

JUSTICE BASHEER AHMED SAYEED COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

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DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WOMEN AND MINORITY RIGHTS

10th December 2014



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HUMAN RIGHTS OF GIRL CHILD IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT – A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

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Introduction

The paper highlights the basic human rights which are being neglected to the girl child through the ages, and that suffering of the girl child from the gender injustice, and the various legislative measures which are aimed at to protect the innocent girl child India. Right from her birth, in India, a girl child is treated by the society, including her parents, as a problem child. She is in a problem, because of her marriage and non-usefulness to the family. Instead of her, a son is preferred by the parents with the traditional belief and conception that the boy will continue to stay with the parents and only a boy can carry the family life and is entitled to have gotra of his father. Thus gender justice starts even at home which affects the girl child throughout her life journey.

Condition of Girl Child in the past and present

The ancient Indian thoughts recognised no fundamental distinction between the two sexes and both were treated equal. The days of classical literature also considered the women in equal terms with men. During the age of Vedas, the status of women was equivalent to that of man. Gradual change had occurred during the age of Brahmanas (1500 BC to 500) and again at the age of the later status (AD. 500 to 1800), the status of women had deteriorated considerably.

In the Modern Society

The major share of duties and the most of the household jobs which are 'time and labour' consuming are performed only by women. These are often described as drudgery of family work. Further in rural areas the birth of girl child is unwelcome in higher degree. It is very common factor to notice in society that the brutal violence, neglect, subdued position and wife battering which reduces the image of women in the modern society. The death rate among young girls is much higher than the young boys. In fact, between the ages of one month and two years, the mortality rate of girls was almost double than of that boys. The sex — ratio is also adverse to women, it has also deteriorated over the decades.

The girl is required to be economically dependent on her father in her infancy, or her husband after her marriage and on her son after her husband. Thus she is in the perpetual tutelage. She is not given education and is deprived from acquiring academic qualifications, a gainful employment and make her economically independent. Even the normal education is denied to a girl child as the expenses incurred in connection with her education will not provide no return to her parents and may also provide the girl with more freedom and perhaps may increase her wants. Thus gender discrimination, the age old system of inequality and stereotyping of the role of women have resulted in the denial of human rights to the girl child.