution for the purpose to have a gender equality. In this regards more than half of the world state was constitutionally adopted the issue of gender equality and the remaining is yet to adopt.

#### **How Gender Equality Affect Sustainable Development**

The promoting of gender equality at all level by encouraging women entrepreneurship that directly integrate sustainable development (Kerr, 1994 in Wadesango, 2011). while, the females political holders in any states signifies a progress in gender equality that positively affect sustainable development (Iyanuoi, 2008 in Wadesango, 2011). Women plays an importance role towards the sustaining ecological balance making environmental friendship by utilizing home garden and proper waste disposal, which is a key factor of keeping environmental sustainability (Wall, 2014).

According to the VicHealth (2007), WHO Report (2010), Peace (2008), stated that, equality of gender harmonized a society that can make it to achieve a successful and comprehensive sustainable development. It also reduce societal burden and increase division of labour in socio economic and political institution (Whaley *et al.* 2011 in Wall 2014).

The successful development is seen on successful societies that protect women rights as well as gender equality; this can also enhance peaceful co-existence in a society which is the backbone of any development (Bradley and Khor 1993, Yodanis 2004 in Wall 2014). The equality of gender has improve women commitment in many service sector, which yields economic development as well as sustainable development (Eastin and Prakash 2013).

Grossman and Krueger in Eastin and Prakash 2013, found that, there was inverse relation between gender equality and sustainable development as in case of developing nations with low gender equality, which was recorded about one hundred and forty six countries in the second and third phase of development as at 1980-2005. Equality of gender also lead to multifunctional social services in reference with developed world that set in the last phase of development (Golden, Iversen and Rosenbluth in Eastin and Prakash 2013).

The high number of female's participation in social service sector as well as political engagement, sighted high economic development and also resulted into the new methods of environmental sustainability (Goldin in Eastin and Prakash 2013). The equality of gender can lead to the empowerment of women into difference economic sector, which is the focal point of sustainable development (United Nation in Ogato 2013).

The major process of eradicating poverty, illiteracy, disease, infant mortality, hunger is a gender equality, that can facilitate a smooth sustainable development (UNDP 2003 in Ogato 2013). The participation of women particularly in decision making process and to have access to power, this also indicate social justice and gender equality can promote peace and development, which can revealed in Beijing declaration" Cited in DAC 1998; 10" in Baden and Reeves 2007.

The World Bank policy on gender equality focus on job employment which can support women opportunity in the field of industries and other likes, is immensely contribute enhance sustainable development (Sequino *et al.* 2009). Globalization also integrate the women involvement in various types of industries such as agro allied industries, petro chemical industries, banking industries and rise, towards to achieves a reliable sustainable development (Standing 1989, 1999 in Sequino *et al.* 2009).

The employment of women encourage state economic growth by providing a chief labour that can lead to a sustainable development (Elson and Pearson 1984 in Sequino *et al.* 2009). This greatly reduced gender differences in local, regional as well as a globe in general (Weich selbaumer and Winter Ebmer 2005 in Sequino 2009).

## CONCLUSION

Conclusively, in this contemporary era, gender equity is one of the sensitive issues which attract the interest of local, national and international commentators due to the effects of inequality that exist between developed world and under developed nations, which took shaped may be because of ineffective gender equality, that directly associate with effective sustainable development. Gender equitable is one of the most effective and comprehensive method of escalating literacy rate, promoting societal peace, harmonising society, economic growth, effective environmental management and its likes, this can lead to a high sustainable development

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